

The JIRCS



Local VJs Reanimate Dead Media

Prepare for extreme visual hysteria and cultural reprogramming on Friday, April 15 as Eugene's **The JIRCS**, a group of digital arts graduate students from UO, host "Night of the Living Dead Media," an evening of "vid-sonic fiction" and "phono-phantasmagoria." In the spirit of video collage artists such as NamJune Paik and Craig Baldwin, The JIRCS recontextualize video clips, creating new cohesive visual and audio messages.

With dual screens, four video mixers and several laptops, the group splices together images from popular television, movies and obsolete video game technology to form illogical encounters, as one might experience in a dream, says JIRCS video jockey Carl Diehl. "Mr. T and Nosferatu suddenly are glancing at each other, start dancing together, then it all dissolved into the Beastmaster awkwardly twitching," Diehl says.

Diehl says the term "qwerty-core" better describes The JIRCS' final product. Using the computer (qwerty) keyboard, The JIRCS have developed techniques for creating precise, frenetic video movement that runs in sync with the selected audio material.

The JIRCS, along with visiting artist The EarthwUrms, from Ann Arbor, Mich., will carry out a live autopsy on various audio-visual artifacts from popular media culture. The resulting piece is meant to explore the possibilities that can be created when history clashes with media. Springfield's **Warning Broken Machine** and Eugene's **Pipedream** will lend an aural scalpel to the night's

audio-video dissection. For more info, log on to www.electronicelsewhere.com/DEADMEDIA.html.

The JIRCS, The EarthwUrms, Warning Broken Machine and Pipedream perform 7 pm, Friday, 4/15 at Wilkinson House, Millrace Studios, UO. — *Steven Sawada*

Eugene Trio The Visible Men Releases 2nd CD

Three years after their debut, the four-drummer spectacular *In Socks Mode*, **The Visible Men** have finished *Love:30*, another set of chatty, meticulous songs.

This time around, the Visible Men have reduced their main drummer count to one:

the remarkable Jordan Glenn, who, if you ever go out in Eugene, you've already seen with Deke Falcon, Scrambled Ape, or, on occasion, Testface.

Glenn isn't the only familiar face in this band: bassist/guitarist Dan Schmid has long been a fixture around town, playing with the Cherry Poppin' Daddies and Mood Area 52 and doling out pints and tots with a cheery wink at High Street Café. Singer/pianist Dustin Lanker was also a member of the Daddies, though these days he does double duty with The Visible Men and Dan Jones and the Squids.

Lanker's voice, sometimes a croon, sometimes a talky, melodic monologue, slinks over Glenn's precise percussion and Schmid's head-nodding bass. Tinkling keys alternate with woozy synths, simple melodies make way for jazzy piano ballads, and Mood Area 52 bandleader Michael Roderick turns up with his accordion for the standout track "Like a Loony Bird," a kicky but sulking kiss-off song that finds Lanker growling, "I hate you/I really don't but it sounds funny/ Could that be/ Because you said it to me, honey?"

Live, The Visible Men have a They Might Be Giants-esque quirk that'll sit exceptionally well with the opening acts for their CD release this Saturday: the steadfast,

Replacements-era rock of Yeltsin and the ever-entertaining Tom Heinl. If this lineup isn't enough to get you out of the house, consider this: if you miss this one, you might have to wait another three years for The Visible Men's next release party.

The Visible Men play Saturday, 4/16 at Sam Bonds Garage: all-ages show with Tom Heinl 6 pm, \$3; 21+ show with Yeltsin, 9:30 pm, \$4. — *Molly Templeton*

High Voltage Fun

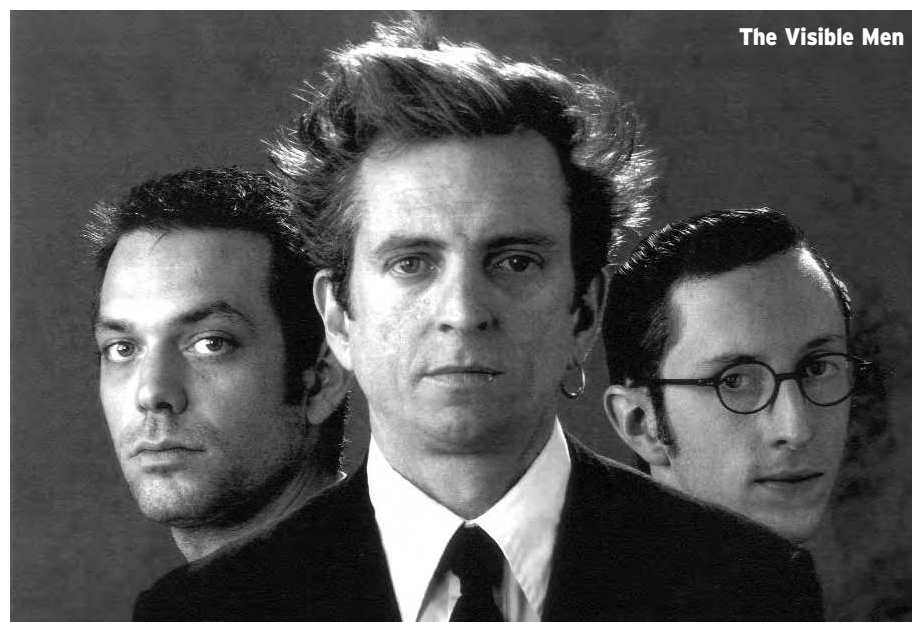
"We want to be fun, rather than important," said Dick Valentine, lead singer of **Electric Six**, over the phone. Band members Valentine, Tait Nucleus, The Colonel, John R. Dequindre and Johnny Na\$hinal fuse rock, disco, and hip hop with zany, funny lyrics to create a unique, eclectic sound that is half disco dance party, half '80s rock concert. Using the guise of their pseudonyms to break from the mundane, the band avoids the rocker trap: "four or five white guys from the suburbs," Valentine said.

According to Valentine, the band's hip hop influences are a by-product of listening to radio in Detroit, where they're from. "In Detroit, the rock stations are so bad and the urban stations are so good," Valentine said. "I think that song 'I'm the Bomb' was me attempting to be Prince." It fits that Valentine's early influences include David Byrne, Beethoven, and Devo.

So far, Electric Six has enjoyed greater success in the United Kingdom than in the United States. Their second CD, *Señor Smoke*, was released overseas almost two months ago, but has yet to be released here. Even in the UK, Valentine said the band is often only known for their hit single, "Danger! High Voltage."

The band members still have a sizable cult following, but Valentine takes the roller-coaster ride of their modest fame in stride. "It's not necessarily about being on the radio," Valentine said. "For me, it's always been about the shows."

Electric Six plays with DJ Never Forget at 8:30 pm, Sunday, April 17 at the WOW Hall. \$13 adv/\$15 dos. — *Sara Brickner*



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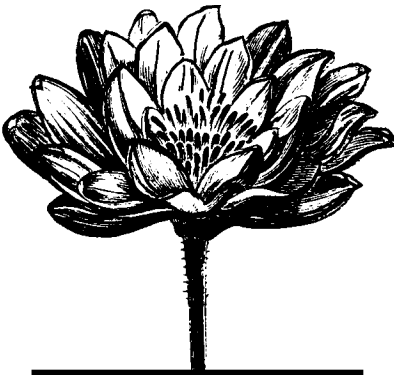
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