



Lifestyles / Fashion

Paul Montero is foaming at the mouth and singing about cat food. "Chani is our cat! Chani is our cat!" Montero yells into a microphone while hopping around in his red Chuck Taylors. "Soft cat food! Yum, yum, yum. Meow, meow, meow, meow."

The song over, Montero wipes off his damp chin with his hand and expresses disgust with himself.

"I f----- hate it," says the bass player for Big Macca. "Every time I play."

"He's got the spits," says Cord Amato, the band's drummer.

Montero's drooling — as well as his occasional Air Supply T-shirt and "Peter Fondasque" motorcycle helmet combination onstage — are just part of the charm of Big Macca, one of the self-proclaimed greatest bands in the world.

"We're halfway to being the best band in the world," says Joey Macca, the group's guitarist, namesake and comedian.

Macca says he and his University senior bandmates consider themselves on the verge of being a "joke band" and don't necessarily take themselves as seriously as other bands composed of students might.

Groups such as Big Macca, Multiple Sarcasm, Supernova, The Lost Creek Gang and Marshal Plan, which all have a base of University students, may never make it too far from Eugene, but they're in the hear and now.

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Perhaps with an intentional tongue in cheek, or maybe not realizing his own pun, Multiple Sarcasm lead singer Jason Deigert looks out over his microphone into the sparse crowd assembled before him at Taylor's College Side Inn.

"I hope you guys multiply," he smiles as the band launches into its opening number, an original called "Spanish Grunge."

It is this flip, "sarcastic" attitude all the band members share that gave the group its moniker. But not after a brief period as the Schizophonics.

"The name was too cerebral," says guitarist Ian Crane, one of the band's five University seniors.

Those were in the "sucked-bad" days, when Deigert first became the band's lead singer, says guitarist Marty Kilbourne.

Multiple Sarcasm was so green then that Deigert says he would listen to his Walkman for "24 hours," trying to remember the band's songs.

The other members said it was even worse before, though, when the group had no lead singer, relying entirely on covers and vocals from their audience.

'Meow, meow. If I ever went to a show and heard that, I'd just get pissed.'

Paul Montero, Big Macca bassist

"It'd be just like an entire choir going," says Mark Jager, Multiple Sarcasm's bass guitarist.

After an onstage debut at Swinger's in Springfield and an appearance in front of 100 people at Grover's Market in Eugene, the band really made progress in the summer of 1991 when Crane, Deigert and drummer Darren Linder lived together.

"We really cut our teeth that summer," Linder says.

That experience led to the October 1991 release of the band's demo tape, *Four Play*, which has received air time on radio stations in Eugene, Portland, Seattle and Denver, the band says.

Multiple Sarcasm says they would like to get out another album — preferably a CD or live recording when the band makes its planned move to Portland following the school year.

But now the group would like to focus on getting more recognition in Eugene — "a hard rock band in a blues-based town," as Deigert says.

With the student crowd, though, Multiple Sarcasm has been well appreciated, especially at the band's own parties. The most recent show in the band's practice garage drifted into the a.m., netting a \$250 citation for a noise violation.

That may not be the worst, though, because the parties that go the course have often resulted in broken equipment and excessive rowdiness.

"We whip them into a frenzy, and then they start getting out of control," Kilbourne says.

Despite the damage control, Deigert says the group enjoys the response. Now, if only the crowds would be satisfied with an entire set of originals, rather than many of the Led Zeppelin, Metallica or other covers the band plays, he said.

"Right now we're playing the best live that we ever have," Deigert says. "When you can have them listening to your music and appreciating it ... they can dig it."

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Eli Babbs says The Lost Creek Gang enjoys playing a mellower style of music



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