

'Phineas Gage' rocks CCC

Dan Anderson
Staff Writer

Years ago, a rail worker named **Phineas Gage** found himself with a large bolt of iron through his head. He survived the incident, but his lifestyle changed profoundly. Before, he lived an upright and moral life. The brain damage caused him to lose his morals.

Now **Phineas Gage** joins Jethro Tull and Steeley Dan on the list of appropriate but singular band names. "**Phineas Gage?** Yeah, he sounds like the Beatles."

Which is unfair. **Phineas Gage**, a two-guitar, two-mastermind quartet played its all-original set Wednesday in the Skylight Room and proved that the band deserved more critical attention than messed-up pronouns.

Phineas Gager Jody Garner: "Our main goal is for people to come enjoy, and to appreciate our music."

Guitarist/vocalists Heather Savoy and Garner contribute lyrics and song ideas, but both attribute credit to bassist Ben Brown and drummer Jim Reese for fine-tuning the songs and creating the band's sound.

"I do the storytelling thing,"



photo by Josh Kehler

Phineas Gage rocks the Skylight Room at Clackamas

Savoy explained. "Some of my writing is fictitious, but mostly based upon personal experiences."

Savoy cites the diverse influences on each band member for the band's eclectic collection of songs. "Our songs are not stuck in one pattern," Savoy stated. The band claims such as **Lush**, **Throwing Muses**, **Belly**, **Black Sabbath**, and **The Breeders**; the blues, surf rock and rockabilly overtones in different places.

The band played a rich and respectable set, but lacked presence and charisma on stage. However, **Phineas Gage** began informal rehearsal in April, and considering that most bands barely make it out of the garage in that amount of time, good music fully meets all expectations. **Phineas Gage** will continue to play over-21 venues such as EJ's, Moody's, and Satyricon.

Catch them before they get expensive.

New Self CD is a mix of weird songs

Amy K. Hanson
Managing Editor

The new CD by **Self**, entitled "Subliminal Plastic Motives" provides a mix of weird and entertaining songs about everything yet nothing.

Self is led by 22-year-old singer/songwriter Matt Mahaffey who is from Kingsport, Tenn. At an early age Matt knew he was meant to write songs. He never considered doing anything else. Even without formal lessons, he always knew that he wanted to be a musician.

Mahaffey produced and performed all songs on this CD.

The CD was produced by Spongebath Records and distributed by BMG.

The lyrics are clever and strange. The song "Marathon Shirt" is written about a favorite shirt worn "everyday till it hurts." Which reminds me of my brother and most teenage boys, who get attached to one particular clothing item, wear it all the time and never throw it in the laundry.

The music is unclassifiable because of the jazz twists and guitar riffs strategically placed. It seems that not sounding like someone else was the goal of **Self**, but his track "So Low" has kind of an EMF meets **Green Day** feel. And "Big Important Nothing" is reminiscent of **Arrested Development's** "Mr. Wendell."

"Lucid Anne"--although it says basically nothing-- has a catchy rhythm and repetition that makes it one of those tunes that get "stuck in your head."

The only song that has had air play on the radio thus far is "Cannon." The CD title, "Subliminal Plastic Motives," comes from the song "Superstar." It is a song about how superstar singers, actors-big shots-are unreachable to the normal person and that he now knows how they feel.

At the end of the CD credits and thank you's it says, "please tell all your friends about this wonderful self product." Here it is presented directly to you.

Jim Carrey strikes funny bone with Ace Ventura 2

Jon Roberts
Feature Editor

Jim Carrey is back as the side-achingly funny and dim witted Pet Detective, Ace Ventura, in his latest movie *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*.

Carrey reprises the role that took him from relative obscurity and turned him into one of America's top new actors in the last ten years. Even though the character Ace Ventura is one of the most shallow in movie history, he is still hilariously funny.

In his latest movie Ventura loses all confidence in himself and goes into hiding in a Tibet monastery. He is later contacted by an African diplomat, who wants to hire Ventura for one last job.

Ventura decides to take the case. His job is to find the sacred animal of a local tribe or a massive genocidal war will abrupt. He finds that there are a lot of people that are against him, but in the end he finds a way to win.

The basic idea behind this movie is rather thin but Carrey

makes up for it with his awesome wit and very amusing facial expressions. This movie makes a less sense than the first movie.

This movie brings back a lot of the same old jokes from the first movie, but there are enough new jokes to make it worth while.

The weekend of its premiere **Ace Ventura** was nearly impossible to get in to see. On Friday a great number of the theaters in Portland sold out most of their showings of **Ace Ventura**.

Jim Carrey once again goes

wild with his very under-developed character one that right now is making more money than a lot of other well developed characters. So I am sure Jim Carrey is laughing all the way to the bank.

The movie also stars Sophie Okonedo and Simon Callow and was directed by Steve Oedekerk. It is rated PG-13 for vulgar humor and language, mature themes and situations and caricatured violence. *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls* is playing at most Portland area theaters.

RATING

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