

# Jazz in the café

**Pete Ford**  
A & E Editor

Do you like Jazz?  
Do you like free music?  
For the past couple of weeks, and for weeks to come, the Quintana/Wager Project has been performing a variety of jazz songs (old and new) free of charge every Friday from noon to 1 p.m. in the corner of the Skylight Dining Room. Two of CCC's own jazz band players, Steve Quintana and Brad Wager, are the masterminds behind this operation.

They play old jazz standards from artists such as George Gershwin and Miles Davis, as well as a few new

jazz songs by groups like Pink Martini. Within the last month, two new members have joined the duo to form a four-piece band. The first is Jeremy "Funky Fat" Archibald, who bangs out the beats on the drums. The recent addition of Eli Sears adds the sweet sounds of the piano.

Quintana plays on his Gretsch hollow-body G3900 while Wager jams out on his Gibson ES335 Memphis.

"People come and go," said Quintana "There is anywhere from five to 25 people at any given time. It's a good hang."

The band rehearses two times a week and has an archive of over 10 songs that it shuffles through for its performance.

"It's really just a lot of music that you'd want to learn to play," said Quintana. "We're playing music that we like to play."

So don't hesitate to stop in and shout this good group of guys a holler or drop in while you're eating lunch. Tell them how awesome they are, or just come and go as you please.

The bottom line is, if you like music come check this out. Free is the best price anything could ever be and this won't cost you a cent.



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Steve Quintana (left) and Brad Wager jam together during last Friday's session.

# 'Stars' sets creative, catchy pace



PETE FORD Clackamas Print

Count the Stars performs at the Meow Meow on April 4.

**Pete Ford**  
A & E Editor

Make no mistake: Count the Stars is on their way to stardom.

Their debut album "Never be Taken Alive" focuses on many aspects of rock. The music is very catchy, but is all over the place (in a good way). They speed it up, slow it down and harmonize so fantastically that you will be left singing

along and adding in your own verses.

Being the youngsters that they are, Count the Stars has a lot of room for maturity, but the music is pieced together perfectly. There is no mistaking where any of the songs are going. An extremely distinctive beat drives the songs, while guitar solos and drum fills are added to complete the puzzle. They won't confuse you or take you on some out-of-control musical journey through a scientific interpretation of what good music really is. They simply play fun, heart-filled rock and roll and do it darn well.

Songs like "Better off Alone" address the traditional topic of a broken heart, but the words somehow really hit home: "You cut me up and down, like razor-blades to my face, I still regret all the time that has walked right past me and you can't get back, the way you feel, this bitter year, you've wasted all of your tears on

the only one who would never even care

Not only do they play awesome music, the guys in the band are really down-to-earth, "good time fellas" according to their t-shirts. They wouldn't hesitate to walk right up next to you like the true music fans they are and watch and support the rest of the bands. They are normal people just like us with an ear for good music.

I have a feeling about these four New York boys. They are young and going after it, and by "it" I mean success. They are currently playing a nationwide tour and will be rockin' out at the Van's Warped Tour.

Check out Count the Stars' CD "Never be Taken Alive" now, before its cost exceeds \$15, and you might be surprised at what a gem you've fallen upon. Overall I give this album a 9.0 out of 10 and I cannot wait to hear what the band's future holds.



**Robb Egan**  
Co-Photo Editor

Hollywood has a long-standing and well-deserved reputation for making sci-fi sequels that just don't live up to their predecessors ("The Empire Strikes Back" and "Wrath of Khan" being notable exceptions).

It's almost comforting to see how "The Matrix Reloaded," sequel to 1999's surprise hit "The Matrix" and second in the trilogy, fits comfortably in that category of Movie That Barely Does Justice to the Film That Spawned It.

While on the whole I enjoyed "The Matrix Reloaded," there were quite a few things that detracted from the otherwise bliss-filled theatrical experience. The movie begins on a positive note; the first five minutes consist of an excellent action sequence (which most people have probably already seen from the trailer, though). Sadly, it all goes downhill from there. The audience is then treated to a 40-minute plot sand-trap so heavy in foreshadowing and self-indulgent melodrama I began to wonder if they stuck in that beginning just to remind you what it is that you are really there to see.

Had I not been a huge fan of "The Matrix," and had I not waited four years for the sequels, I probably would have fallen asleep somewhere around the time of Morpheus' little

speech to the citizens of Zion. You could basically miss the first 45 minutes of this movie and not suffer for it. Hell, you'd probably enjoy the rest of the movie more.

While the first movie benefited from minimal dialogue, opting instead for a more visually driven story, "Reloaded" is rampant with line after line of obnoxiously meaningless psychobabble bad enough to give a philosophy major an aneurism. Several times throughout "Reloaded" the story just

bogged down by jibber-jabber which can't possibly hold any deep significance for anyone with more than a dozen brain cells. At times it got so bad I swear I could feel my brain screaming in agony as it tried valiantly to make its escape via my left ear canal.

The acting was not bad, far from it actually. Keanu Reeves (Neo) is his same old self, Lawrence Fishburne (Morpheus, duh) is as bad-ass as ever (except for the speech to Zion part) and Hugo Weaving turns out another fine performance as the increasingly disturbing Agent Smith. The introduction of Lambert Wilson as the Merovingian is a welcome addition, delivering some of the best lines in the movie and introducing us to the sinister and powerful Twins (Neil and Adriant Rayment).

Much like the first movie, "Reloaded" is packed with visually stunning effects and incredible action sequences (which also go on way, way too long sometimes, by the way). With Yuen Wo Ping ("Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon," "Drunken Master," "Fist of Legend," etc., etc.) choreographing, the fight scenes are, of course, simply incredible.

See "The Matrix Reloaded" if you like cool action scenes and spiffy special effects. Those who loved "The Matrix" owe it to themselves to catch the sequels. Everyone else might as well wait for the DVD.



# Epic Events

## GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AND GO SEE THIS SHOW!

**Who:** Phish (two days in a row)  
- If you missed this announcement last week, here it is again! **This is truly a must-see concert!** This band has a following like no other and you will truly know why if you decide to go. Phish's music is inspirational in every way and appeals to the fans of many genres. Though their music tends to stay on the softer side, Phish is hardly soft rock.

**When:**  
Saturday July 12 and  
Sunday July 13  
7:30 p.m. (both shows)  
Tickets are available and on sale now through Ticketmaster. Tickets are \$51 each (service charge included).

**Where:**  
The Gorge Amphitheatre in George Washington. Approximately a five-hour drive. Camping available.

## Fightin' Foes Rockin' times:

**Who:** Foo Fighters, Pete Dinklage, Special Goodness  
-Dave Grohl (Nirvana's former drummer) and his successful band and longtime rockers the Foo Fighters will be coming to town Saturday June 7. Their style of music, which is rooted in the grunge/garage music scene is an enjoyable, upbeat, not-too-hardcore style of music. Prepare for some good times!

**When:**  
Saturday June 7 7 p.m.  
Tickets are available and on sale now through Ticketmaster for \$27.50.

**Where:**  
Salem Armory Auditorium  
2320 17th St. NE  
(503) 378-6923

## 94.7 NRK's Big Stink 8:

**Who:** Staind, Mudvayne, Taproot, Powerman 5000, Seether, Smile Empty Soul featuring Skateboarding Champion Andy Macdonald and the Suzuki Motocross Team.

- 94.7 NRK is back with their annual spectacle. This year Big Stink 8 will be held in Estacada, only about 20 minutes from the college. It is the headliners' tour, meaning all bands playing are already successful alternative rockers. This event will host Freestyle Motocross, Pro Halfpipe Skateboarding and, of course, good music. "It's not just a concert, it's an evolution."

**When:**  
Sunday June 22 8 p.m.  
Tickets are available at all Car Stereo City locations or online at knrk.com. Tickets are \$35 with no service charge.  
**Where:**  
Estacada Timber Bowl

## Van's Warped Tour 2003:

**Who:** Rancid, Pennywise, Rufio, Thrice, Dropkick Murphys, The Ataris, Less Than Jake, Avenged Sevenfold, Taking Back Sunday, Face To Face, Glassjaw, Andrew W.K. Talib Kweli, Simple Plan, Poison The Well and many more.

- This is the second time Epic Events has printed this event because it is so important. Close to 30 amazing bands will be here. Don't miss out.

**When:**  
Sunday July 6 noon 'til end  
Tickets available through TicketsWest for \$30

**Where:**  
Columbia Meadows (off I-5 N) (formerly Portland Meadows)

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