



Lazoo plays Luna on Friday.

Lazoo's Last Abaté heads home to France.

Local band **Lazoo** is preparing to enter a new phase of its 10-year history. Vocalist and guitarist Eric Abaté has plans to return to his native France in May. "I've been here for 14 years and I feel the call to just be around the family these days," he says. Abaté also wants to rediscover Europe and hopefully bring the band into a new era of its existence.

Lyon is a centrally located city within easy reach of Paris, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany; perfect for a touring band ready to swim the ocean and go global. Three members of Lazoo, percussionist Edwin Coleman III, bass guitarist Will Moye and saxophonist Dave O' Toole, will relocate to Portland, while guitarist, percussionist and vocalist Brent Bosworth will remain in Eugene. The band plans one more Eugene show, Friday, April 18th at Luna.

Future shows will take place in France and surrounding countries. Abaté says he may come back to Eugene for shows occasionally, but that he will focus on bringing the band to him. "It's time for us to explore that side. I think our music will work really well in Europe," he says, although he admits he doesn't know how quickly his goal will be achieved. "There're mixed feelings, because we're not going to be playing as much as we are now, and we've been playing together for 10 years." Lazoo is leaving fans with one last gem, the newly finished *Up Downtown*, which will be available at the Luna show.

Abaté has three solo CDs available, the newest completed within the last few weeks. Coleman and Moye also have a CD available, *Drum and Bass*. Abaté has been in charge of Eugene's ProArts Studio, which may or may not continue to stay in business. While Abaté is, of course, excited to return home after so long an absence, he is wistful about leaving Eugene and the many fans Lazoo has here. "I'm going to miss Eugene a lot. It's a wonderful city musically and has great people. I love Oregon. It's been a great journey." Abaté promises to keep in touch. Au revoir!

Kooken 'n' Hoomen. What does it mean? What does anything mean? Why are

we here? Perhaps the magic of innovative electronic music has the answers. It does if you're one of Kooken 'n' Hoomen's six members. Nate Germick plays rhodes, synths and melodicas, Brian Mundy performs on

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guitars, basses and tweeklies, whatever that means, Felipe Caballos handles drums, percussion and superphones while Rob Gwin picks up another bass and more synths. The four are supported by a crew of two: Robyn Hartzell provides a visual link to the music through artwork, slides and television, while Michael Diltz runs the business and audio tech end of things.

Describing Kooken 'n' Hoomen's music requires talking about jazz, electronica, psychedelia and rock. The music incorporates some ideas of jazz in which rhythms slip and slide, submerge and reappear, but instead of the abrupt punctuations of trumpet or saxophone. K 'n' H give us the bleeps, blips, loops and manipulations of electronic music. The band has two CDs available, *Escuela* and the brand new second effort, *Gopal to Starwin*.

Kooken 'n' Hoomen have visited our area many times in the past, and are especially popular in hometown San Francisco. Critics call them "groove-oriented space/dance" and "one part light-footed Tortoise, a pinch of sampler fun, and a dollop of open-ended jam band style." K 'n' H will perform Friday, April 18th at the Wild Duck along with Portland duo **Surrounded By Ninjas**, composed of keyboardist Asher Fulero and DJ Joel Barber, who bring along 14 pieces of equipment to create downbeat grooves, dub and ambient electronica. **EW**

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