

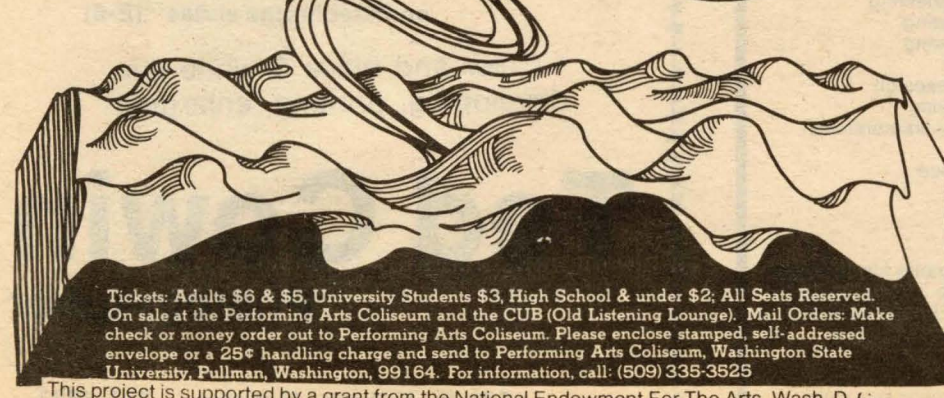
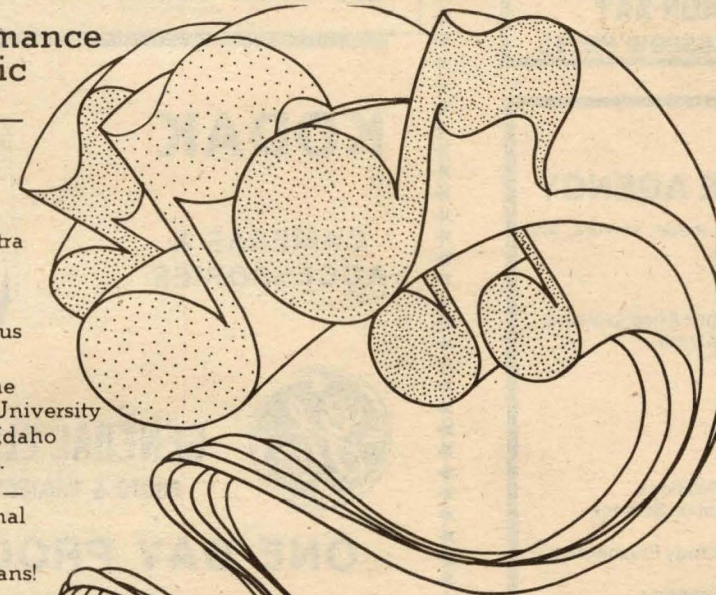


Nancy Wilson wails in last night's Heart rehearsal as sister Ann rocks in the background. Photo by Steve Davis.

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Heart

by Eddie Sue Judy

"Why do we do it?" Black haired, dark eyed and clad in black leather, yet with an air of sensitive sincerity about her, Ann Wilson put that question to the other members of Heart in a joint Argonaut-KUOI interview last night.

Her question about why the group devotes its life to rock music drew only silence or "because it's there" from the other band members in the Winnebago under the dome. But later in the interview Wilson answered the question herself.

"Almost no other art form is as alive as rock and roll," the lead singer said. Rock is a channel for life energies with "no comparison" to other art forms, according to Wilson.

Ann and her sister Nancy, both reared in Seattle, have had enough experience with other art forms to form a basis of comparison. Both have worked in visual arts and writing, Ann, 27, as a poet and Nancy, 23, as a short story writer.

The Wilson sisters write most of the group's music.

When an interviewer noted the poetic sensitivity of Ann Wilson's lyrics, the writer said, "You should hear some of the stuff off the new album," and, with a laughing glance at her sister, "It's getting wierder all the time."

Both Wilsons had extensive exposure to classical music early in life. Nancy agreed some of her acoustic guitar work shows a distinct classical influence but not

through formal lessons. "It was something I just had ingrained in me from as far back as I can remember," Nancy said.

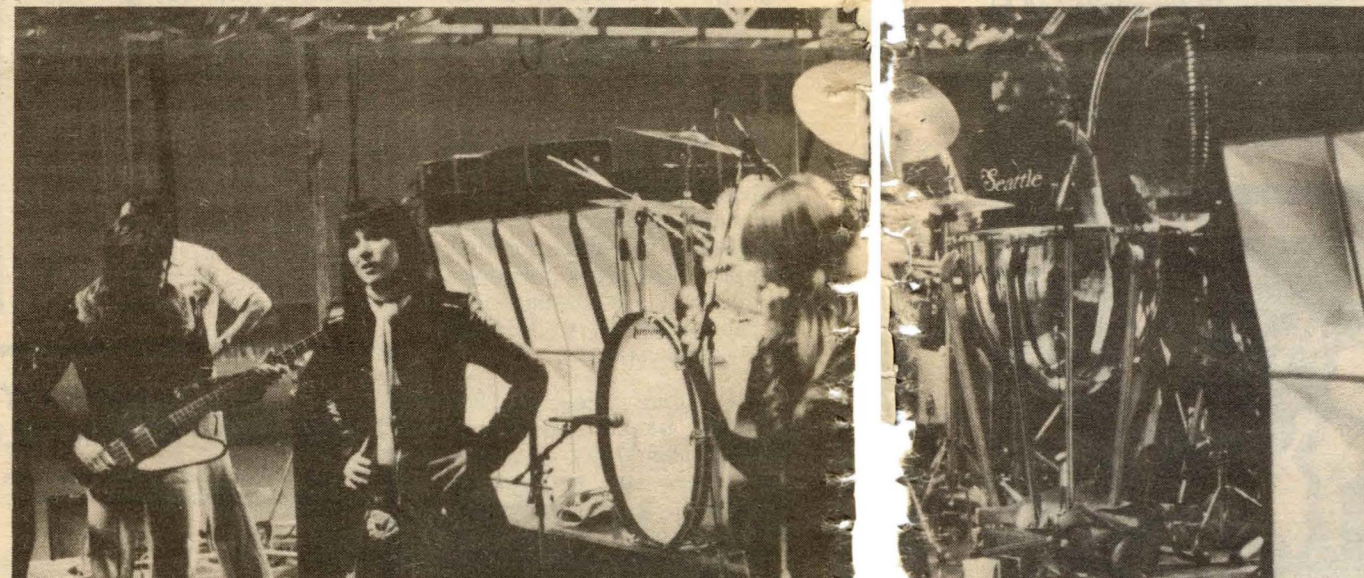
All the sisters' artistic energies are now geared toward rock and specifically, Heart. Even their visual arts activities are focused on designing stage clothes for the group.

"For every advantage there's an equal disadvantage" for women in rock, Ann Wilson said. While some other groups use male vocals extensively, the Wilsons feel they're at a disadvantage in that, besides being sisters, they are "actual song writer-musicians," Nancy said.

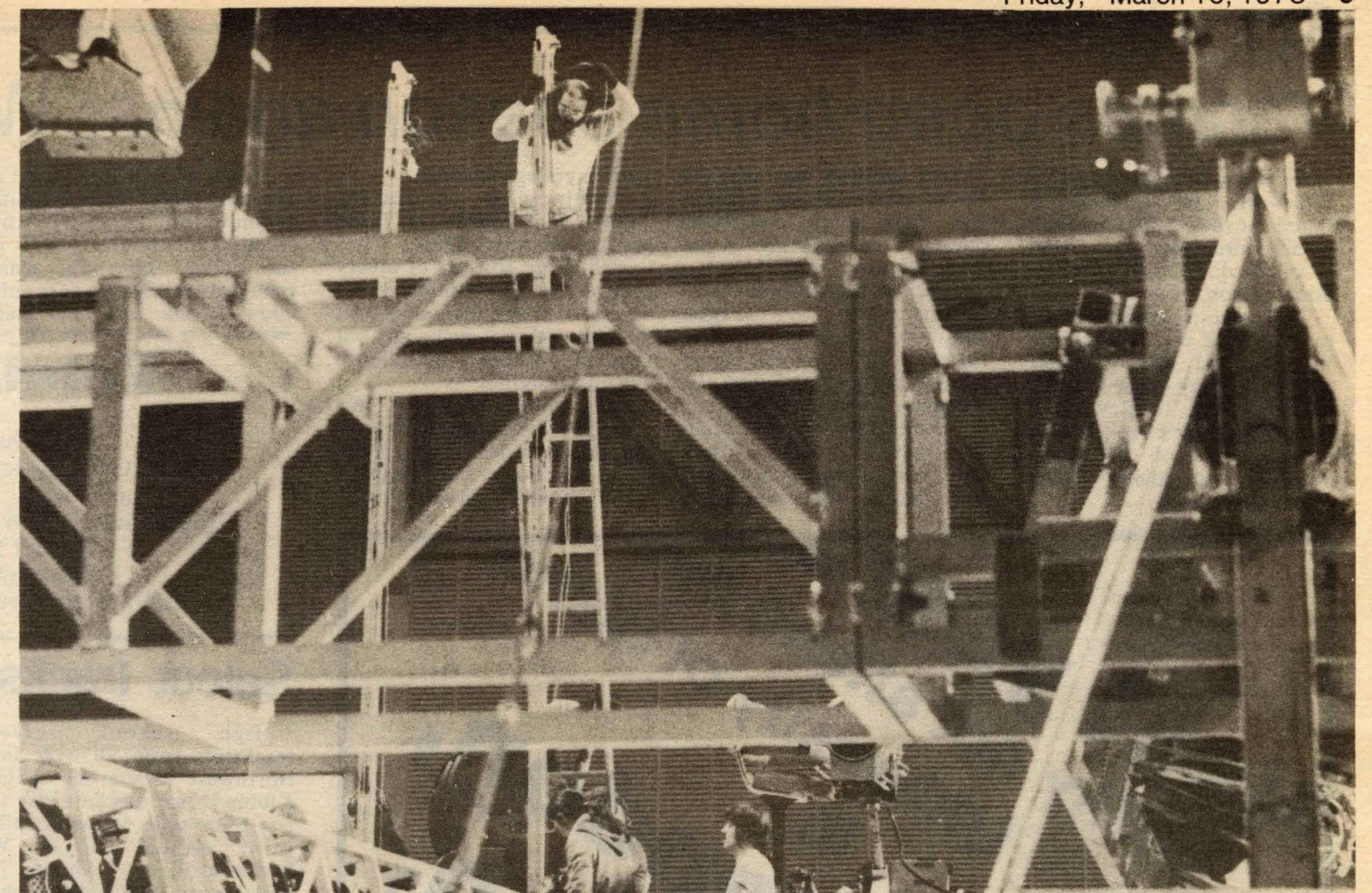
The May 12 concert tonight under the dome, and a Corvallis show scheduled later in the current tour are, in a sense, homecoming performances for the Seattle-based group. "We get to play so rarely in this area that it's really special," Ann said.

Heart's first album, "Dreamboat Annie," was a more personal effort than the second, "Little Queen," Ann said. Between the two years between the albums brought a sense of naivety, a bitterness," Ann said. Also, "Little Queen," recorded on the Portrait label, was a "rush" production. Heart was also embroiled in "legal hassles" with Mushroom Records, the label on which "Dreamboat Annie" was recorded, and consequently could not use much desired material on "Little Queen," Ann said.

"Rock and roll survives best in revolution," Ann said. That revolution is lacking now. "Now they almost suck



Heart, Seattle-based rock group, will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in the ASUI Kibbie Dome. Tickets are \$7.50 at the door. Photo by Jim Johnson.



The ASUI Kibbie Dome hummed last night with the sounds of workmen preparing for tonight's Heart concert. More than 25 technicians helped set up equipment. Photo by Rick Steiner.

rock and roll out of you. I'm beginning to think it's a bloated monster."

Yet rock continues to be Ann's medium of expression. She indicated she does not keep personal, unperformed music.

Nancy said she keeps some private work but that's "just playing around stuff."

Ann often dresses in black because it's "a mysterious color, a pure color yet with connotation of evil."

"I like putting across my whole self, the duality, which is real bad and real good," Ann explained.

To quote some of Ann's own lyrics, have the "sad faces painted over with those magazine smiles" hindered the Wilsons in keeping "love alive"?

"That's difficult to answer because it's hard for us to see ourselves clearly," Ann said. "The only time it seems to get hard is when you get really tired."

The sisters act as each other's counselors, thus making road life easier, they said. "We have to keep each other's emotional status on an even keel," said Nancy.

How long will the Wilson sisters stay with rock? Nancy said she will probably remain in music the rest of her life, though not necessarily rock.

"That's like asking some one how long she's going to stay married: as long as it fulfills something in me," Ann said.

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