

Fighting for music

'Rock n Roll Soldiers'
invade the WOW Hall
Friday with a
homecoming show

BY JOSH LINTEREUR
PULSE REPORTER

This weekend one of Eugene's most buzzed-about music exports returns home.

With their major label debut on the horizon and MTV cameras in tow, hometown Rock n Roll Soldiers will play a show at the WOW Hall on Friday before leaving for an East Coast tour.

But flirting with mainstream success hasn't made the band feel like rock stars triumphantly returning to their hometown.

"We're just going to feel stupid," lead singer Marty Larson-Xu said, referring to the fact that an MTV camera crew will follow the band for an upcoming documentary show. As awkward as the cameras will make the band feel, their presence signifies just how far the group has come.

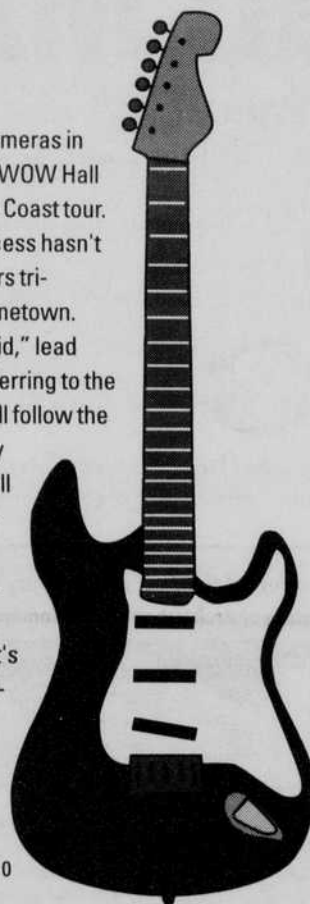
The band picked out its name, Rock n Roll Soldiers, before any of them knew how to play an instrument. And if the title sounds like a grade school garage band, it's because the original band members adopted the name while attending Roosevelt Middle School.

"We were a terrible band," Larson-Xu said. But the moniker stuck, and the band slowly began honing its sound.

Though the mainstream resurgence of punk and garage rock

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DUSTIN REESE



EVENTS MOVIES BOOKS MUSIC

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Today

NoMeansNo
WOW Hall
8:30 p.m.,
\$10 in advance,
\$12 at door
Rock

Friday

20 Minute Loop
Luckey's Bar
10 p.m., \$3
Indie rock

Saturday

Eleven Eyes
Luna
9:30 p.m., \$7
Jazz

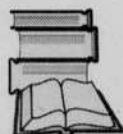
Sunday

Sweet Island Thyme
Sam Bond's Garage
8:30 p.m., \$3
Jam



TOP 5 MOVIES

- 1: "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"
- 2: "The Interpreter"
- 3: "XXX: State of the Union"
- 4: "The Amityville Horror"
- 5: "Sahara"



NEWYORKTIMES BEST-SELLERS

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



BILLBOARD TOP 5

- 1: Rob Thomas, "...Something to Be"
- 2: Mariah Carey, "The Emancipation of Mimi"
- 3: Mike Jones, "Who is Mike Jones"
- 4: Il Divo, "Il Divo"
- 5: 50 Cent, "The Massacre"

■ In my opinion



RYAN NYBURG
BUDGET RACK

Exposing potholes on our cultural road map

Sometimes it's good to be constructive and praise what is good and true in our culture, to provide a road map for others so that they might have a chance enjoy the wonders of truly wonderful art. But often it's more fun to blow off some steam and take my own artistic frustrations out on things that truly and woefully suck. Which is what I intend to do here.

Let us start with George Lucas. The "Star Wars" prequels have been a hideous boil on the cultural landscape for years and his atrocious hack job on the original films stands as one of the most monumentally stupid and single-mindedly greedy cash-ins of cinema history. To top it off, his zealousness concerning digital technology is leading to a rush toward

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PULSEMUSIC PULSEMUSIC

Brandi Carlile, "Acoustic": A breakthrough is looming for 23-year-old singer/songwriter Brandi Carlile. In March, the Ravensdale, Wash., native was featured in Rolling Stone as one of "10 Artists to Watch," and in June she is set to release her first full-length album through Columbia Records.

Her five-song EP, "Acoustic," offers a brief glimpse at what could be a bright future for the young artist. The soulful rasp and deep melodic range of Carlile's vocals haunt the EP's stripped down melancholic ballads. Carlile is accompanied by twins Tim and Phil Hanseroth (lead guitar and bass), and each song comes to life with a delicately harmonic sound and deeply confessional lyrics.

Carlile has already built a significant following on the West Coast and has toured with Dave Matthews, James Taylor, India Arie and Jonny Lang. A singing voice as distinct as Carlile's doesn't stay in the margins for long. Music fans hoping to capture an emerging but still out-of-the-mainstream artist will want to check out the album, which is available online (www.brandicarlile.com).



—Josh Lintereur

INSIDE PULSE



Café Soriah offers a wide selection of wines, but is too crowded for the after hours set.



The Oregon Electric Station serves some of the best dishes in Eugene from its historic site.



Check out the new Pulse comic strip this week, John Palmer's "Cool Nuvo."