

Features Editor:  
Lisa Toth  
lisatoth@dailymerald.com

Pulse Calendar Picks  
Slick Rick on Thursday, Rubberneck  
on Friday, Maria Schneider on Saturday  
See the full calendar at  
www.dailymerald.com

Thursday, January 17, 2002



Solein, Wednesday's featured band at Luna, plays its version of '50s- and '60s-influenced original jazz.

# Luna GETS EUGENE Jazzed

Luna offers dancers and musicians a place to showcase their talents, and it fills a gap in Eugene nightlife

By Lisa Toth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

As some listeners crowded in the doorway of the jazz nightclub Luna, others resorted to sitting on the floor. People packed every table — keeping waitresses scurrying to take drink orders and holding trays high above their heads.

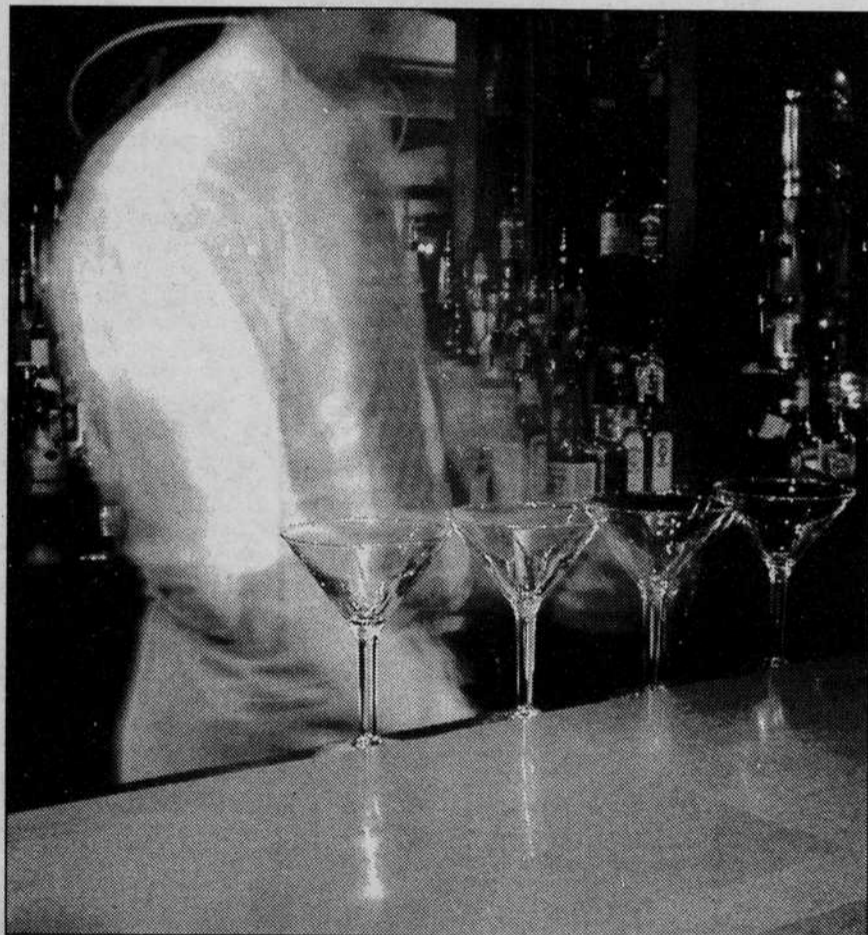
Customers perched on bar stools or relaxed on comfy couches amid intimate, candlelit tables covered with cocktail glasses. On Saturday night at Luna, couples kicked their saddle shoes in the air to the captivating music of the West Coast Rhythm Kings, a local "jump swing" band.

Adam Bernstein, owner of Adam's Place, a fine-dining bar and grill located at 30 E. Broadway St. on the downtown mall in Eugene, expanded the restaurant Dec. 2 with the opening of Luna next door.

"We have been pleased with the community support," Bernstein said. "People seem to really enjoy the space and appreciate the difference."

Bernstein said he's wanted to open a jazz club for the past five years, with the intent of creating a warm, romantic

Turn to Luna, page 8



Bartender Chris Murphy keeps Luna's patrons happy by scurrying to and fro making martinis, a specialty of Adam's Place, the bar abutting Luna.

Photos by Thomas Patterson Emerald

## 'The Chamber' makes you laugh in horror, flip the channel

Fox's newest reality program may make you cringe, but it's tame in terms of American viewers' twisted palates

By Michael J. Kleckner  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Unyielding 130-degree heat surrounds your body. Hurricane-force winds exfoliate your skin. Your muscles are subjected to earthquake-level vibrations. Your body is turned upside down.

Now, answer quickly: What company makes the Xbox?

If you answered "Microsoft," you're correct, but you're cheating. You're just reading a newspaper.

"The Chamber," in which players are actually subjected to these conditions, debuts Friday night on Fox, and the "sneak preview" Sunday was almost

sickening. Almost, but not quite, because it was sort of freaking cool.

In broadcast TV's latest reality program cum torture extravaganza cum quiz show (think "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" meets "American Gladiators"), the assaults on players' bodies in the chamber are just for fun; they must answer relatively easy trivia questions in order to win money.

One thing detracts from the whole concept: The top prize is approximately \$100,000 (the total varies depending on the number of questions answered correctly). The game would be more entertaining if there was real money — maybe

a couple of million dollars — on the line.

Fox's new shock-TV gamble could pay off, if people find the near-torture compelling. For my part, it was fun in a gruesome sort of way, akin to watching the classic indie film, "Man Bites Dog," where viewers are forced by the filmmakers to laugh out loud at serial murder. It's a disconcerting feeling, like laughing while being punched in the stomach.

More likely, though, is that "The Chamber" won't be able to stand the pressure. It's over the top and overdramatic in a classic Fox way. Think, for instance, of all the raging success that accompanied "Who Wants to Marry a

Millionaire?" My guess is "The Chamber" will shortly be forgotten. But it's still freaking cool — for a minute.

Watching "The Chamber" reminded me of an ignored movie, "Series 7," which was released last year in silence and came out on video recently to even more silence.

"Series 7" is a fictional depiction of a reality game show where contestants must murder each other to survive. Players are forced to participate, and all they win is their freedom — if they make enough kills.

Turn to 'The Chamber', page 8