

Bourbon North

BLUES TO GLAM ROCK – THE BIG EC'S GOT IT ALL.

By Vanessa Salvia

It's New Orleans up north here in Eugene as our town gears up for this year's Eugene Celebration, themed "The Big EC." While The Big Easy (a nickname for New Orleans) is known for its Cajun and Zydeco music, one evening stroll down the Rue de Bourbon will treat your ears to a wide variety of musical styles, from swing to blues to punk to metal to country. We've got all that and more here. So come on down, and as they say in Nawlins, "Laissez les bon temps roulez!" (Let the good times roll!)

Saturday night's headliner, **The Radiators**, will surely get the crowd in a New Orleans state of mind. More than two decades ago the band began honing their chops in smoky New Orleans nightclubs.

A tough proving ground, New Orleans welcomed these homegrown jammers. During their formative years band members played live with local musical heroes such as Professor Longhair, Allen Toussaint, The Meters and Dr. John, helping them hone their unique blend of blues, R&B, jazz, country, Zydeco, soul, swing and even gospel. Fans who love the band's "fish head music" expect to hear high-quality musicianship, tasty, timeless rock and roll and danceable boogie.

For long-time followers of Eugene's own jam rock scene, Friday's **Renegade Saints** show will be a welcome treat. A modern

folk-rock band, John Shipe fronts the Saints as well as his own project performing later on the Broadway Stage, **John Shipe & The Scapegoats**. Always a strong songwriter, Shipe's tunes have a personal feel but a worldly relevance. Stick around for **The Ovulators**, an all-girl glam rock band that kicks glittery ass. We saw and loved them in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Now see what they can do on their own terms.

The WOW Hall has two nights of eclectic hard rock and jazz with **Jackie-OMF** on Friday and **Sleepytime Gorilla Museum** on Saturday. Jackie-OMF provides soundscapes inspired by freejazz, space rock, found sounds and such. Sleepytime Gorilla Museum, as the name suggests, is just strange. Avant-garde. Prog. Cacophonous. Call it what you will.

As befitting a Eugene street festival, you'll find plenty of local performers. **The Sawyer Family** performs good hip-shakin' new-school rock-a-billy. **Toad in the Hole** gets down with their musically traditional but lyrically contemporary post-Pogues Irish bar band sound. **The Shudders** can always rip out a fun, inspired set of '60s and '70s garage rock gems. **The Courtesy Clerks**, a hard rock band with a strong punk following, tear up the stage. A must see for fans of '80s metal-influenced music and contemporary metal/punk like Zeke.

The Downtown Lounge stage is a great



The Radiators serve up tasty, timeless rock and boogie Saturday night.

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