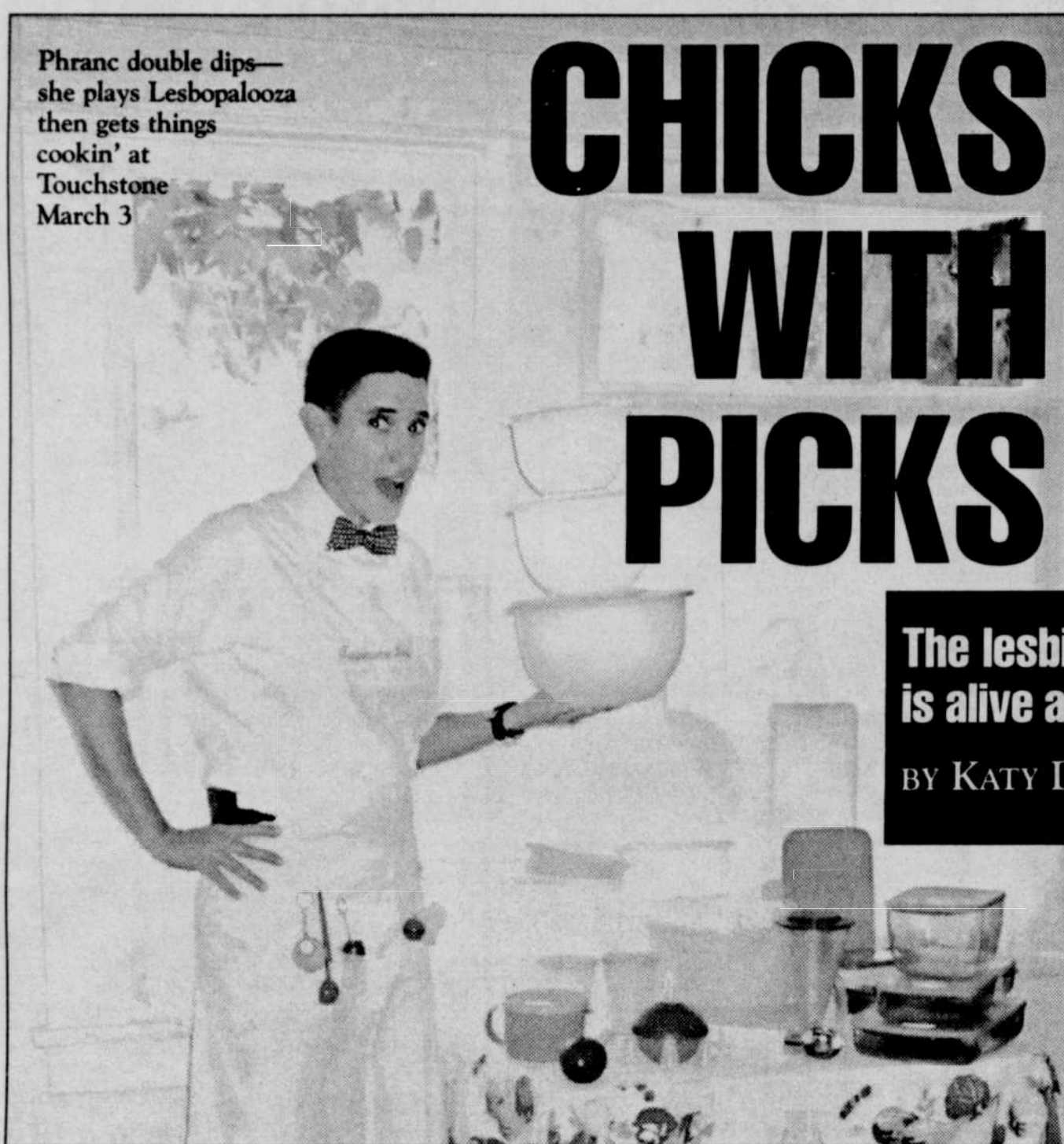


Phranc double dips—
she plays Lesbopalooza
then gets things
cookin' at
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WOMEN IN ROCK? MORE LIKE ROCKIN' WOMEN!

Saddle up, lesbian music lovers, Lesbopalooza rides again

Isn't it great when a little seed of fantasy sprouts into the full-grown tree of reality? This is what happened last year to Gabbie Hendel, a student and co-director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance at University of Oregon. A devout music fan, she had a vision to bring some of her favorite lesbian performers to Eugene.

"I love music—and I love lesbians," Hendel says. (When she's not wearing her LGBTQA hat, she spins records on a show called *The Grrl's Room* on KWVA, U of O's student radio station.)

With these affirmations in place, she set out to merge her two loves in a festival featuring an array of genres—from contemplative folk to punk rock to blues to queer-core. Last year her hopes materialized in the form of a mix of well-known and lesser-known artists including the Murmurs, Sarah Dougher, Alix Dobkin and Tracy and the Plastics.

The point was to "bring together U of O students and the larger Eugene community in an unprecedented cultural event by showcasing queer artists," according to Hendel.

She called it Lesbopalooza. And it will happen again.

The lesbian music scene is alive and well in Oregon

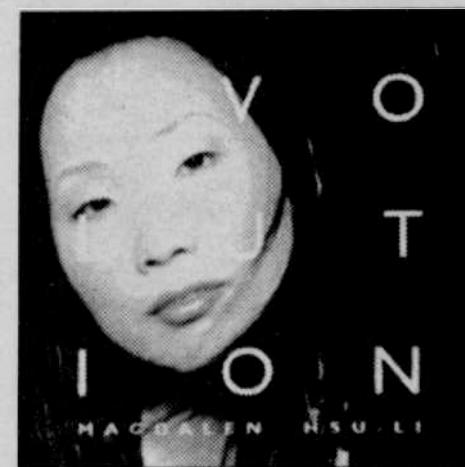
BY KATY DAVIDSON

This year's festival will feature a few of the same acts as last year, such as Phranc, Bonfire Madigan, Steph Walters and the Culottes, but also first-timers like the Need, Magdalen Hsu-Li, Ferron, Nedra Johnson and Americunt.

Hendel says that this year's festival is notably more diverse than last year's but that the lineup is still a bit too "white."

"I would rather have it more diverse. It's really hard to find queer performers of color.... This is a problem in our community," she says.

Regardless of race, this year's mix of performers will certainly crank out (or soulfully croon) an interesting brew of tunes. The Need, known for subtle song titles such as "Rim Me Isabella" and "O Sally How's It Feel with a Fake Hand?", are a genre-bending duo based in Olympia, Wash. If forced into categorization, they might fall



Magdalen Hsu-Li
is into *Evolution*

somewhere between neo-metal prism rock and religious noir. Madigan Shive (Bonfire Madigan) plays a unique

brand of emotional cello rock, and Americunt plays punk-metal, although the band also thinks of itself as an activist group and a way of life.

Phranc, the all-American Jewish lesbian folk singer, and longtime lesbo favorite Ferron will both strum out their emotional and narrative-driven songs, as they have been doing for the past 20 years.

Magdalen Hsu-Li, a pioneer among Asian American women in music, puts on a political, consciousness-raising, high-energy performance. The Culottes play a self-described explosion of "sometimes lesbionic, always grandma-loving, riot-roots, swank-a-rific, low-budget, lo-fi, folksy-funk" music. Nedra Johnson, a singer, songwriter, guitarist, bassist and tuba player of Welsh and African American descent, performs an integration of funk, rock and R & B.

Hendel says the name of the festival is a bit of a joke. "Lesbopalooza" references the famous alternative music festival of the mid-'90s, Lollapalooza, a touring, multiband rock show known for its sexist and racist tendencies, not to mention its corporate support. According to Hendel, even Lilith Fair, Lollapalooza's sister-friendly counterpart, sold out.



Ferron brings her storied perspective to the festival

Phranc, the all-American Jewish lesbian folk singer, and longtime lesbo favorite Ferron will both strum out their emotional and narrative-driven songs, as they have been doing for the past 20 years

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