

Album preview



COURTESY

From left to right: guitarist Juan Camacho, singer Lisa Blue, bassist Terri Parrish and drummer Maya Chernobyl of The Crimes of Ambition are releasing "Spinning Hearts in Perpetual Orbit" Friday.

The Crimes of Ambition: a melodic post-punk band

The group's debut album will be available at a CD release party at the Black Forest on Friday

BY ANDREW MCCOLLUM
PULSE REPORTER

The seeds for Eugene post-punk band The Crimes of Ambition were planted back in the late '90s when then-University philosophy graduate student Maya Chernobyl found herself spending her days at the now defunct café Sandino's Fonda.

"Something kept me in academia, but I knew it wasn't right for me and it was keeping me stunted," said Chernobyl. "So I went to this Marxist coffee shop where they blasted punk rock music. I would smoke, drink strong coffee out of a bottomless cup, and get exposed to all this music."

At Sandino's Fonda, Chernobyl met The Crimes of Ambition's songwriter and guitarist Juan Camacho, who owned the café. The two started dating and eventually co-owned the next generation of the coffee shop.

"We lost that shop because we're

not good business people," explained Chernobyl. "But everyone loved it."

In 1999 the pair decided to form the band. At the time Chernobyl didn't know how to play drums.

"(Camacho) taught me how to play drums, and I taught him how to write poetry," said Chernobyl. "And I got the fuck out of Philosophy."

The band has gone through various incarnations since its birth. "Over six years we've been through many singers and bass players," said Chernobyl, adding, "we never fired anybody."

Two years ago the band's current singer, Lisa Blue, answered a classified ad she found in the Eugene Weekly that read "VOCALIST NEEDED for rock band."

"I came in grabbed a microphone and something crazy came out of me," said Blue about her audition.

"And they liked it."

Like Blue, bassist Terri Parrish, the most recent addition to the band, also responded to an ad in the Weekly.

The Crimes of Ambition's self-release debut album "Spinning Hearts in Perpetual Orbit" is due out Friday. Parrish describes the band's sound as melodic post-punk. "It's got punk's drums, but not necessarily punk's guitars," Parrish said. "It's punk in spirit, but it's not sung by a punk rocker."

The band will be having a CD release party Friday evening at the Black Forest, located at 50 E 11th Ave. in downtown Eugene. The band will perform songs off of their album, and Station Wag and The Perverts will perform as well. The band plans on touring the Northwest and Europe to support their album.

For more information, lyrics, and MP3s, check out the band's Web site at www.crimesofambition.us.

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IN BRIEF

50 Cent's entrance into film is worth about half a dollar

As Eminem's protégé, 50 Cent got the introduction to rap superstardom and all the automatic wealth, fame and credit that go along with it. But apparently he didn't get any acting lessons. And so the film debut from 50 Cent (real name: Curtis Jackson) plays like a feeble retreat

of Eminem's film debut "8 Mile" — not just because it's arriving in theaters only three years later and it's so similarly semi-fictional, which it is. Mainly, "Get Rich" proves once again, as in "Glitter," that standing in front of a camera and portraying a thinly veiled version of yourself is harder than it sounds. Eminem pulled it off — even though "8 Mile" was essentially a rap version of "The Karate Kid" — because he had an inescapable charisma, an

intensity about him and an innate ability to connect with his audience in a way that was evident even from his earliest music videos. 50, though, has always had a much more low-key vibe, which on the big screen renders him nearly inert. Terrence Howard and Joy Bryant co-star. R for strong violence, pervasive language, drug content, sexuality and nudity. 117 min. One and a half stars out of four.

—The Associated Press



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