

# Darkside: Next show at Wild Duck

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"I just went from there, working the contacts and just hooking it up," he says. "I just realized there was no one doing it in town. Someone had to do it. I always felt like I was held back 'cause I wasn't big enough in San Francisco. I felt like a smaller guy out there, but in Eugene I just saw the potential totally."

One of the initial problems Panni faced before organizing his first shows was breaking the anti-hip-hop mentality of those associated with the Eugene music scene, including this publication.

"The number one difficulty has been the unseen happy-on-the-outside, asshole-on-the-inside vibe I get from people I talk to," Panni says. "They're like, 'Oh, here's some kid trying to do all this hip-hop stuff. I believe hip-hop is shit but I don't want to tell him.' I just know a lot of people aren't opening their minds enough. Eugene has a lot of tradition, I guess, and people don't want to break that tradition."

Even after convincing media to correctly promote the shows and venues to host them, Panni has been forced to deal with often paying nearly double the damage deposits other promoters pay, hiring extra security for each show because of the stigma associated with hip-hop fans, and dealing with the OLCC in order to open the concerts to an all-ages audience.

Three successful shows later, those obstacles are beginning to fade.

"At first it was for hip-hop reasons," Panni says of the venues' initial reluctance. "But now they're seeing that it can work, and they're seeing that they might be able to make a little scrill on top of that, a little bit of money, and so they're saying, 'Look, if this guy's doing it, ... they're giving in.'"

The latest venue to "give in" is the Wild Duck, which will host Del the Funky Homosapien and five other performers Aug. 13. Del joins the 'Liks, Hieroglyphics and Latyrx as Darkside headliners. While all are respected in hip-hop's inner circle, none has achieved nation-wide popularity.

"I do like some major label stuff, but the quality of the underground scene is so much more complex," Panni says. "These guys have major label deals, but they're still underground artists."

One concern of Panni's has always been the groups he brings to Eugene, meaning he eschews gangster rap and those artists driven to succeed by money.

"No one that's doing ignorant music is going to get in in Eugene," he says. "That's the way I want it because there's a lot of ignorant stuff out there. I just find a lot of the Puffy stuff, even a lot of the Master P stuff, even though I respect them as businessmen, they're just exploiting the music

and it's just going to the shits right now. The underground groups that are critically acclaimed don't get the props that they deserve, but they're the ones that are preserving hip-hop. By bringing in a group like Puffy, yeah you'd make a lot of money, people would go out and buy tickets like that, but in my heart, I wouldn't be able to do it."

So for now, Panni will keep bringing in artists he knows and respects in hopes of spreading his own hip-hop message.

"We're trying to educate the people while entertaining the people," he says. "The more people that tune in and listen to the radio and come out to the events, they can realize what they've been missing. I'm open to all kinds of music, but a lot of people still aren't open to hip-hop 'cause it's hip-hop. There's just so much in hip-hop, there's so many different aspects you can cover. And it's all original, no matter what the hell they say, it's original. We're trying to educate the people and give them a true sense of what hip-hop should be, not what you're going to get on MTV. If they keep watching and enjoying the music, I don't see any problem with it getting really big in town."

If that happens, Panni will deserve more than his share of the credit, and maybe even finally get a chance to sit back and enjoy it.



Laura Goss/Emerald

The happy couple before their Saturday Market wedding.

## Wedding: Day's events will also feature folk music

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change vows that they collected from traditional texts. Both Polk and Cormier are content with the traditional approach, though it would seem odd at a ceremony where the participants will be clothed in hemp.

"It literally made me cry the first time I read it," Cormier said. "We didn't want to have a freak scene, we're doing this because we love each other."

The vows borrow from Protestant, Catholic, Indian and Unitarian traditions.

"I really like the traditional ways," Polk said. "The pagan rituals are so complicated."

Connie Bender, a market member who is also a registered ordained minister, will perform the ceremony.

"It's kind of a family thing, a clan thing," she said. "What better place to do it?"

Traditional wedding music will be performed on the flute and violin by Robin and Dove Miller, twin 12-year-old daughters of Cormier's friend Hawk.

"I've never been married before and won't get married again. So I wanted to do it in a way I'd always fantasized about when I was a girl," Polk said.

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## Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Thursday, July 30, 1998

**ARIES**  
(March 21 to April 19)  
Put your energies to good use, or there will be money problems. You have the ability to achieve all you desire if you focus your attention.

**TAURUS**  
(April 20 to May 20)  
All activities seem to revolve around random good luck. Fortunately, you will be in tune enough with the moment to fare well in the hands of fortune.

**GEMINI**  
(May 21 to June 20)  
Understand what you are promising to do before you make a generous offer. Your neophyte enthusiasm could grate on others more experienced.

**CANCER**  
(June 21 to July 22)  
The saint and the sinner in you are at war. Distracting yourself with creative activities will prevent the latter from getting you into trouble.

**LEO**  
(July 23 to Aug. 22)  
An issue you thought long gone may rear its ugly head once more. A little compassion and communication will clear the air without too much pain.

**VIRGO**  
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)  
You suddenly find yourself incredibly busy, and time is flying by. Consider purchasing new equipment to help you handle your tasks.

**LIBRA**  
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)  
Resist the temptation to make an impulse buy that you will soon regret. A good hard look at the bottom line will help you figure out what really matters.

**SCORPIO**  
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)  
Intense desires will dictate your actions, and it may be hard to keep your tongue in check. Make sure that your ruthless honesty doesn't wound a fragile soul.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)  
The contradictions of your internal landscape may distort your vision of reality. A good friend will help you articulate the root of the problem.

**CAPRICORN**  
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)  
Things will seem larger than life, as you notice connections you had ignored. Arming yourself with new information will help in a business dilemma.

**AQUARIUS**  
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)  
An innocent comment will clash with your deeply held beliefs. Giving voice to your opposition will feel good now, but cause problems down the line.

**PISCES**  
(Feb. 19 to March 20)  
Keep moving, lest your feet suddenly fuse to the floor. The simplest event will trigger a mystical experience — make the most of the moment.

**YOU BORN TODAY** are a strong individual with many burning passions. Your lust for life leads you in many exciting and challenging directions, although your ego can at times hinder personal relationships. You excel creatively and have a taste for the finer things in life.  
Birthdate of: Kate Bush, musician; Anita Hill, lawyer; Arnold Schwarzenegger, actor.  
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## off the mark by Mark Parisi

THREE-YEAR-OLDS ARE JUST SO INDEPENDENT... YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR THEM...



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