



## Get your **Freak** on

Transcending the top-40 dance scene and getting people to dance are at the heart of two Eugene DJs' visions

BY JOSH LINTEREUR  
PULSE REPORTER

Last summer, two local DJs set out to establish an unburdened alternative to the stuffy top-40 dance club scene. So far, their unstifling consortium of audio-visual sorcerers, robots and big blue bunnies has been a step in the right direction.

Dubbed "Freaks in the House," the performances by DJs Shawn Mediaclast (aka the Audio Schizophrenic) and Steve Sawada have grown from a monthly event to a weekly staple at John Henry's. The downtown bar, at 77 West Broadway, hosts

the free show every Saturday at 10 p.m. for audiences 21 and older. The brainchild of Mediaclast and Sawada, "Freaks" also features an array of guest DJs, visual projection artists and an imaginatively dressed audience.

The scene they've put together is quite different from anything you'll find in Eugene, said Keith Martin, book agent for John Henry's. "It has a big city feel to it. It's not a top-40 dance night."

According to Mediaclast, transcending the predictable dance club circuit was at the heart of their vision when creating "Freaks."

"We just wanted to fill a gap with what we saw in the dance floor

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE HICKEY  
COMPILATION BY  
JONAH SCHROGIN

FREAKS, page 9

### ■ In my opinion



RYAN NYBURG  
BUDGET RACK

## Unmentioned music a Zoloft alternative

The great thing about this job is that I get a chance to experience everything our culture has to offer. But if you apply the old adage that 90 percent of everything is crap, that doesn't really bode well for my long term sanity. Imagine I did this full time and had to listen to every album that came across my desk. They would more than likely be scraping my gray matter off the office ceiling with a rake by the end of the week, provided I didn't OD on a Zoloft/caffeine bender first, my eyes bulging out and my ears leaving dark puddles of blood on the carpet from trying to comprehend the soul-deadening mediocrity of it all.

Still, I do wish I could do more. I wish I could,

NYBURG, page 11

## PULSEMUSIC PULSEMUSIC

**The Visible Men, "Love:30":** A Eugene super-group of sorts, The Visible Men have been making a name for themselves on the local scene with their mix of jazzy instrumental interplay, pop song craft and moody ballads. Including some of the hardest-working musicians in town, trio Dustin Lanker, Dan Schmid and Jordan Glenn has put together another collection of keyboard-driven pop with their sophomore effort, "Love:30."

The album further reveals the group's considerable promise but doesn't quite fulfill it. The songs are well-crafted and engaging, though the lyrics are often stilted — when they register at all — and the occasional dynamic rhythm and stylistic shifts make the album sound more confused than eclectic.

That aside, "Love:30" holds much value for the patient listener. The musicians all work at the top of their abilities and the occasional appearance by other members of the Eugene music scene (including Zoot Horn Rollo, who adds some nice Jerry Garcia-style grooves to "Paper Cup") helps loosen up the piano/bass/drum arrangements on a few tracks.

Despite its faults, the album still works as a pleasant and occasionally groovy collection of jazz influenced pop ballads. I would hate to be any other band in town if The Visible Men ever hit their stride.

— Ryan Nyburg



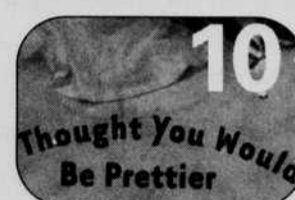
## INSIDE PULSE



Peabody's Pub offers a good neighborhood bar atmosphere and warm ambience.



"Jade Empire" creates a unique digital world for game players to explore.



"WeThoughtYou Would Be Prettier" is full of witty observations about the author's life.

## EVENTS MOVIES BOOKS MUSIC

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### Today

Mark Hummel and Johnny Dyer  
Cozmic Pizza  
8 p.m., \$5  
Blues harp and vocals

### Friday

Jake the Cat  
Luna  
9 p.m., \$5  
Funk

### Saturday

Hawaii Club Luau  
McArthur Court  
5 p.m., \$18  
Hawaiian dinner, music and dance

### Sunday

Alter Ego  
Cafe Paradiso  
7 p.m., \$3  
Rock



### TOP 5 MOVIES

- 1: "The Amityville Horror"
- 2: "Sahara"
- 3: "Fever Pitch"
- 4: "Sin City"
- 5: "Guess Who"



### NEWYORKTIMES BEST-SELLERS

- 1: Mary Higgins Clark, "No Place Like Home"
- 2: Sue Monk Kidd, "The Mermaid Chair"
- 3: Matthew Stover, "Revenge of the Sith"
- 4: Dan Brown, "The Da Vinci Code"
- 5: Ian McKwan, "Saturday"



### BILLBOARD TOP 5

- 1: 50 Cent, "The Massacre"
- 2: Faith Evans, "The First Lady"
- 3: Beck, "Guero"
- 4: Various Artists, "Now 18"
- 5: 112, "Pleasure & Pain"