

# Bay Area band will 'poison' Eugene on Friday

Costumed poetic pop duo  
The Slow Poisoners will  
play with The Ovulators

By **Natasha Chilingerian**  
Pulse Reporter

When musician Andrew Poisoner went to Paris in 1997, he had a vision of "surrealistic rock and roll." When he returned home to San Francisco, Poisoner started a band that mixed "avant-garde poetry with pop music," and the result was The Slow Poisoners who have been rocking across the western United States for the past several years. The band arrives in Eugene on Friday night and will play at Sam Bond's Garage.

The duo — comprised of guitarist/vocalist Poisoner and drummer Rich Trott — is planning a theatrical performance, complete with costumes.

"Rich usually wears leather headgear and flight goggles," Poisoner said. "He looks like a balloonist from the 1800s."

During their concerts, The Slow

Poisoners display large cards showing the name of each song along with art to convey the mood of the music. Poisoner said that these props were inspired by old vaudeville acts, which often displayed easels that gave an explanation of each performance.

Poisoner founded the band with two cellists in 1997, but he later transformed the group into a traditional bass, guitar and drums format. The group has released two albums, "Great Spiders and Diamond Powder" and "Days of the Soft Break," which feature creative lyrics and a genre that is hard to define.

"Our lyrics are strange and poetic, with historical references and surreal imagery," Poisoner said. "Our music is eclectic and touches on all genres."

Although many musicians have joined and left the group since 1997, Trott, who joined in 1998, has stuck with Poisoner the longest. Trott said his chemistry with Poisoner has kept him in the group.

"We see eye-to-eye aesthetically and philosophically," he said.

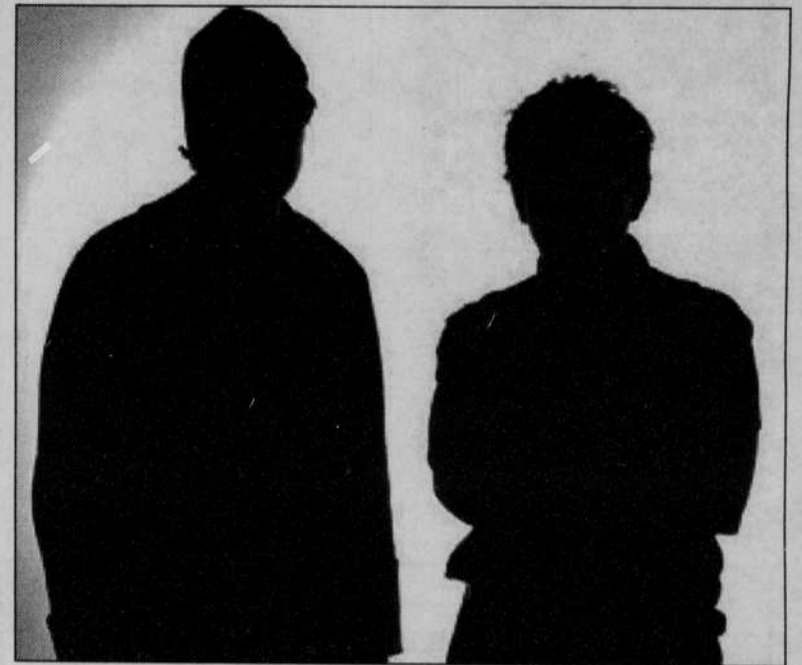
Trott also noted that The Slow Poi-

soners usually draw an audience that is out of the ordinary.

"Oh, we attract freaks," he said. "We attract people who are looking for something different. When we were touring in northeast Texas, every freak from 50 miles around showed up. The word had been around that some weird band from San Francisco was performing, and the fans wanted to prove that northeast Texas has freaks."

Three other bands will perform with The Slow Poisoners: Takimoto, Dan Desmuke, and the all-female local glam-rock band The Ovulators. The latter group, which consists of guitarists Kelani Larsen and Tina Sarno and bassist Dori Prange, formed a year-and-a-half ago and have mostly performed in Eugene and other parts of Oregon. In August, they released their first album, "Swept Away" and toured in California. Like The Slow Poisoners, The Ovulators are planning a dramatic performance with costumes and lots of movement.

"We always dress up extravagantly," Larsen said. "And we jump around a lot."



Courtesy

Rich Trott (left) and Andrew Poisoner of The Poisoners will perform at Sam Bond's Garage.

Larsen said the group is popular for giving energetic performances and

playing diverse music. Turn to **POISONER**, page 12

# WOW Hall to host night of personal films, music



Courtesy

In the film "I Loved This City," Stephanie Gray expresses her love for the struggling town of Buffalo, N.Y., where she lives.

'Truck Stop Still Lives,' set for Jan. 16, will feature various short films by Bill Brown and Stefanie Gray

By **Natasha Chilingerian**  
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Not My House Mobile Arts will present "Truck Stop Still Lives," an evening of film and music at WOW Hall on Jan. 16. The show features filmmaker Bill Brown of Lubbock, Texas, who will present works that reflect his travels in North America. The

show will also feature films by Buffalo, N.Y.-based Stephanie Gray, whose films deal with her relationship to Buffalo and its buildings. Musician Owen Ashworth of San Francisco's Casiotone for the Painfully Alone will provide tunes throughout the show.

Brown, who has been creating films related to the subjects of history and memory for the past 10 years, will present an hour of his "short, critical essays" and discuss his creations with the audience.

"My films are like postcards from various places in North America, and I sort of examine them," he said.

In "Buffalo Common," Brown discusses the dismantling of nuclear missile sites in North Dakota and larger issues of nuclear war and economic decline in the American Midwest. "Mountain State" looks at 25 roadside historical markers and gives a brief history of westward expansion. "Confederation Park" is a look back at Brown's stay in Vancouver, British Columbia and a light take on the rivalry between French separatists and English-speaking Canada. Brown said that the film was based upon his experiences living in the country.

"Confederation Park" is partially

about when I lived in four different cities in Canada and the bizarre roommates I had," Brown said. "It also asks questions about what constitutes Canadian identity and the conflict between French and English-speaking Canada."

Brown uses an example of bathroom hand dryers in Canada. They originally displayed both English and French instructions, but the English instructions were torn off in French-speaking regions. Likewise, the French instructions were torn off in English-

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