



The Friday Edition

The weekly arts and entertainment newsmagazine

Raw music



David Meyer (at left) is the lead singer and a guitarist for The Commotions, a versatile band with a thoroughly modern attitude. Billy Silver, Bob Becker, Teddy Boy Roy and Monty "Calhoun" Cohen comprise The Billy Boys (middle photo), a band that concentrates on a rockabilly style with a tinge of raucous rock 'n' roll. Stephen Perry (bottom photo) is the drummer for Rough Mix, a band with a sound that is straightahead, classic bar-band rock 'n' roll with emphasis on danceability.



Story by Cort Fernald
Photos by Mark Pynes

Eugene has a thriving music scene, consisting of every kind of band imaginable. But it's tough for a band to get established. *The Emerald* visited three bands during rehearsals — The Billy Boys, Rough Mix and the Commotions — and interviewed each about their music and the ups and downs of playing the bars, the clubs and the dives of Eugene.

The Billy Boys

The first thing that hits you is the huge sound of a rocking guitar welling up a narrow stairway that leads to the basement of Earth River Records. The huge sound becomes all but overwhelming as you pass through the heavy steel door into the half-lit basement.

Here, in a corner of light, the four members of The Billy Boys rehearse.

The drummer Bobby Becker is on a raised platform with an assortment of amps flanking his drum kit. He plays furiously, with a faraway stare and a trace of smile on his face.

Billy Silver rocks back and forth as he plays his Fender

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