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Sonic



Courtesy photo

Sonic Xplosion '98 finalist Drive is a four-piece ambient rock band that combines traditional rock instruments such as guitars and drums with an orchestral sound. Drive is one of two Eugene finalists in this year's competition.

Continued from Page 9A

thing," Boldt said. Instead, the audience response accounts for 25 percent of the decision because it would be "grossly unfair and slanted toward the local bands" if the audience chose the winner, Boldt said.

The winner of the contest receives a recording contract with Elemental Records. Past winners include Henry's Child and the American Girls.

"What I think is unique about this contest... is I can't think of others where there's an indie label [involved]," Boldt said. "Usually [the prize] is money or equipment."

This year's finalists are two bands from the Eugene area.

Drive is a four-piece ambient rock band, sounding somewhat like Radiohead or Lush. The band features traditional rock instruments, such as guitars and drums, coupled with the orchestral violin. Drive consists of Adam Wayne on vocals and guitar; Pamela Rooney on vocals and bass guitar; Shane Fisher on drums; and Tove Holmberg on violin. Both Rooney and Fisher attend the University. Wayne attends Lane Community College, and Holmberg attends South Eugene High School.

Since their entrance into the contest, Drive has whittled down their sound, Fisher said.

"We're definitely a lot more mature. We have a better idea of what we're doing," he said. "When we entered [the contest], we were a young band. We thought if we could get into it, it'd be a good way to put our name out there," he said.

Regardless of if they win, Drive plans to record some of their newer material, Rooney said.

"We hope to win, but it's not like a life or death thing," Fisher said.

Moth, the other finalist, is a "groove-oriented, heavy alternative band," said Bill Dickinson, the band's vocalist. The band is rounded out by Daren Kromarek (guitar), Joe Weber (guitar), Rica Wright (bass) and John Hamlin (drums). Moth participated in Sonic Xplosion '97, and has released one CD and one EP.

"We don't like the competition aspect of Sonic Xplosion," he said. "We like all ages gigs and we just like to play."

"We've played with a lot of good bands. We like to play these [contests] because you always play with the cream-of-the-crop bands," he said.

Band members said they hope to win, but they enjoy the experience nonetheless. "We hope to get a lot more gigs out of it. And we hope to get a lot wider audience," Dickinson said.

The two bands have very different sounds, which creates a special twist for the judges of the contest.

"Basically it comes down to two bands that are very good at what they do, but it's like apples and oranges," Boldt said. "They are both really good, very entertaining, and very different."

The judges must follow the four criteria for judging. Additionally, they must also consider the roster of the record label and the genre of each band, Boldt said.

"There's no scientific explanation for it," he chuckled.

Also sponsoring the event are WOW Hall, KNRQ 95.3 FM and Pepsi.

Stu Allen, program director and DJ at KNRQ said: "This is a chance to provide a forum for all-ages music and a chance for a band to do something good."

A costume contest will be held. Doors open at 9 p.m. and the show starts at 9:30 p.m. Admission is 5\$.

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R.E.M. flies high with 'Up'

R.E.M. recently launched 'Up', its fourth album in six years, with 14 tracks of new material

By Matt Garton
Oregon Daily Emerald

Rocking to the beat of a different drummer, R.E.M. brings to the music scene another album containing more of the diverse and refined sound many listeners have come to expect from them. Despite losing long-time drummer Bill Berry more than a year ago, the band has never rocked and sounded so good.

"Up" is the band's first album since "New Adventures in Hi-Fi," which was released during the summer of 1996. During the past two years, R.E.M. has struggled with the loss of its drummer, Bill Berry, the first member to leave since the band's musical beginning in 1980.

With a sound somewhere be-

Turn to R.E.M., Page 11A



Courtesy photo

R.E.M., shown here in a photo from 1992's 'Automatic for the People,' lost veteran drummer Bill Berry (center) in 1997.



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