

# distractions

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## Rock Review of Eugene

There are lots of bands out there, and if you're not careful, you could end up with a lousy band and a lousy evening. For this reason, *distractions'* reviewers offer their opinions of some of Eugene's better-known bands.

### key:

- ★ —pretty poor
- ★★ —not bad at all
- ★★★ —very good
- ★★★★ —superb

### bosworth brothers band ★★★★★

Any band that has Zappa's "Po-jama People" in its repertoire is all right with me. But personal prejudice aside, The Bosworth Brothers Band puts out some powerful, hard-driving rock and roll.

The band is a foursome of three Bosworths (Curt, Allen and Brent) and one non-brother, Jeff Rogers. Curt Bosworth, lead guitarist, is definitely the star of the band, and can burn like Alvin Lee and wail like Carlos Santana.

Three-fourths of their material is original. It's dynamic stuff, and displays a decent, if not overwhelming amount of variety. The three brothers have been playing together since grade school, and it shows. It's a tight, well-rehearsed band, with a good balance between power and control. The band's ability to shift in and out of different rhythmic grooves is commendable, even though it can get the dancers a little confused.

by matthew taylor

### gaye lee russell band ★★

"Kick-ass rock and roll" is how Gaye Lee Russell describes the music her band plays. The description is apt. This is by far the kick-assingest local rock band that I've had the privilege of hearing.

Russell's voice is pure and strong and stunning. She has a style all her own, which allows her to pack lots of emotion into every note. Her voice rises and falls with a brilliant, uncontrived drama that comes straight from the gut.

But when she drops out, or sings harmony on a tune, the three-piece backing band stands firmly by itself. This is due to Mike Kelsay's ability to play rhythm and lead guitar simultaneously (a la Jimi Hendrix), and bassist Ken Hanselman's masterful precision and simplicity.

The band plays a half-and-half mixture of Hanselman's excellent originals and a wide range of popular classics by The Stones, Spirit, Hendrix, The Police, The Pretenders and Pat Benatar. Should cover charges triple or quadruple, The Gaye Lee

Russell Band would still be worth seeing.

by matthew taylor

### gregg tripp ★★

Formerly The Hotz, Gregg Tripp and The Hotz, and now simply Gregg Tripp, the only remaining charter member is Tripp himself. His new band is tighter, more professional, more musically competent, and much more boring. Where the early Hotz had a definite character and appeal, Tripp's new band has none whatsoever. The guitarist is dreary, the bass player annoying, and Tripp seems to have fallen to the occasion.

If the band's personality has changed (or evaporated), the songs remain the same. Rock and roll (sort of), with a smattering of ballads written by Tripp comprise most of the show. The covers are mostly Beatle songs, and many of Tripp's songs are reminiscent of Paul McCartney. The highlight of the show is "Mama Let Him Play", which beats

everyone else's versions, including the original by Doucette.

Gregg Tripp is hot, and exciting—on the first viewing. After that, some of the "spontaneity" becomes a little unconvincing.

by gordon brown

### hot whacks ★★★★★

Hot Whacks is a bar band, there's no doubt about that. But any negative connotations that come with that label should be immediately forgotten. Hot Whacks plays past and present top-40 stuff, and plays it well. This four-piece band puts out more quality sound than many bands twice their size. The fact that all four musicians help with vocals gives their sound even greater depth.

Not only is the sound deep, it's diversified. Their music moves nicely from the surfer music of

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Hank Cooper of Los Xplorers.

photo by mark pynes

See what it's like to be a musician doing "show-case nights" on page

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the view from  
the other  
side of the  
mike

by matt meyer

It's a long way to the top. See what Gregg Tripp and Don Latarski have to say about their journeys on page

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"The French Lieutenant's Woman" attempts a pretty difficult feat. See if it worked on page

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