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SPOTLIGHT

Roll over Beethoven

The Campers come to Eugene to rock 'n' roll and et cetera

By Chris Metzler
Emerald Contributor

Back from their fifth major tour of Russia and Afghanistan, following in the footsteps of Mr. Piano Man and avoiding the Illuminati, it's Camper Van Beethoven.

"You can't say much about rock 'n' roll," bellowed happy camper Victor Krummenacher in a telephone interview from the group's studio in Santa Cruz where the band has been for the past month finishing up their fourth album.

Although the Campers have been touring the world, they've spent a lot of time in the studio with a new EP out this week, an improvisational album with experimental musician Eugene Chadbourne, in addition to a side project LP, and a full-play album after the new year.

These happy Campers will arrive in town Friday for a 3 p.m. acoustic performance at House of Records and then cruise over to the EMU Ballroom to make their fourth and biggest Eugene appearance at 8 p.m.

"I like Eugene better than California," said Krummenacher. "It's pretty cool except for playing at Max's because I don't like being confused with someone standing in line for the bathroom."

But would a camper actually live here?

"I suppose if I met the right girl I would like to buy some property in some neat little corner, maybe Eugene, and grow some plants...corn and cotton."

For those of you who have never experienced a Camper show it could possibly be one of the most spiritual moments in your life. The average show entails about ten acid flashbacks to such hits as "In A Gadda Da Vida," Pink Floyd covers and different versions of their own songs. Their style ranges from ska, Tex-Mex, country, hard-core, Mediterranean, subterranean, psychedelic, acid rock and basically anything a carport band could possibly play.

For comedy lovers, Camper is the best on the circuit. Between jokes the Campers sing such silly songs as "Jo Stalin's Cadillac," "Mao Reminisces About His Days in Southern China," and "ZZ Top Goes To

Egypt." An example of the stupid lyrics are "came to your party, drank all your beer, we're a bad trip" and "my lil' dog Lassie sailed off to the moon."

You're probably wondering about the story behind Camper's name? Krummenacher remembers it this way: "I believe it's about Philip Cousteau finding a chest at the bottom of the ocean and it had a plan for a band in it. Basically, it had the name in it and a five year manifesto. We're about four and one-quarter years through it, so the next nine months will be the telling time. David envisioned this in a dream."

After Live Aid and Eugene's own Yam Aid, Camper decided to do their part for charity for missing stars with the song "Where the Hell is Bowser." Victor explains that "the ol' Bowz has been missing since his stint on the Hollywood Squares and some people fear it's foul play by the Illuminati, but my mother recently spotted him in the audience at Sha Na Na's last appearance at the San Jose Fair."

The Campers have spotted 17 of Jerry Garcia's children so far in the back of station wagons and they are still looking.

Like so many of us lovers of drink the Campers say "We're into beer, Bass, Guinness (the usual rock star beer). I was given a Rainier once. Green death, you know."

The Campers have considerably dropped down their drug intake, but they are still refusing considerable amounts of money to do a RAD (Rock Against Drugs) commercial.

"I've known a lot of messed-up people who buy drugs, but I'm still totally against people telling people what to do, especially when you have Lou Reed doing anti-drug commercials and the CIA flying in tons of cocaine from Nicaragua," said Krummenacher. "People don't say drugs are fun because they're scared to admit it. But I've cut down on smoking pot a lot since I did some DDT."

The Campers first gained popularity in 1982 with their Dress for Success book "That's A Tuff Jacket" and flunked out of film school in New York where they became well-versed



Courtesy photo
Camper Van Beethoven are (from left) bassist Victor Krummenacher, guitarist Greg Lisher, violinist Jonathan Segal, guitarist David Lawery and drummer Chris Molla. Camper will play the EMU Ballroom Friday at 8:00 p.m.

Neville Brothers bring Mardi Gras to campus

By Nathan Deer
Emerald Contributor

Eugene may not be New Orleans, and today may not be Mardi Gras, but you'll not know the difference if you're at the Neville Brothers concert tonight at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom.

"You can call the music they play Mardi Gras music," said Jim Carlton, the EMU Cultural Forum Popular Music Coordinator. The Cultural Forum is one of three sponsors, along with Double Tee and KZAM. "Their music is very danceable, very accessible, but not in a shallow pop kind of way."

Carlton said the Neville Brothers' music features a strong beat and lots of percussion, and blends various musical elements ranging from rhythm and blues to soul, funk and reggae.

The Neville Brothers hail from New Orleans. They have appeared in Eugene several times, most recently last winter when they played the Hult Center. Two years ago the Neville Brothers played at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival.

"They were a big hit at the folk festival," said Carlton. "People were able to dance — which is what kind of response their music encourages. The audience loved them."

The Neville Brothers formed in 1977 when

the quartet formed from two separate duos. The group recorded their first album, "The Neville Brothers," a year later. The album was both a critical and popular success. Their second album, "Fiyo on the Bayou," further established them as a promising group. Their last album, "Neville-ization," was listed by both Time and Record magazines as one of the year's top ten recordings.

Opening for the Neville Brothers will be Curtis Salgado and the Stiletos. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$9 at the door for students, and \$10 in advance or \$11 at the door for the general public. Tickets are available at Cat's Meow, EMU Main Desk, Record Garden, House of Records, and Face the Music.

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