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Pulse *Excite*

On Tuesday
Dreadlocks,
tattoos and
piercings
— oh my!



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'Star Wars' has bounty of options, stiffs orcs

Mason West
Movies/Music/TV Columnist

I love movies. I love video games. The marriage of the two is so natural, it would seem to be part of God's plan.

Why, then, are there so many crappy movie games?

I rented "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" after some gaming friends threw around words such as "awesome" and "dude" on its mention. After seeing the MTV documentary on making of the game — which has no precedent, and in itself is amazing — I knew that all the original actors recorded the voices and that there were snippets of movie footage here and there.

The synergy the game has with the films is impressive, but easily taken for granted. It would be wholly unacceptable to have scenes from the movie and then have different voices for the game cinema. But the movie selections don't really help the game. Sure, they comfort me until I can buy the second DVD, but otherwise I'm just waiting to get to the gutting.

The game is essentially a brawler where I slaughter assorted orcs, goblins and trolls. So it really doesn't matter that Viggo Mortensen is the one making Aragorn say: "Huh! Hoo! Haa!" while I furiously mash buttons.

The other playable characters are Legolas and Gimli, and once you beat the game with all three, a secret character becomes available. It's not Gandalf. I don't care.

There are other incentives to mastering the game, mostly interviews with the actors, that dangle like carrots promising to stretch out a relatively short game. As it turns out, I don't like carrots that much.

Instead of putting me in the movie, the game makes me feel removed by my lack of play control — I hate games where I can't jump; real people can jump — and insulted by the way the game glances over the films. The game action starts when Aragorn meets the hobbits in "Fellowship" and continues through the battle of Helm's Deep at the end of "Two Towers." All this is 13 levels. Pfft. It's like a Reader's Digest video game.

The game isn't a loss, it's just not up to snuff. The battle at Helm's Deep (broken into three separate parts) is frustratingly hard — it captures a feeling of despair from the books that doesn't always transfer in the film. You know they'll live in the movie. In the game, you can die — and I did ... a lot.

A more successful franchise game is "Star Wars: Bounty Hunter," where you play as Jango Fett. Like most Star Wars games, this is an extension of the

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Mason West
Selling out

Music magic tuning up

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Any man who can throw a bass guitar to the floor, pull it back like a yo-yo and then play notes that go faster than a hummingbird flaps its wings deserves a modicum of respect. But when that man levitates, it's time to get on your knees.

Monday night, that man was Victor Wooten: bassist extraordinaire and, apparently, amateur magician. During an introduction to "Yinin' & Yagin'," Wooten, clad in a casual Spider-Man baseball jersey, sat on a stool and proceeded to put about three feet of air between him and the seat — while still playing the bass. David Copperfield has nothing on this guy.

The word "virtuoso" was invented for him. He could pick up a broom and make it sing. On one level, Wooten is a musician's musician. He did things with the bass that, even though I was 15 feet away watching, I'm still asking, "how." All I saw was his right hand in a mangled claw shape attacking the strings and notes sprung forth like corn popping to a tune.

But performance isn't having technique; it's

using it. Wooten truly understands the power music has to touch people, and he takes full advantage of it. Something about the bass amplifies the connection. It has a physical sound that literally penetrates people with warm tones or thumping punches.

The show started in bombastic style, taking a few cues from game show introductions. Accompanying Wooten on stage were his brothers Regi (guitar) and Joseph (keyboard), drummer Derico Watson and rapper/bassist MC Divinity. Each musician stepped up to the spotlight during the show as all others vacated the stage.

Though Victor's name was on the marquee, Regi almost stole the show when, after an epic solo that skated the boundary between music and

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Mark McCambridge Emerald

Local band Wish covers 'Abbey Road'

This Saturday, Wish will play a psychedelic tribute to the Beatles at the Wild Duck Brewery

Helen Schumacher
Pulse Reporter

Local band Wish will channel the legendary Liverpool group when they perform the Beatles' "Abbey Road" album in its entirety. The show will take place Saturday at the Wild Duck Brewery.

Lead singer and guitarist Kent Goodman said the performance will be a trip back to the psychedelic age. The musician, who admits to lighting incense on stage, said the group is attempting to recreate the 1970s.

"We'll have lava lamps and British flags," Goodman said. "I'd like it if people came wearing bell bottoms. We'll be dressing up."

The classic rockers who make up Wish formed just over a year ago. The band is composed of drummer Scott Smith, bassist Erick Garman and keyboardist Tom Schonhardt. Also on keyboards and lead guitar is G.R. Eyman. All members con-

tribute vocals, as well.

Goodman, who lived in England for a decade and moved to Eugene about a year ago, said he hopes to recreate the political feel of the late 1960s. He said the mood today is similar to that of the Vietnam War era.

"The time is ripe again for action," Goodman said. "I plan on getting a little political."

However, he said the show isn't just for aging baby boomers.

"The show is kind of timeless," Goodman said. "People still like the music."

The group said it decided to cover the Beatles because the members are all fans of the quartet.

"It was pretty much decided to do this when we first formed," Smith explained. "We decided to learn 'Here Comes the Sun,' and we did it so well we decided to try the whole album."

He also said the show springs from Wish's reverence for the Beatles.

"I have an emotional attachment to the Beatles, and a lot of respect for their music," Smith said. "We have such a love for the music and who they were. It's a tribute to



Courtesy

them, and to keep it alive."

Smith said the band members were especially fond of the "Abbey Road" album.

"The entire album is connected musically," he said. "The B-side, in particular, is one piece of music, Turn to **Wish**, page 6