

Claws Vs. Teeth

Equal Vision Records. Now that's a name that takes me back. EVR's roster is fairly eclectic; they're probably best known for releasing the first couple Saves the Day records. Recently Coheed and Cambria, an EVR band, was picked up by Sony. But I'll forever associate EVR with the hardcore kids I met in college, who introduced me to the label and a few of their lesser-known bands. It seems appropriate, then, that EVR's **Bear Vs. Shark** (touring for *Terrorhawk*, their second album) are doing their best to combine a certain kind of hardcore tradition with a handful of disparate elements.

Singer Marc Paffi has a throaty growl of a scream, but he's not afraid to go delicate, as on "Baraga Embankment," a fairly standard but effective faux-ballad that opens with a gentle piano before tearing into an almost stately, horn-laden march to the finale. *Terrorhawk's* strengths lie in the earnestness of the band members (who apparently switch instruments at will) and the varied tempos. There's a screamo song here, a touch of vocal harmonies that bear (no pun intended) some similarity to Jawbox's last album there. A six-minute, epic penultimate track, "Song About Old Roller Coaster," takes a simple bass and guitar counterpoint and builds on it, driving the song through peaks and troughs of sound with the help of a nicely restrained drummer and a few select synth touches.

Songs never get too repetitive, melodically speaking, which is refreshing, and Paffi's vocal shifts help keep things interesting. But ultimately it doesn't work for me for precisely the reason that superfans of this kind of aggressive, driving "post-hardcore" sound love it: The pushy, almost panicked kick of most of the songs can get a little monotonous. A band can be aggressive and abrasive while still leaving room for detail and beauty (see At the Drive-In for a stunning example). BVS aren't there just yet.

BVS play Friday with Planes Mistaken for

Stars, who get a checkmark in the plus column simply for recording at Presto!, the Nebraska studio where Cursive and Bright Eyes, among others, have created something stunning. The night also features Bullet Train to Vegas, the new band of Dan Sena from Give Until Gone, a poppier indie rock band that had at least one irresistibly catchy song, "Snake in a Vest," to their name. Bullet Train has been sharing the stage with a lot of flashy names in danceable, noisy, punk-influenced sub-genres, from Bloc Party to the Blood Brothers. Might be a darn good reason to get to the WOW Hall early.

Bear Vs. Shark with Planes Mistaken for Stars, Bullet Train to Vegas, Navigo Code play at 7:30 pm, Friday, 6/24 at the WOW Hall. \$7. — Molly Templeton

A Funk Band By Any Other Name

The first thing you may want to know about **Mingo Fishtrap** is, what's up with the name? It sounds vaguely like Charles Mingus carrying a fish basket. You just know there's a story behind it.

One day in the middle of nowhere Roger Blevins, leader and guitarist of the Austin-based group, blew a tire and needed to find a junkyard to replace it. He was given directions to a place near Denton in north Texas where Mingo Road meets Fishtrap Road at an intersection with a farm, a junkyard and a beauty salon. "I finally came upon this intersection and thought, 'What an unusual combination of establishments out here in the middle of nowhere,'" he said. The unique name stuck with him and that is what his funk band has been called ever since.

Since the band's formation in 1992 at the University of North Texas in Denton, the line-up has varied between eight and 10 members. In 1997 they released their first album, *Succotash*. A strongly united horn section, keyboards and a Latin percussionist gives this band a polished punch. Blevins has a voice perfectly suited to funk, with its swaggering tone and smooth, bluesy delivery. Blevins describes Mingo Fishtrap's music as "deep-fried soul with '60s and '70s funk influences and a New Orleans twist." A Mingo Fishtrap show is a high energy event replete with choreographed moves by the horn section, which sometimes leads Mardi Gras-styled parades through the audience.

Coming of age in a college town like Denton,

where the scene is crawling with talented musicians and high profile bands like Tripping Daisy and Brave Combo, means your performances are viewed under a microscope. But the band can hold its own, even sharing the stage with The Neville Brothers, The Dirty Dozen, and Blood, Sweat & Tears along with Sting and Annie Lennox.

Sweaty and fun, Mingo Fishtrap's music is supremely rump-shakin'. The horns keep the groove going through thick and thin, so if you get turned on by punchy trumpet, trombone, tenor and bari sax kept in check by organ and piano and energy that never lets up, then this show is your sure thing!

Mingo Fishtrap plays Sam Bond's at 9:30 pm, Friday 6/24. \$5. — Vanessa Salvia

Fingerpickin' Good

A deadwood is a person who doesn't contribute to society or has lost their faith, says Jason Mogi. The name **Deadwood Revival** is meant as a contradiction: Mogi and his wife Kim Trenerry are restoring life to old-tyme music and giving spirit to folks who need it.

Kim and Jason were in a band together in Georgia before moving to Port Angeles, Wash. and forming the band Tongue and Groove. According to Deadwood Revival's website, they "evolved into the one of the Olympic Peninsula's favorite bands."

Tongue and Groove eventually dissolved and the duo formed Deadwood Revival about a year and a half ago. "For me personally, the old-tyme influence definitely comes from being raised in Georgia," says Trenerry. On the other hand, Mogi was inspired by listening to the music of the late Jerry Garcia.

Deadwood Revival's recently released, self-titled album is country the way country was meant to be — the sound takes me back to visiting my grandparents in small-town Arkansas. If I close my eyes I can almost smell the fried chicken and corn bread. The band has a great bluegrass-folk sound that is gonna rock Sam Bond's, 6/27 at 9 pm. Free. — Ursula Evans-Heritage



McDONALD THEATRE

Kings of Leon

SUNDAY JULY 17
RESERVED SEATING

SECRET MACHINES

WITH SPECIAL GUEST **SHOUT OUT LOUDS**

ON SALE NOW!

MARC COHN
SUZANNE VEGA

SATURDAY JULY 23
RESERVED SEATING

ON SALE NOW!

SINGER SONGWRITERS

Detailed Event and Venue Info at www.mcdonaldtheatre.com
General Admission WILL CALL Tickets Now ONLINE from mcdonaldtheatre.com
All Concert Tickets Available at **TicketsWest** outlets (800) 992-TIXX Service charges may apply

LONE STAR

BAR & GRILL

TEXAS HOLD 'EM

EVERY THURSDAY & FRIDAY
Sign in at 6pm • Games start at 7pm

World Famous
COYOTE UGLY NIGHTS
EVERY WEDNESDAY

KARAOKE SATURDAY NIGHT

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, & DINNER • 7 DAYS A WEEK • 8AM - 2:30AM
I-5, Exit 199, Coburg ★ 541-686-8686