



Eric Layton Illustration

The Pulselings, a pop band made up of staff members at the Emerald Pulse desk, will play The Buzz Friday

By **Natasha Chilingerian**
Pulse Reporter

After eight months of creating music behind closed doors, psychedelic pop quintet The Pulselings will make their public debut.

Emerald staff members/musicians Aaron Shakra, Carl Sundberg, Ryan Nyburg, Natasha "Nat" Chilingerian and Helen Schumacher began meeting in August 2003 to write music, create an image for themselves and practice their craft. They will appear at The Buzz Coffeehouse open mic Friday at 8 p.m.

The reporters-turned-rockers decided

to give new careers in music a shot after spending a long day together at the July 2003 Oregon Country Fair in Veneta, where Shakra said they experienced an "artistic revolution."

"We were all feeling the groove at the fair and bouncing around to beats in the drum circle," Shakra said. "Because Carl had brought his guitar with him, and Helen had her bass, I grabbed a djembe and we jammed out after dark. Ryan pulled out his harmonica and Nat started singing. We just busted out into song, and we had this amazing harmony. It was like we were destined to play together."

At the time, The Pulselings had a sixth member — Emerald reporter Steven Neuman, who had provided a Hawaiian twist to the group with his talents on the ukulele. But last

month Neuman quit the band. Nyburg said Neuman left for personal and philosophical reasons.

"Just a few weeks before he quit, he went on this crazy acid trip and we didn't hear from him for a week," Nyburg said. "Then he came to us saying that he was too good for music, that he wanted to go off and start his own business, conduct science experiments and invent new technology."

The Pulselings said their emotional connections to their instruments have kept them strong. Schumacher is a true child prodigy — she picked up the bass at age three.

"I actually constructed my first bass from colored crepe paper, old Barbie dolls and glittery pipe cleaners," Schumacher said.

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