

College artists exhibit energy, wit and vitality

Review

By R.W. Greene
Of The Print

Perhaps the best adjective that could be applied to last week's CCC Festival of the Performing Arts is "revelation." It was a revelation to discover that so many talented dancers, musicians, singers and actors are wandering around the campus, and a revelation that it could all be put together so

professionally and pulled off so smoothly.

Those who attended both know that the first performance, last Wednesday at noon, went far less smoothly than the second, which took place Friday night. On Wednesday, there were some spectacular sounds erupting from the P.A., only some of them musical; there were un-

fortunate problems with the banks of video; and the acoustics seemed to swallow up the Swing Choir and the Madrigal Ensemble. Plus, with the business of the school wandering around the Mall, it made things a little hard to concentrate on.

The contrasts in art forms occasionally were hard to adjust to. As charming and as well-disciplined as both the Swing Choir and Madrigal Ensemble came across, it was disconcerting to absorb them interspersed as they were with heavy beat of Jean-Michel Jarre's "Oxygen" and the stunning visuals of the Modern Dance/Video presentation. The abstract nature of "Erstwhile Relationships" seemed to disconcert some students on Wednesday--perhaps that's what all the giggles were about.

The Reader's Theater presentation of "Freewill" was admirable done. The performances were all excellent,



Dancers explore "Erstwhile relationships" during Festival of Performing Arts.

especially those of Tina Riggs and Sean Carlson. Carlson's fury in "Inherit the Wind" was utterly convincing, and the Theater Department's grasp of the more abstract forms of drama as shown by Jean-Claude Van Stalle's "The Serpent," is obviously well developed.

It was unfortunate that the Festival had to take place in the Community Center Mall, which is not at all equipped to handle this sort of thing; but at the same time, McLoughlin Theater would not have at-

tracted as great an audience, so perhaps Debbie Baker and Dave Buckley had the right idea in plunking the Festival right where one couldn't miss it.

The Festival made it clear that a strong artistic vein flows through the College; it's a pity that some of the \$4 million spent on the new Linus Pauling Science Building couldn't have been channeled into encouraging the development of the College's obviously talented performers.



Serpent (Sean Carlson) tempts Eve (Tina Riggs) into eating the forbidden apple.

'Sam' eases into comic flight

By Amy DeVour
Of The Print

With only six more rehearsals until its opening, "Play it Again, Sam" is progressing well. Stated director Jenny Mahali, "I think it's coming along famously. The cast is tight and the comic timing is really happening. I think it's gonna fly, Orville!"

The cast for this Woody Allen play is a conglomeration of the experienced and the beginner. Lynn Griffith, Ramona Isackson and Tammy Isackson are all making their debut in the theater. Griffith commented, "I think I'll probably audition for other plays. I've learned a lot in the last month, and I really like it."

Other cast members include Sean Carlson. Amy DeVour

and Joe Schneck. In the leading roles are Rod Ragsdale (Allan) and Tina Riggs (Linda). Carlson, who participated in the fall theater production of "The Glass Menagerie," is taking over the character of Dick Christie, previously given to Doug Rhodes. Rhodes was forced to drop the role because of earlier engagements. Regarding the casting change, theater secretary Joette Rose commented, "I don't think it's going to affect the play adversely. Sean knows enough about theater to pull it off."

The comedy revolves around the bumbling Allan Felix. After an unsuccessful marriage, Felix is propelled into the bachelor world. He is a dating disaster. Clumsiness turns out to be one of his most obvious assets. To his aid

comes the cool and worldly Humphrey Bogart. Bogart knows how to handle "dames." After a succession of floundering dates Felix falls in love with his best friend's wife.

The play has many sexual implications but Rose feels the play is appropriate for audiences of 12 years and up. "It is a play of self-confidence and morals," she said.

Tickets can be reserved through the Theater Department. The play is slated for production March 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Linda (Tina Riggs) and Dick (Sean Carlson) console Allan Felix (Rod Ragsdale) after estrangement from his wife.

Staff photo by Ramona Isackson



Devo whips musical oddities

Review

By Tom Jeffrey
Of The Print

They started as an oddity, and their music and appearance led almost everyone to consider them a joke. Their first two albums did nothing to change people's attitudes. As a matter of fact they reinforced the opinions of many that they were indeed nothing but a musical prank. However, with the release of their third album, "Freedom Of Choice," DEVO has broken ranks and burst forth as a group of unusual depth and quality.

When they first appeared a few years ago they were ahead of their time. They preceded the New Wave craze and were thus too strange to fit in with their fellow musicians, who were too busy whoring themselves to the disco fad that left a wasteland nearly devoid of intelligent lyrics. "Freedom

Of Choice" is the right album for the times and is not only good, but excellent. Besides high quality music, the lyrics of every song have something to say. It may be surprising to some, but even an album with five guys with flower pots on their heads on the cover can be intellectually stimulating.

"Freedom Of Choice" manages to be mellow without being nauseatingly la-de-da, and at the same time spindly without resorting to spine decalcifying guitar riffs capable of sterilizing fetal pigs at 100 paces. Two of the best examples of this are "Whip It" and "Girl You Want." These two, plus "Tono'Luv," "Freedom Of Choice," "Gates Of Steel," and "Planet Earth" are easily the best on the album. Yet they win out only narrowly over the remaining songs, none of which are mediocre.

It is obvious that DEVO took great care with each song, keeping the mood of the album constant and not sinking to throwing in a pop-style selection that could be picked up by the radio stations. No one song, or set of songs, has to carry the album. Each piece stands up in its own right, and none shows any signs of being thrown together at the last minute to fill the album for release. These five young men care about the quality of their music, and it shows.

So, what started out as a cult group for people who regularly snort Jointex has grown into a group of musicians of exceptional perception. Strange? Granted. Slightly phased out of our time plane? Probably, but anyone who denies the quality of their music had better be

prepared to back it up with his choice of weapons.

Clackamas Community College

Band Ball set to swing-down

LeRoy Anderson's Rhythm Section will dazzle your dancing shoes from 9 until midnight Saturday at the second and last Big Band Ball of the year. The event, geared for the older members of the community, is a time to relive the Glenn Miller-Benny Goodman era.

Chef Norm Grambusch will provide an epicurean feast from 8-9 p.m. The menu includes: tossed green salad, baron of beef-carved to order, baked potato, baby whole carrots, green beans almodine, roll and

butter, choice of beverage, and cheese-cake.

Admission for the dance is \$4 per person. Dance and dinner is \$9 per person. A group rate for 10 or more is offered at the discount of \$7.50 per person. Guests should make dinner reservations by calling 657-8400, ext. 245.

"This is an excellent opportunity for students to get out and demonstrate their swing, fox trot and ballroom dancing skills," said Student Program Specialist Dave Buckley.

