

McDONALD THEATRE
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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 LIMITED SEATING
MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD
with THE BEN TAYLOR BAND
8 PM DOORS 9 PM SHOW

LIMITED SEATING SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27
BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY
8 PM DOORS 9 PM SHOW

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 LIMITED SEATING
PINK FLOYD'S THE WALL
PLAYED BY THE FLOYDIAN SLIPS
7 PM DOORS 8:30 PM SHOW

All concerts will feature an opening band unless otherwise noted. Times subject to change. Tickets at all **TicketsWest** outlets (800) 992-TIXX. Service charges may apply.

The Eugene Celebration &

JOHN HENRY'S
BEER • MUSIC • ART

Proudly Present...

Friday 9/19	Saturday 9/20
7 PM - Scrambled Ape	7 PM - Sawyer Family
9 PM - The Hellenbacks	9 PM - Mood Area 52
10 PM - Hello Lobster	10 PM - Visible Men
11 PM - The Koozies	11 PM - Eleven Eyes
12 AM - The Shudders	12 AM - Surrounded By Ninjas
1 AM - The Courtesy Clerks	1 AM - Organic Assault Weapons

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music BY VANESSA SALVIA



consonant performs Tuesday at John Henry's.

Sophisticated Acts

Conley's consonant lands at John Henry's.

Clint Conley's previous band, Boston's Mission of Burma, is to me a touchstone of musical importance, despite the fact it lasted only five years, from 1979 to 1983. The band released only one LP during that time, along with a live recording and an EP, yet they have influenced countless bands with their politically tinged, post-punk inspirations. The band itself was an outgrowth of the art-rock noise scene; the musicians took razor-sharp guitars, brainy lyrics and propulsive bass and drums and did something no one else had done. Conley disappeared from the music scene after Burma broke up (not completely — he did produce Yo La Tengo's first release in 1996), only to resurface last year with a new outfit called **consonant**.

I spoke to Conley recently by phone from his home in Boston to catch up on the past 20 years. Following the demise of Burma, Conley put down the bass and "ventured into other areas of life," going back to school for a Master's in Broadcast Journalism (Conley's a television producer for a Boston-area ABC affiliate), and exploring the institutions of marriage and parenthood. Though he played a few isolated shows with Burma's guitarist Peter Prescott, the music during that time just wasn't flowing.

"It's not like I ever dis-avowed music, like uh, get behind me Satan, I was always very proud of Burma," says Conley. Yet he's reticent to admit the lasting impact of Burma's music. "Our output was so minimal, I'm actually sort of flabbergasted," that fans had only praise when Burma regrouped for some shows. Conley admits that he's somewhat astounded by the tribute given to Burma, and even now says he "still doesn't quite have a grasp of it."

The songwriting muse found Conley when he was least expecting it, and when the call came it was irresistible. "Melodies started re-entering my head. It's not even like I decided, it pressed itself upon me. Music started coming out of me again. I was quite startled that I was feeling musi-

cal again and it was thrilling."

Conley asked guitarist/bassist Chris Brokaw (Come, Codeine, The New Year) to "kick it around." Brokaw brought in Bedhead guitarist Matt Kadane, his compatriot from The New Year. Winston Braman, bassist from Boston's popular group Fuzzy (who also did time in Come) rounds out the foursome.

"I'm thrilled these guys are playing and it's very exciting to be involved in music-making again. The main impetus is writing music. Writing music for me is just the biggest thrill in the world and I'm very grateful it's sort of come back," says Conley.

I'm grateful too, because consonant's second release, *Love & Affliction* (the self-titled debut came out last year), is a great vehicle for these top-notch musicians. Conley's a sophisticated songwriter, aware of depth and complexity, able to harness tension and drama in a song to grand effect. The guitars, taking a cue from Bedhead, are more supple and there's more breathing room. consonant will be appearing Tuesday at John Henry's in Eugene, along with The Lemonheads' Evan Dando. (Incidentally, Brokaw appears on Dando's new release, *Baby, I'm Bored*, along with Calexico's Joey Burns and John Convertino.)

Wednesday at WOW will be a night to remember, as Scotland's **Mogwai** takes the stage, along with Ipecac Recording artists **Isis**. Isis formed in 1997 and released a debut recording that year. The EP *Sgnl>05* (released in 2001) contains a remix by industrial godfather Justin Broadrick of Godflesh. Bassist Jeff Caxide, guitarist/vocalist Aaron Turner and drummer Aaron Harris added on guitarist Mike Gallagher (ex-Cast Iron Hike) and "electronics coordinator" Cliff Meyer (ex-The Gersch) in 1999.

The group released *Celestial* in 2000. Isis has toured with Eyehategod, Dillinger Escape Plan and Neurosis and is set to make waves with the new CD, *Oceanic*. *Oceanic* is a contemplative study of gravity; atmospheric, heavy, yet controlled. **EW**

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