

FRIDAY, 3/3 \$1
TRUMAN'S WATER
DOSE
BIG GULP
HER #13

SATURDAY, 3/4 \$1
DANDY WARHOLS
SWOON 23
SUGAR BOOM
TULIP

SUNDAY, 3/5
No Music
Free Pool

MONDAY, 3/6 \$2
Jazz Feed
9:00p.m.
Free Pool

TUESDAY, 3/7 \$3
TEN DAYS LATE
WITHDRAWL

WEDNESDAY, 3/8 \$3
AVERAGE JOE
AMERICAN GIRLS
BETMARS

THURSDAY, 3/9 \$1
TWO GIRLS
REVIEW
BILLY JACK
BLIND LEMON
PLEDGE

FRIDAY, 3/10 \$6
CHERRY POPPIN'
DADDIES
DEATH ROW
BODINE

SATURDAY, 3/11
7:00p.m.
Free Show
SURPHONICS
10:00p.m.
\$4
Disco Showdown w/
BOOGIE PATROL
EXPRESS

MUST BE 21 OR OVER

342-3358
136 E. 11th



BANDS

In The Dark

CHRIS FOX
Oregon Daily Emerald

Chaos. Well, not total chaos. Recently when I saw the band The Dark I had that perception. Then again, it was only certain amounts of chaos. As all the band members commented, it is as if they don't know where they are going, but they know how to get there.

The Dark, with its current members, has been together for about 10 months, but the two founding members, Olen Kent and Cody Yarbrough, have been together for more than two years. The original duo got together when Yarbrough sought out Kent for bass lessons and the two began working together.

"Owen was very patient back then," Yarbrough said. "Sometimes I'd hit the wrong string and he'd be like 'No, no, this one.'"

This is one of the most interesting parts of the band. After the addition of three new members, Zack Fansler playing trombone and backing instruments, Cristman on guitar and backing vocals and Mike Cox on congos, there was still only one person who had ever had any type of formal training. That was Cristman, who had only had limited training on guitar.

But that was then, when Cristman would still play "Eruption" (which he will no longer do), and now, after some time together, the band has developed a unique style.

"Our music is brimstone-acid blues, with a tribal beat," bassist Yarbrough said. "It's like Johnny Cash on fire."

The Dark holds true to this somewhat abstract sound extremely well. Much of the distinctness in their sound comes from their non-traditional setup, with Cox playing the congos.

Much of the music, however, is the result of the untiring work of the lead vocalist and rhythm guitar player, Olen Kent. Kent writes most of the music and has spent quite a few years trying to get a band together. Kent said that he had wanted to form a band, and The Dark was the result of this.

The Dark's music is, of course, not like anything else.

As Kent said, "The Dark is not a celebration of evil, but an exorcism of it. It proves that the deepest shadow is cast by the darkest light."

Except for Kent and Cristman, all the other members have learned to play their instruments since they joined the band. In fact, Cox joined after only two hours of playing the congos. But, all the members claim that



Cody Yarbrough (left), Mike Cox, Olen Kent, Cristman and Zach Fansler, the five members of The Dark, have had recent success in Eugene and are currently working on their first album.

this is the essence of the band. They say it is great because they have learned together and much of what they play comes from one of the other members doing something because they just go with their emotions.

"A lot of the time," Cristman said, "Mike will be doing something on the congos, and he's breaking the rules, and it's just fantastic. He may not know exactly what he's doing, but we adapt to it. With most of our music, we just go with what we feel."

"Then there's Zack, and he's got the funk," Cristman said.

All of these chaotic little things add to the sound the band creates. Although when they are on stage, the chaos becomes more focused and goes directly into the music.

"It's all these little chaotic things at practice and in between," Yarbrough said. "When we're tuning our instruments before a show, things are just messed up. But when we start playing, the beat brings us together and Olen focuses us, and we just play."

This is completely true. There wasn't a very direct focus when I spoke with the band, but when I saw them on stage, the band is, as they pointed out, a well-oiled engine. Together, even though many of the members are somewhat inexperienced, it doesn't show, especially on stage.

The band is most proud of the amount of support they have received from their friends and fans. Even though they aren't affluent,

they have strong backing and think the work that many people have put into the band is what has strengthened it. Many people have put in a tremendous amount of time and the band members, especially Kent, believe this is what has made the band so good.

Recently, the band has had the chance to record. A friend wanted to help them get their music out and gave them the chance. They spent eight hours recording the first six songs on their upcoming album, (which has mystical origins) *Albert*, and hope to go back and record four more songs before releasing it sometime in April or May.

The band does have other goals. Cristman wants "to see the world in front of crowds, and of course, to own his own island."

Fansler, however, summed up the goal of the group best.

"We want to have people hear our music and enjoy it because it is music worth hearing," he said.

Most of the members agree that they would eventually like to be able to live off their music. They want something that is their own creation to take off. They aren't, however, worried about dental hygiene because, as they proudly claim, "we have our own dental hygienist."

The band will continue, however, to make their own distinctive type of music. If you are interested in seeing The Dark, they will be playing at Rainy Day Cafe on tonight at 9:30.

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8 PM, SILVA HALL

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