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## ARTS

# WOW Hall plays host to Firehose

The California-based band brings its alternative style to Eugene on Thursday night

By Meg Dedolph  
Emerald Contributor

An evening of alternative rock at the WOW Hall, featuring the California-based band Firehose and their "iconoclastic brand of 'scientist' rock and roll," is planned for April 9 at 8 p.m.

Firehose has always been an underground favorite, said Jason Miller of the EMU Cultural Forum.

"They're underground heroes," Miller said, adding that the Red Hot Chili Peppers had sung about Firehose in one of their songs.

He described them as an "alternative trio, pretty heavy," and said that "It's music — you can understand the lyrics. It's not screaming. It's get down, kind of mosh around music."

Firehose consists of Ed Crawford on guitar and vocals, Mike Watt on bass and George Hurley on drums. The band formed in California in the mid-1980s after Watt and Hurley's band, the Minutemen, dissolved.

Crawford joined the two ex-Minutemen at that time, even though he had never been in a band before, and played on their 1986 debut, *Ragin' Full-On*, followed by more than 100 concerts that year that introduced fans to Firehose.

Before signing with Columbia Records in 1991, Firehose made three more albums between 1987 and 1989, and recorded a song for the film soundtrack, *A Matter of Degrees*.

Their newest and second release with Columbia, *Live To*



(From left) Ed Crawford, George Hurley and Mike Watt of Firehose will play WOW Hall Thursday night.

**'It's music — you can understand the lyrics. It's not screaming. It's get down, kind of mosh around music.'**

— Jason Miller,  
EMU Cultural Forum

*tem Pole EP*, was recorded live in North Hollywood, Calif., in 1991 and features seven songs.

These songs include five cover tunes from groups including Blue Oyster Cult, Public Enemy and Superchunk, as well as two Firehose originals, "What Gets Heard" and "Makin' the Freeway."

Like their first Columbia release, *Flyin' the Flannel*, Firehose's latest album has been praised by critics for the musical empathy between the trio's members that also avoids clichés.

Although Miller said he had never seen the band perform, he was eager to book them for a Eugene performance because "the alternative stuff goes over

well."  
"I thought I would get them in here and do something cool for the kids of Eugene," Miller said.

Also performing Friday night will be Dos, a bass duo consisting of Watts and his wife, formerly with the band Black Flag.

Sharing the bill with Firehose are two more alternative groups, Portland-based Sprinkler, and Seattle-based Hammerbox.

Hammerbox's sound has been compared to The Pixies and Sonic Youth, and their music has influences from funk to jazz and folk.

So far, Miller said that ticket sales have been incredible and that about 200 tickets have been sold so far.

"Usually, if I sell 60-100 tickets before the show, I'll sell around 400 at the door," Miller said, predicting a sold-out show.

Tickets are \$8 for University students and \$10 for the general public, and are available at the EMU Main Desk and area record stores, including House of Records, Face the Music and Record Garden.

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