

Shedding light on **THE DARK**

The Dark is a local music group that isn't exactly what it seems to be

By **Nikki Okimoto**
Entertainment Reporter

Their first album is named after the lead singer's bike, Alfred. They once raffled off a stuffed iguana to an audience member at a show. They're planning to give away more odd prizes in the future.

The Dark is definitely anything but ordinary. And they're probably not what you think.

"It really seems that a lot of people have the wrong idea about what this band is," lead singer Olen Kent said. "Because of our name, a lot of people think we're either thrash or punk or satanic."

The Eugene band's music is actually a unique mix of sounds that bassist Cody Yarbrough describes as "straightforward rock and roll with a sinister bend."

The Dark has been around for nearly four years, but the current lineup is only eight months old. The group now includes Kent, 31; Yarbrough, 23; guitarist Chris Stafford, 22; and drummer Michael Stewart, 36.

"This is our best lineup," Kent said. "We're better than we ever were."

The diverse backgrounds of the band members lend to the unique sound of The Dark.

Kent's father was a country western singer. Kent, who writes most of the band's original music, draws inspiration from the trying times he has had in his life.

"A lot of my subconscious and emotions just do not know how to deal with life," Kent said. "It's kind of created its own little chip that funnels all of my emotions, my moods and my feelings. It's like, if life gives you

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Photo by MICHAEL CRISP



Madeski, Martin and Wood

Jazz trio Madeski, Martin and Wood will play April 22 at the Wild Duck Music Hall at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for University students and \$12 for the general public. The show is for all ages.



Mythic Sky

Mythic Sky, a band that performs a fusion of folk, rock, classical and electronic music, will play at 9:30 p.m. April 23 at the Wild Duck. They will open for Celtic rock group Tempest.

Mythic Sky, along with Lane ESD Planetarium and Laser Fantasy, will also present "Return," a multimedia presentation, April 24 and 25. The shows will begin at 8 p.m. at the Lane ESD Planetarium. Tickets are \$10.

Jahkuumba

Local reggae band Jahkuumba will play April 18 at 9:30 p.m. at Sam Bond's Garage. Cover is \$3.

The band will also perform April 24 at Good Times at 9:45. Cover is \$3.

"Be There" is a weekly column highlighting the week's top local entertainment events.

REVIEW

A Final Evening With the Illuminatti

★★★★
(hilarious)

■ **WHERE:** Arena Theatre

■ **WHEN:** April 18 and 19, 8 p.m.

■ **COST:** \$3 students, \$5 senior citizens and UO faculty and staff, \$6 general admission

'The Illuminatti' provides an evening of laughs

By **Nicole Krueger**
Entertainment Editor

Poking fun at anything associated with church or religion takes guts. *Some Things You Need to Know Before the World Ends: (A Final Evening With the Illuminatti)*, a University Theatre production, proves that the UT has more than its share.

The Illuminatti, a two-person play starring Josh Nathan and Troy Fischnaller, is a series of comic sketches tied together by a storyline about a paranoid priest who attempts to deliver a sermon to a Catholic congregation. The play uses both goofy gimmicks and biting satire to convey the idea that the purpose of religion is sometimes lost in the trappings of the church.

Fischnaller steals the show as the wide-eyed, hunchbacked but energetic Brother Lawrence. His dead-on comic timing and his enthusiasm for the role result in a hilarious performance that offsets the more intense, serious role of Reverend Eddie, which Nathan plays to perfection. The dynamics of the two characters as the bitter Reverend Eddie attempts to squelch Brother Lawrence's religious exuberance keep the play moving even when it takes on a depressing note (which it often does).

The costume design is extremely innovative and makes use of plastic doll parts and gaudy decorations to reinforce the play's theme that church costumes and rituals are often more for show than for anything else.

The set design is just as effective, and the creative use of a blue light and a disco ball transitions the audience between the main storyline and the various sketches.

The Illuminatti is particularly engaging because the audience takes on the role of the congregation, and Nathan and Fischnaller's performances are by no means confined to the stage. The play also includes direct audience participation that creates several comic moments.

Altogether, *The Illuminatti* is a shamelessly funny production by a group that is not afraid to be offensive while conveying the play's sensitive message. The result is a hilarious play that remains highly entertaining as well as thought-provoking.