

Pulse Editor:
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Hot Picks
Granola Funk Espresso
Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd.
Admission: \$5; Sunday 9 p.m.

Thursday, July 8, 2004



RYAN NYBURG
BUDGET RACK

Genres' real history is often overlooked

History is an odd bird. Often what is accepted as fact is simply the most popular version of events, rather than the truth. Underneath the common presumptions lies a whole system of overlooked people and forgotten items which, when revealed, can show history in a new light.

Pop culture being my bag, I figured I could try to work through some of the secret histories which abound in our collective cultural experience. So as a new project to keep myself entertained during the summer, I've decided to create the International Secret History Society, to complement my under-appreciated and underfunded Society for the Preservation of Horrible Noise in Music (for which I have yet to receive a single donation).

So as part of the Secret Society's charter (which you are not allowed to see) I'll be starting an educational campaign to help right some of the wrongs in our view of history, while at the same time making myself look smarter than everyone else. For this installation, let us begin with the long and tangled story of rock 'n' roll.

To start: Who is one of the most important and influential guitarist in American rock history? Jimi Hendrix comes to mind, and rightfully so, but how about some other options? Here is one you might not have guessed: Dick Dale. Yeah, the "Miserlou" guy (oh yeah, that song from "Pulp Fiction"). Honestly, I can justify this.

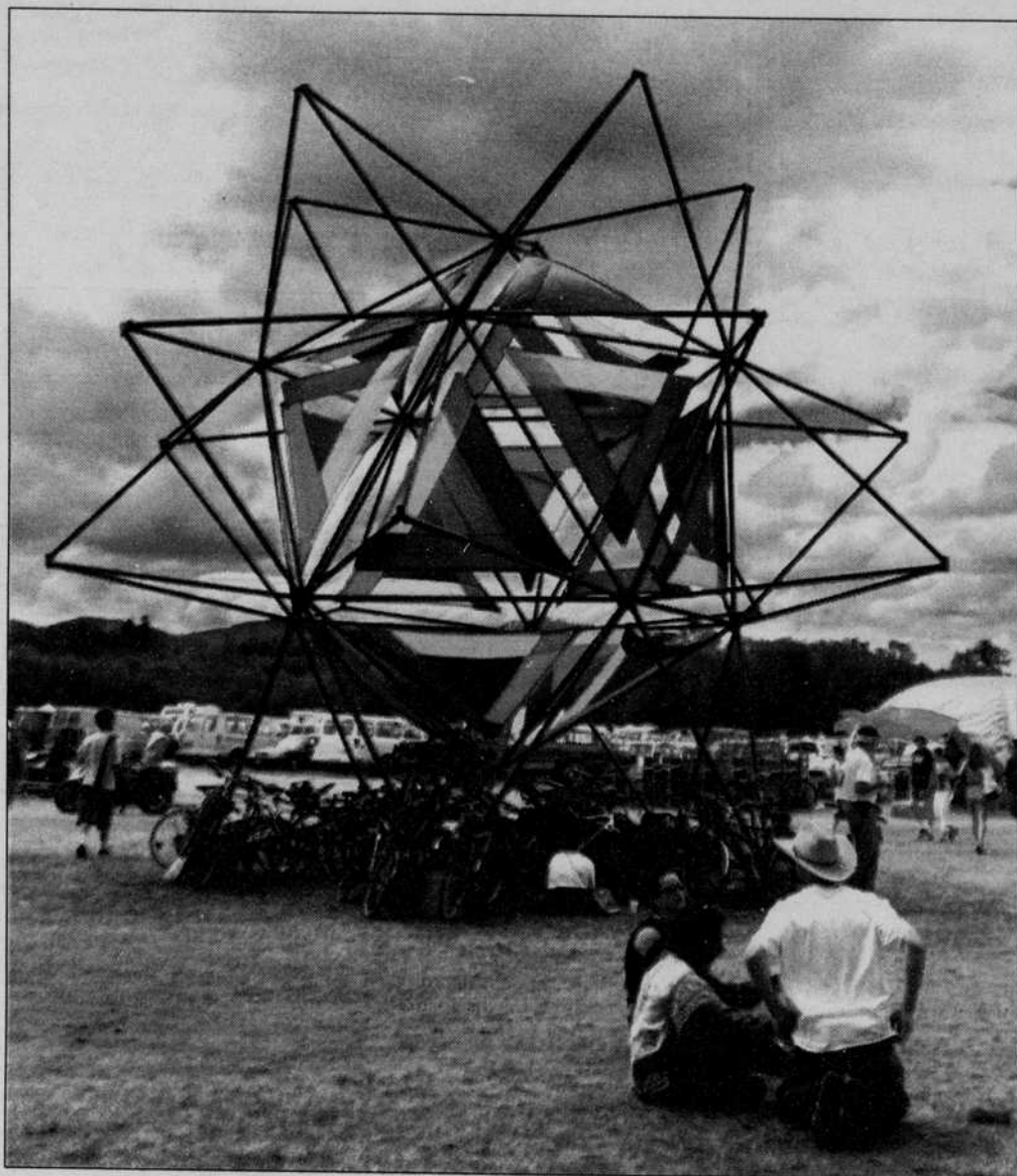
Dale pretty much created an entire subgenre of music, surf rock, something which few artists can lay a claim on. He was one of the first rock instrumentalists to use Middle Eastern and other "exotic" melody lines in his compositions, he pioneered a single-note staccato picking technique for rock guitar, he was the first to use a portable reverb device which created the rumbling tones that define surf guitar and he was the first to use a portable radio hook up for his guitar during live performances.

But that isn't all. Through an association with guitar maker Leo Fender, he had large, powerful sound systems designed to handle the incredible volume he demanded in his live shows (legend has it that Dale blew out dozens of amplifiers before Fender designed one that could handle the volume Dale wanted). His popularity led surf rock to become a national trend, with groups popping up even in landlocked regions such as Minnesota (favorite Minnesota surf group: The Trashmen). If not for the British Invasion, it is conceivable that surf rock could have become the predominant force in American rock music during the mid-1960s.

For those interested in Dale's music, I recommend Rhino Records' "King of the Surf Guitar: The Best of Dick Dale" as a starting point. It contains most of his early singles as well as some other rarities, such as his duet with Stevie Ray Vaughan doing The Chantays' "Pipeline." His original

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Oregon Country Fair celebrates 35 years



Emerald

The 35th annual Oregon Country Fair will take place this weekend outside Veneta. During its three days, the Fair is one of the most populated areas in Oregon.

The famed fair starts Friday and promises something for all in the 'pursuit of joy'

KENNETH MENDRIBIL
FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon Country Fair celebrates its 35th birthday this weekend in Veneta. The annual three-day event begins July 9 and will host many live musicians, spoken word performers and world-famous Vaudevillian acts.

A variety of food booths, educational workshops and, of course, face painting are other fair essentials.

"A hallmark for this year's fair is interactive-ness," Media Coordinator Jenny Newton said.

The fair welcomes people from all over the Northwest and from all walks of life. Forty thousand visitors are expected to attend the fair this year, according to Newton.

"You're likely to see just as many tattoos and piercings as you will tie-dye," Newton says. "I think that's what this fair has that no other can offer."

Newton said this year there are more venues for spoken word guests, such as Francisco Letelier, a world-renowned teacher, artist and lecturer, who will appear at the Front Porch Stage on Saturday. He will discuss cultural relativism and cross-cultural social-political art.

Juggernaut and Brothers With Different Mothers will perform their acts at the Daredevil Vaudeville Palace on all three days. The Everyone Orchestra, an improvisational band, will close the celebration Sunday evening at the Main Stage, the only venue that plays electrical music.

"This year we are concentrating on smaller names but bigger ideas," Newton said. "We don't want the fair to become more and more of a rock show."

Energy Park will have booths

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'Ghost World' presents a study of loneliness

Impactful character studies make this coming-of-age story stand out from the crowd

RYAN NYBURG
PULSE EDITOR

Terry Zwigoff has set himself up to be one of the better directors to enter the Hollywood scene in some time. Though now mostly known for the comedy "Bad Santa," Zwigoff came into his own as a filmmaker with the 2001 film "Ghost World." After the breakthrough documentary "Crumb," about the underground comic artist Robert Crumb, Zwigoff spent the next few years struggling to create an adaptation of Daniel Clowes's cult comic strip about the adventures of a cynical teenage girl with no plans and seemingly no future of substance awaiting her.

"Ghost World" was the resulting film and it stands as one of the most fully expressed portraits of human loneliness and modern disconnection to come from a filmmaker. It balances this with a sharp-witted and occasionally vicious sense of humor as its protagonists wade through a prefabricated suburban landscape which seems entirely composed of strip malls and fast food outlets.

The film stars Thora Birch as Enid, an intelligent but underachieving girl fresh out of high school. Everything kicks off with her and her friend Rebecca (Scarlett Johansson) at their high school graduation and the school-sponsored party afterwards. Their remarks and reactions to what is going on

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Local musician shares details of album, tour

Tom Heinel has a love of country music but remains loyal to the Eugene scene

RYAN NYBURG
PULSE EDITOR

Local singer/songwriter Tom Heinel has made a name for himself after the release of his new country-influenced comedy album, "With or Without Me." He recently found time during his national tour to talk to the Emerald about country music, three-ways and songwriting.

Emerald: So you are on tour right now. Where are you right now?

Tom Heinel: I'm on my way to Chicago and I was just in Bloomington, Indiana.

Emerald: How did it go?

TH: It's a nice little town in a "Twilight Zone" sort of way, just a little too perfect. But it's a nice, all-American town. Very architecturally sound.

Emerald: How has the tour been going overall?

TH: It's been going good. Every night I have a virgin audience that has never heard my songs, which is great.

Emerald: Any memorable moments?

TH: Just flat tires and stuff. Been shaking hands and meeting people.

Emerald: The whole politician thing, right?

TH: Yeah, pretty much.

Emerald: Your new album came out a few months ago. How has the response been?

TH: As far as I know it's been pretty positive. We've had some good reviews. Maybe there are some people out there that don't like it and they aren't telling

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Singer/songwriter Tom Heinel will perform Saturday at 9 p.m. at Sam Bond's Garage. The musician's recently released album will suit fans of comedy and country music. Courtesy