

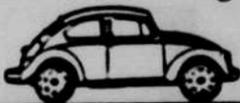


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ARTS

Hall to host monstrous holiday bash

By Ming Rodrigues
Emerald Reporter

Dress as you aren't and have a howl of a time with two of the Northwest's finest dance bands at the WOW Hall's Halloween bash tonight.

Eugene's own Nine Days Wonder and Ashland's Uncle Chester promise to stir up more than just a few good spirits at the Halloween celebration kick-off this year.

"We hope to make this Halloween bash a tradition," WOW Hall publicist Mike Walker said. "We want everyone to come dressed in their best Halloween garb and just have loads of fun."

The music of Nine Days Wonder has been labeled by Portland's *Events* magazine as "Southern Fried San Francisco Sound" — an alternate blend of improvisational rock and blues, electric boogie-blues and good ole' rock 'n' roll. The band combines innovative jamming, originals and tight vocals in a commitment to an ever evolving style.

Formed in 1985 in Portland and named Help on the Way, after a Grateful Dead hit, Nine Days Wonder soon relocated to Eugene. Under their new name and a matured sound and image, the band became a regular at Taylor's and the WOW Hall.

By definition, a "nine day wonder" is a short-lived sensation, yet this pessimistic label appears to be tongue-in-cheek. Five years after their beginning, the six-member band (including three former University students: Ben Sturgill, lead guitarist; Dave Coey, bassist; Mike Walker, keyboardist and WOW Hall publicist) continues to play a tight circuit in Eugene and Portland.

Tonight's event is their first appearance since their successful Rocky Mountain Tour, and their last before heading into the studio to produce their first major album release.

Uncle Chester is another regular WOW Hall ensemble, noted for their world beat groove complemented by a powerful horn section and driving rhythms.

The musicians combine to create what founder Karl Mansfield calls "A positive force offered in a benevolent way. The individual inspirations of members merge together in group effort to create their all-original music."

Paul Prince, Chester's acoustic guitarist, is one to look for. Prince jams with dexterity, stylistic versatility and technical wizardry.

Showtime is 9:30 p.m. and doors open at 9 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door. There are no student discounts. All ages are welcome and adult refreshments are available to those with I.D.

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