

A to Z

FIELD TRIP



THE RICHARD HEDDERS



THE WOBBLIES



A GUIDE TO THE UNDERGROUND BANDS OF CORVALLIS

By Rob Gándara

Not so very long ago, keeping up with the Corvallis music scene meant following the same handful of bands in their weekly circuit of the same two venues. Set lists packed with pop covers ensured everyone went home happy but not any better for it, artistically speaking.

Slowly and steadily things have changed. Today the sounds are much louder, stronger and punctuated with personal messages. Corvallis bands have found their uncompromising and resolute voices. The sounds audiences are likely to hear today have a real presence, adding a welcome shock to the system in an otherwise fairly conservative college town.

At first glance, Corvallis seems like an unlikely place for the kind of activity we're now seeing. But this quiet town, best known for its quaint atmosphere, has cultivated a group of experimental musicians with mutual respect for each other and their art. The foundation for a more vibrant music culture has been around for decades, but only in the last four or five years have local venue managers recognized the opportunity to draw a late-night crowd with raunchy, loud, impressive music.

Nights in Corvallis have become interesting and adventurous. The would-be nightcrawler is well-advised to hit the streets with extra brain cells in tow and wearing a pair of shoes that can be stepped on. Local Corvallis bands have been touring all over the West Coast and are bringing back sounds and experiences that add definite spice to local lineups.

CORVALLIS VENUES:

AJs: The heart of the scene. Talk to Mario for booking and magic potions.

Bombs Away Café: Uptown, burritos and beer.

Circle of Hope: All ages drop in center. HIV testing on Tuesday is confidential and always free.

Corvallis Parks: Summer punk series, big hit last year. Started in June and ran through Sept 11.

Elks Lodge: Look for music on prospective membership nights

Fox 'n' Firkin: Lots of beers. One of the best sound systems in town.

Headline Café: Side room shows. Bring a broom to adjust the stage lights.

House parties: Best place to see many of these bands.

Odd Fellow's Hall: All ages, all the time, because there is no bar.

Platinum: Biggest stage and floor in town.

Squirrels: Performing on the mezzanine, staging local music for 30 years.

Following is a list of some of the best and brightest acts to emerge from the Corvallis scene. It's not an exhaustive list, but these are the groups that are changing our world.

CORVALLIS BAND SCENE:

3.38 and an Eye – This is how you get your band name on the top of an A-Z list and the best comic rock in town

***5-n-out:** Retooled, now the Dicks.

Acer: Don't bring your mom to this show. Hardcore.

Adequits: Hot power trio (makes every other band inadequate).

Amadan: Exciting Irish pirate band complete with didgeridoo; a punk rock tirade.

Arcweld: Satanic Fantastic, Corvallis' only punk rock band featuring Mary-Rock McNamara, G Feist, Berto Zhaputnikov and the Krusher AKA Turbo. Invent no retro.

Blood on the Banjo: Girl on banjo, girl on drums, girl on girl. Screaming and bleeding.

Browdy Lowe Band: Emo till you cry.

***Civilian:** Retooled, now Desdemona.

Desdemona: Out of the burning fields of Smyrna, aboard a boat and sonically recuperating. The momentum is reaching its apex, rejoicing in pleasant company. (formerly *Civilian)

Daddy Naggins: Funkadelic rock.

***Richard Hedders:** Dicks all of them, reflected in their attitude, lyrics and costumes. Equally adept at covering the Misfits and REO Speedwagon.

***Dot Dot Dot:** Retooled, see Field Trip.

Dr. Incurable: Although they may never play again, everyone keeps covering their songs. Thoughtful punk.

Eleven Eyes: Fusion. Jazz. Scratchy scratch.

Field Trip: Best trip you will ever take. Keep your eye on the drummer. This is art. This is rock.

Flailing Inhalers: You only wish you said it first. Hardcore.

Fusion Ball: Hardcore outfits and big amps.

Jahbong: Bring your dad and get high. Hawaiian reggae. (see story this issue)

JP West: Dance like they tell you. Rock, funk, hippity hop to Latin sounds.

Lo-Cals: Get in shape with Mr. Carbs. Eat a powerbar and run a mile. Fast exercise music.

Melodius Funk: Bring your date; you'll get lucky.

Rock N Roll Hearts: Motor, motor, motor, just don't drive home.

The Southtown Hounds: Jams and patchouli.

The Stack: The OLCC let these guys back into the bars. It's where they belong. Young hippie rock.

Sumbitch: Yee haw, the pigs are eatin'. Sloppy country.

Sweater Club: Ska.

Tourist: These guys rip it. They are the foundation of the new Corvallis sound. Straight up, head up rock.

Wheelchair Renegades: Fresh back from their California tour. Catch these emo rockers before their first recording takes them out of town for good.

Wobblies: Corvallis' own commie boy band. More booty shaking for these labor activists than at any SEIU rally.

(*) indicates past winners of the ACW5BB (Annual Corvallis Ward 5 Battle of the Bands).

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