

ENTERTAINMENT

Down-to-earth Now William band will perform

Eugene band draws on the talents and diversity of the band members

By Ming Rodrigues
Emerald Reporter

They are the antithesis of the image band.

Holding little regard for public opinion or labels, they dress in plain jeans, t-shirts and sneakers, and play what they like, preferring an honest approach to music.

Even their sound flows apart from the mainstream, unlike any particular genre, with most of their songs coming out of jam sessions and plenty of improvisations.

Among themselves, there's not one songwriter or prominent musician. It's more of a pool effort with everyone chipping in their talent and style.

Perhaps it is this spontaneity and individuality that's the appeal of Now William.

Whatever the appeal is, Eugene will get to judge for itself tonight. The band will perform at 9:30 p.m. in the Community Center for the Performing Arts, 291 W. Eighth Ave. Tickets can be purchased at the EMU Main Desk for \$5.

Though the Eugene-based group started out just jamming casually, it has now carved quite a niche for itself in the local music arena.

Two years after they got together, Now William have catapulted beyond the college party scene to being regulars at Max's, the W.O.W. Hall and other music establishments around town and across the state. They are currently collaborating on their first album.

Now William is composed of four members: John Cluff, guitar; Charlie McLain, bass; Adam Glogauer, drums; and David Krueger, violin and mandolin.

"We're just ourselves," said Krueger. "Life's tough as it is without having to put on a facade. We do what we like and don't worry too much about what everyone thinks."

"Besides, if we had an image, it would be a strain having to forever keep up with it."

"It's better and challenging this way just being spontaneous and letting ourselves explore our interests freely," he said. "It helps keep the band going."

In the time they've been together, the group's sound has matured from the basic "same sound through the whole song" style to a more diverse sound where the group is dynamically in touch with each other.

"We've learned to feel comfortable with each other knowing we can go on stage and pull off a set," said Cluff.

These young men, three of whom are students at the University, have quite varied musical tastes and opinions. Their personal choices range from the Northwest grunge bands to John McLaughlin and John Luc Ponty.

Where McLain favors Peter Hook of Joy Division, Cluff is steadfast in his preference for David Gilmour.

"Gilmour is one of the reasons I wanted to play guitar," admits Cluff.

The band compose and play most of their own songs. Often, during their jam sessions, they pick up any note that sounds good and eventually a structure comes out of the selections.

"We don't set out with an idea about what we want a song to sound like," said Cluff. "Usually we throw out a lot of tunes and if we like something,



The group Now William will perform tonight at W.O.W. Hall at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the EMU Main Desk for \$5 in advance and at the door.

we'll just use it, and from there a rhythm usually formulates."

"There are days when we just keep on playing without hitting on anything we like but

Another interesting thing about the music of Now William is their de-emphasis on lyric content.

In an age of message con-

how we feel."

"When we do have lyrics, it's nothing specific or about any particular issue. Often when we play, the lyrics are hard to hear, so it's not something we do frequently, and that also helps retain the purity of our sound."

Their live shows fuse electric rock with the unique notes of the violin and mandolin. McLain's pulsing bass lines and Glogauer's heavy drumming fit comfortably with Cluff's syncopated guitar rhythms, while Krueger's violin weaves in and out.

"It's not all dance or mood music," Krueger said. "We just try to catch our audience's attention with a distinct approach."

Now William will perform tonight with Dirt Fisherman. Opening the show is former Snakepit guitarist Mike Johnson and Krueger on violin.

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-David Krueger

that's the fun part, exploring and experimenting, and it motivates us."

On stage, their creative restructuring of songs sets up an ever changing wall of sound, allowing the listener a new interpretation of an old favorite.

conscious musicians, they are an exception. Most of this band's songs are, instead, instrumental pieces.

"Lyrics are not our focus," said Glogauer. "We just want to play enjoyable music that expresses our personalities and

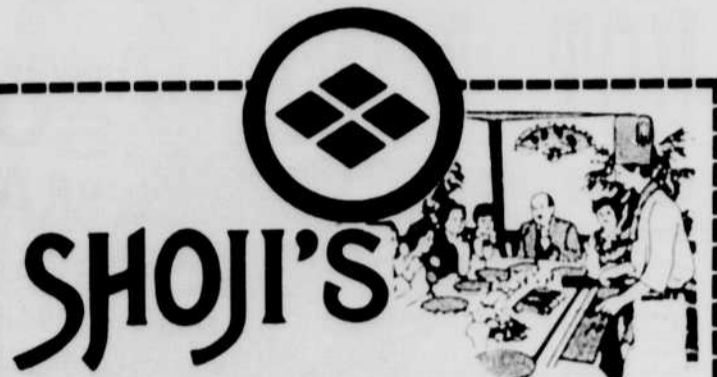
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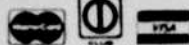
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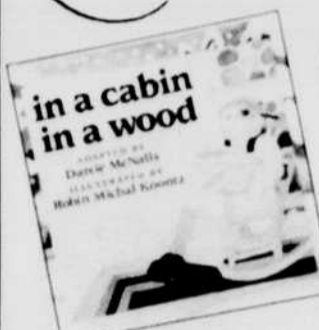
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