

Today's crossword solution

B	A	L	I	L	O	O	A	B	A	S	E	R
A	P	E	D	O	R	E	B	E	R	A	T	E
R	O	T	E	O	D	D	L	A	C	U	N	A
E	L	S	A	S	E	I	N	E	S	L	A	P
S	L	U	M	B	E	R	P	A	R	T	Y	
T	O	P	E	R	S	U	P	L	E	A	S	E
O	D	E	S	O	P	S	I	N	M	R	S	
L	O	V	E	S	E	A	T	T	E	N		
D	E	A	L	T	W	H	O	S	A	M	B	A
O	W	L	R	E	S	E	L	L	U	R	I	S
L	O	U	N	G	E	R	V	I	A	R	I	T
G	O	R	I	E	R	E	N	D	E	N	O	S
A	D	E	P	T	S	S	E	E	S	O	N	S

# IATWTC, OTR recall past decades

I Am the World Trade Center brings back the '80s while Old Time Relijun rocks like a 1960s zombie flick

By Carl Sundberg  
Pulse Columnist

These days it seems difficult, if not impossible, to have a band and play music that is not "retro." Everything seems to have already been done before. The trick, for some, is to pick the right era to exemplify your brilliant rock 'n' roll vision. (That is, if you even consider yourself rock 'n' roll anymore.)

Two bands on the current music scene are pulling the reverberated vibe out of America's weird past and mixing it into a whole new breed of groove.

## CD REVIEW

I Am the World Trade Center is a duo out of Athens, Ga., that uses

drum machines, synthesizers, computerized hand claps and crooning female vocals to remind us all of an era that brought us Michael J. Fox and The Smurfs.

Before you get a bias worked out, IATWTC is NOT a political band. The members are not writing songs about terrorism or the horrors of corporate globalization. They came up with name long before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and had no idea their namesake would soon be destroyed by planes. That being said, get out your leg warmers, feather your hair and peg those jeans — IATWTC is bringing the 1980s back with a gentle vengeance on their latest album, "The Cover Up."

The songs of love and heartbreak set to a Milli Vanilli drum beat are a nice reminder of a simpler time. There is nothing better than nostalgia whipped up soft and warm, and IATWTC is the band for you if 1980s

techno pop nostalgia is what you are craving.

Some have compared IATWTC with The Postal Service, The Rentals and even Dido, but those people are wrong. IATWTC is more in line with A Flock of Seagulls, Blondie or maybe Luscious Jackson. After you finish the album, you might just get a craving for watching "The Breakfast Club" or "Back to the Future" about 60 or 70 times while writing love letters to Tiffany or Tony Danza.

IATWTC is so '80s, in fact, that it's slightly eerie. Are these two musicians really just robots stepping from a time machine with their Herbie Hancock "Rockit" synthesizers and drum machines? Maybe. But there's only one way to find out: Check out their show at the WOW Hall (located at 291 W. 8th St.) on March 31. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. and tickets are \$7 at the door.

The other band bringing back the past to haunt us is Old Time Relijun. This band is quite a different animal than IATWTC. No electronics, no handclaps, no sweet surrender. No, the immediate feeling you get listening to the band's latest album, "Lost Light," is horror — 1960s horror, to be precise. Campy 1960s zombie flick horror to be even more precise.

OTR is vampire rockabilly. Voodoo redneck funk. The soundtrack in Rob Zombie's head. Captain Beefheart's bastard little brother. Friends of Primus. The cat-chasing Modest Mouse. OTR is lurching behind every closed door behind you, waiting to jump out and bite the nape of your neck.

The singer, Arrington De Dioniso, is a Tom Waits swamp Elvis. His throat-sung, just-off-key lyrics about white devils and black angels, vampires and tigers will bring the weirdos and deviants out of the woodwork or at least their spirits. OTR channels some bizarre energy with their tunes.

Ghosts dance around the notes and monsters peer from the dark crevices. But the music is less Blair Witch scary and more Scooby-Doo haunted-mansion scary. It's a bit creepy, enough to sit you upright in your warm bed, but not enough to throw you from it to check the locks.

It's really hard to put the sound of OTR into words, so once again, you might just want to check them out for yourself. They are playing the WOW Hall this Friday. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. and tickets are \$7 at the door.

Contact the Pulse columnist at [carlsundberg@dailyemerald.com](mailto:carlsundberg@dailyemerald.com).

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## CAMPUS BUZZ

**Monday**

- Art exhibit opening reception, LaVerne Krause Gallery, Lawrence Hall, 6-8 p.m. Features work by architecture graduate student Kevin Hoelscher and Bachelor of Fine Arts multimedia art by Mako Miyamoto.
- Food for Thought video entitled "The Real Eve," Board Room, EMU, noon-1:45 p.m. Pre-registration required.

**Tuesday**

- Human resources workshop entitled

"Communication Sandwich," Walnut Room, EMU, 1-3 p.m. Pre-registration required.

- Listening session with Gregory Vincent, the University's vice provost for institutional equity and diversity, Gumwood Room, EMU, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Friday**

- Duck Days 2004, EMU, noon-5 p.m. Oregon ballroom dance, Room 220, Gerlinger Hall, 7:30-11:30 p.m.



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