

NoMeansNo Means You Will Go

Canadian trio **NoMeansNo** declared their intent to pummel a square art-rock peg into a round punk rock hole in 1981 with a 7-inch, *Betrayal, Fear, Anger, Hatred*.

With all the delicacy of Motörhead in a china shop, they sing songs about alienation, sexual obsession and madness coupled with a warped sense of humor. Founding brothers Rob (bass, guitar and vocals) and John Wright (vocals, drums, keyboards) wear their book smarts on their guitar straps, flecking their songs with articulate and intelligent albeit often weird lyrical moments. A hallmark of their punk hybrid style is ferociously tight playing and jazzy, complex song structure.

Rob Wright, working in a campus cafeteria in Victoria, B.C., in the late '70s, was inspired to start a punk band after witnessing a death-defying performance by fellow Canadian punk rockers D.O.A. He grabbed a guitar and the rest is pure legend.

The Wright brothers also masquerade as hockey-rockers Hanson Brothers. Along with two pals, they retool Ramones-ish three-chord punk gems into fist-pumping songs about hockey and beer.

If you've never seen NoMeansNo, you owe it to yourself to see them at least once. If you're a fan, you already know the drill. NoMeansNo will perform with **The Bastard Saints** and **On the First Day ... They Were Kittens** at 8:30 pm at the WOW Hall, Thursday, May 5. \$10 adv/\$12 door. — *Vanessa Salvia*

Noise Music Fest Examines Space and Sound

In the literal sense, noise involves loud or discordant sound. Combined with the term music, the new label now takes on some semblance of shape and composition, at least in the respect that someone is consciously making and combining

sound into a thought-out piece. Enter the world of noise music and Eugene's first **NoiseFest** taking place on April 29 and 30. Hosted by DIVA and local noise musician Don Haugen, the Eugene NoiseFest will showcase around 20 noise artists from the West Coast (with a heavy emphasis on the Northwest).

Noise music comprises everything from waves of deafening feedback to collections of small blips in still space. Haugen calls it abstract music, comparing its relationship to traditional music the way one would compare an expressionist painting to a Jackson Pollock painting. "You can't use the same music conventions to describe it," Haugen explains.

Noise music lacks standard structure and is usually characterized by its atonality and lack of an organized beat. But because it loosely embraces anything created by unusual means, it doesn't have to be devoid of melody or rhythm. The noise musician's arsenal of non-traditional "instruments" includes, but is not limited to: field recordings, machine sounds, incidental analog noise, primitive and homemade synthesizers and distorted guitar chords. Noise music blossomed from both the cutting edge of modern music as well as its dregs, citing roots in modern classical, early electronic music as well as post-hardcore metal.

With a following as amorphous as its sonic bricolage, general interest in the genre tends to fade in and out, Haugen says. However, as an examination of the basics as well as the complexities of sound and space, the Eugene Noise Fest will prove to be a fascinating first for the region. Catch the Eugene Noise Fest at



Brandi Carlile

DIVA Friday and Saturday. Both shows start at 7 pm. \$5 each night. Log on to www.humanmonster.com for more info.

— *Steven Sawada*

Rising Star Shines Over Eugene

After recently inking a deal with Columbia records and making it onto *Rolling Stone's* list of top 10 artists to watch in 2004, **Brandi Carlile** has a lot to smile about.

The 23-year-old singer/songwriter says it was a gig as a backup singer for an Elvis impersonator that taught her about harmony when she was a teen. Apparently she took those lessons to heart.

Playing with twins Tim and Phil Hanseroth (lead guitar and bass respectively) Carlile has spare, trimmed down melodies that burst from within the background guitars that surround and support them. Layered harmonies pile on top of each other as lightly as feathers, creating an amalgam so beautiful you'll barely hear the other parts of the songs.

Her voice, one moment a breathy croon and the next a velvety rich powerhouse, is made for the Top 40. More than anything else, it's what sets her apart. She knows exactly when to lay on the gas and when to

back off, when to shout and when to whisper.

Take "Eye of the Needle" off her EP *Acoustic* for example. It moves along to the steady beat of the strum, floating through verse after verse until the chorus. Without jarring you, the song takes off and carries you with it. All Carlile needs to become a household word is that one big hit, that song that becomes the theme song for some huge sitcom like *Dawson's Creek*.

But don't let that put you off if you pride yourself on saying you heard it first. Her stuff is real and earthy, not ethereal. Carlile's managed to blend the grit of dark folk with sweet, soaring melodies to create intense, emotion-laden ballads that fall like a steady rain and break through like a rainbow. Brandi Carlile plays Café Paradiso along with Shawn Mullins, 8 pm Saturday, April 30. \$15.

With Andy Friedman, Nothing's Off Limits

If you missed **Andy Friedman** the last time he rolled into Sam Bond's, get thee to the bar and prepare yourself for one hell of a night. No one can figure out what to call Friedman because his show is a combination of art, slide shows and poetry.

So he gets labeled with all these stupid terms that just piss him off. It seems that people either love him or hate him and in Eugene, he's well loved. Maybe it's because we like to think we embrace the bleeding edge, which is where Friedman likes to hang out.

"Maybe I should have a press kit of all those lousy people who don't like anything new," he said, joking, during an interview a few months ago. "At one time, the singer-songwriter must have seemed weird. But we've come to a place where it's OK to warble poetry and strum cat guts."

So check out this artist who paints with words and creates melody with images. Andy Friedman performs with The Other Failures along with Ty Connor and Natalie Zukerman at 9 pm at Sam Bond's, Thursday, May 5. \$5. — *Melissa Bears*

		Upcoming Shows & Events	
Weekly Events		Fri 4/29 @ 9 PM JERRY JOSEPH AND THE JACKMORMONS WITH SPECIAL GUEST THE GINGER HUSTLERS	
THURSDAYS @ 10 PM 80'S NIGHT		Tue 5/10 @ 9 PM TRASHCAN SINATRAS	
SATURDAYS @ 9 PM FREAKS IN THE HOUSE NO COVER ELECTRO-HAUS DANCE PARTY		Fri 5/13 @ 9 PM THE MISFATS (THE WORLD'S FATTEST MISFITS TRIBUTE BAND)	
SUNDAYS @ 10 PM JOHN HENRY'S BROADWAY REVUE LIVE BURLESQUE SHOW		Sat 5/14 @ 6:30 PM Sleepytime Gorilla Museum with special guests Faun Fables	
WEDNESDAYS @ 10 PM REGGAE VS. HIP-HOP DJ KAL EL VS. DJ TEKNEEK		Wed 5/18 @ 6 PM EDWIN MCCAIN MAIA SHARP, MARCUS EATON	
77 W. Broadway #342-3358 www.johnhenrysclub.com		Thu 5/19 @ 7 PM ANNE MCCUE	