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Pulse *Excite*

On Tuesday
Winter boredom?
Try board games!

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'Joe Millionaire' oozes 'absurdity,' 'skullduggery'

Mason West
Movies/Music/TV Columnist

It's funny how life has a way of giving you what you need right when you need it. Just when I was thinking to myself, "Gee. I'm not really seeing enough lying and cheating on television," FOX steps in like an old friend with new programming to satisfy my sadistic impulses. Bless them.

Meet "Joe Millionaire," a.k.a. Evan Wallace, a 28-year-old bachelor who recently inherited \$50 million and is looking for love — or so 20 women believed when they flew to a chateau in France to woo this handsome heir.

In reality, Evan Marriott (Wallace is his middle name, used to conceal his identity) is a salt-of-the-earth workin' man who makes \$19,000 a year doing construction. I think a "yee haw" is in order.

The series premiered Monday at 9 p.m., when the audience was introduced to Marriott and given a brief summary of his transformation from shmoe to Joe. Then we met the 20 prospective suitorettes and quickly latched onto our favorites and shunned the "less congenial" ones. I know this because a friend of mine called me during the show to discuss just that while we were watching. We're gunning for Zora and we don't like that Heidi girl. I felt like a gossip at a knitting bee.

The climax of the show was at a ball, where Marriott would choose 12 women to continue on the show. But before that, there was glorious drama when the women fought over 20 dresses for the one they would wear to the ball. Mwuahahaha!

More tension occurred when at the ball, one of the women asked Marriott's middle name, but since he is using it as an assumed last name he stumbled into a long pause. Suspense! At the last moment he beautifully covered by giving his mother's maiden name, "Elder," saying he hides it because it "doesn't roll off the tongue." Oh, Evan. For a nice honest boy, you sure can spin a tale.

Not since "Temptation Island" has there been such malice and skullduggery on the part of television executives. Not surprisingly, "Joe Millionaire" was created by the same team. I'll see them in hell.

There are only six more episodes of the show, which is good because I'll probably stop caring in about half that time. Guilty pleasure and total waste of time are separated by that proverbial thin line. The show's hook of love competing with money doesn't hold fast when facing the utter absurdity of the circumstances: Can the girl Evan chooses see through the millions and love him for who he really is — a lying bastard who can't get a date?

Excuse me if I sound bitter, but Evan is already expressing sentiments of regret and moral conflict about choosing to do the show. Lying is bad, blah blah blah... I have morals, blah blah blah...

BOO FRIGGIN' HOO!

Where the hell was I when they signed up for this? He has beautiful women throwing themselves at him, and he's having a conscience crisis. Yeah, I'm real sympathetic, pal. Sure, he's a hottie biscotti with his Peter Gallagher/Dolph Lundgren good looks and Patrick Warburton voice, but I myself have been likened to a crispy cookie on occasion, and I make even less than he does! One more reality show that doesn't want Mason West.

When Marriott picks his dream girl and breaks the bad news, I hope she kicks him in the kiwis. That'll teach him for taking my sho... I mean, deceiving those poor women.

MwuahahahaHAAAA!!!

Contact the Pulse columnist at masonwest@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Mason West
Selling out

Mixing it up

With a brand new building and a variety of musical entertainment, John Henry's always offers something 'fresh'

Aaron Shakra
Pulse Reporter

On a given night, John Henry's can be dark, cavernous and loud. If this doesn't sound appealing, don't worry; much like the variants of alcohol the bar serves, there will always be a different flavor.

John Henry's opened the doors to its new location at 77 W. Broadway on Dec. 5. Construction on the building — which was originally an art gallery in the 1970s, and was most recently occupied by Greater Goods — began May 3 and ended the day of its opening.

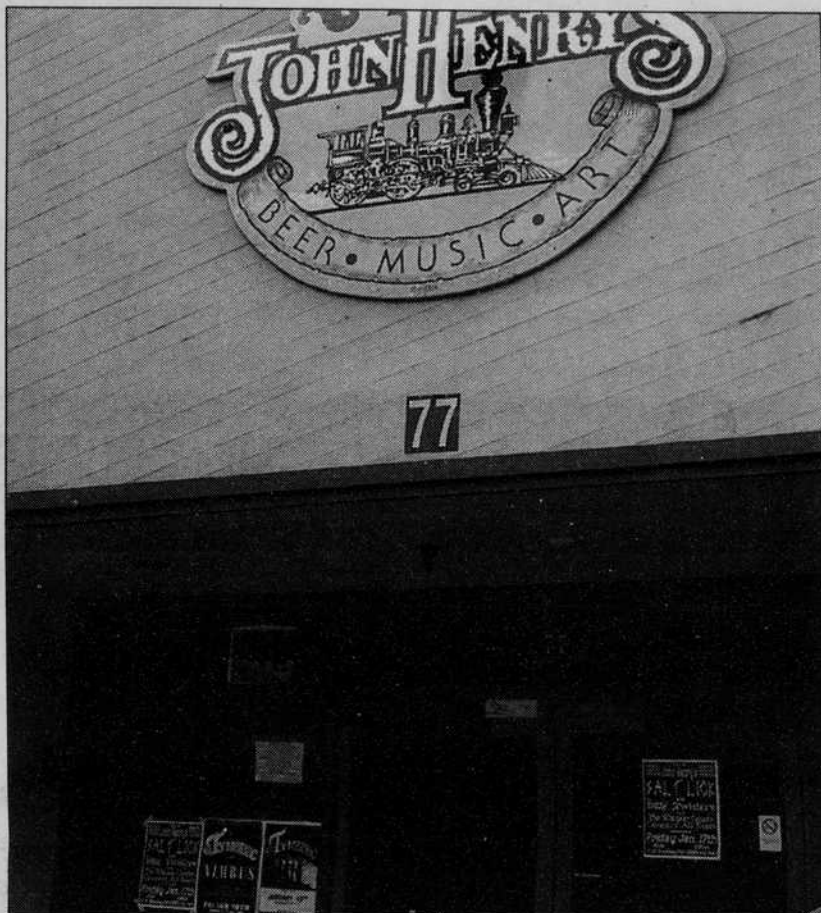
Greater Goods vacated the space two years ago, and the building was dormant until December. The electricity has been rewired and new plumbing has been installed. Velvet Thunder created the sound system to fit the room.

One notable design element of the bar is its stadium-tiered seating, which, on its higher levels, allows customers to see the entire expanse of the oblong building.

John Henry's has a history deep-rooted in punk rock and do-it-yourself culture. It was opened in 1992, at 136 E. 11th Ave. A few of the original performers were The Cherry Poppin' Daddies and Billy Jack. The venue remained at that location for 10 years. However, the original building, owned by St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, was in a state of disrepair that made a move necessary.

Despite John Henry's punk roots, the bar is designed as multipurpose facility and focuses on music of all varieties, primarily local performers.

"We're keeping it fresh — there's always something different going on," own-



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

John Henry's is located at 77 W. Broadway and hosts a variety of theme nights such as the popular 80's night on Thursdays.

er Keith Martin said. Martin co-owns the bar with three others, including his brother Mark Martin.

"We don't cater to any one group of people," he said.

The venue runs a bevy of weekly events. On the first and third Monday of

each month, John Henry's hosts deejay variety nights. Tuesdays typically feature rock 'n' roll records. The Martins encourage customers to bring their own vinyl albums to spin. On Wednesdays, the bar presents a "Dance Hall Reggae."

Turn to **John Henry's**, page 7

'Dreamy' 44 down delivers smooth lyrics

CD review

Jacquelyn Lewis
Pulse Editor

Critics — and even the band's own press materials — label The High Violets' music as "pop," "shoe-gazing," or "British-inspired." However, these musicians' sounds far transcend the realm of any prescribed style. In fact, they may not even inhabit the same galaxy.

Demos from the recent release, "44 down," reveal out-of-this-world, glistening vocals and swoon-worthy guitars. Tracks like "44 Down" and "FA" prove ethereal and haunting — a combination that renders the songs slippery and difficult for the mind to grasp. The High Violets experience leaves the listener with a dreamy aftertaste — a sort of first-kiss déjà vu that makes one wonder if it really happened at all. The band's secret lies in this drifting, mirage-like mood it so deftly creates.

Layered guitars, drums and soft vocals produce aesthetically pleasing waves of sound alive with meaningful, albeit muted, lyrics. Light and sound shower from the speakers in a gentle explosion. Although the tracks are somewhat homogenous, listeners



Courtesy

won't tire of these songs easily. The sound is capable of bypassing numerous musical boundaries, pleasing fans of various genres.

Publications such as The Oregonian and Willamette Week have showered the band with praise, and national acclaim is sure to follow. Fans who

already own the album "44 down" are probably craving more, and the group plans to deliver a new full-length record in the near future.

In the meantime, the musicians are relatively easy to see live in this area.

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