

Back Porch Following

The swampy grooves of the Kitchen Syncopators.

Syncopate (v) – displace the beats or accents in a passage so that strong beats become weak and vice versa.

Kitchen (n) – room or area where food is prepared and cooked.

The Kitchen Syncopators met in New Orleans, where they cut their collective teeth on swampy ragtime, old time, jazz and the occasional shot of José Cuervo.

Accompanying Frank Lemon's steel guitar and emphysemic vocals are a washboard, banjo, harmonica, fiddle and upright bass. The feel is decidedly smoky, yet somehow innocent. Images of hopping trains and long sunsets in the American west make for a unique and combustible combo.

Tackling old standards like "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby" is no small task considering the wealth of high-quality versions already out there (Louis Jordan, Joe Jackson, Tomcat from Tom and Jerry). The Syncopators pull it off with the ease of a summer afternoon.

That's probably one of the reasons they've become a staple of the Northwest music scene. From the dusty paths of the Oregon Country Fair to the paved streets of the Seattle Folklife Festival, the music simply draws folks in. The simplicity is what makes it so good. When you can combine quality musical chops, a love for the music you are playing, and clear, lucid time-tested songs you get something special. We get The Kitchen Syncopators. **EW**



The Kitchen Syncopators
9 pm, Sunday 7/10
Sam Bond's, \$5

TODD COOPER



Evelate Me

Discovering reggae-tinged, danceable grooves.

Local pantheon of rock Evelate refuses to go quietly. Started some years back in a storage unit, the members of Evelate have tried to call it quits on several occasions. The music keeps calling them back. Like all good generation X-Yers, their musical attention span is brief. Sounding somewhat like Sublime, Dylan and Jimi Hendrix, Evelate changes moods mid-song from reggae to punk to folk — almost as a rule.

As a live band, their energy is the straw that stirs up the proverbial soup. Guitarist and singer Chris Baron's arpeggios give way to quick shots of bass and drum, leading the trio into grooves where they seem most comfortable. Sometimes the vocals get in the way of what the boys are trying to do here — jam!

The band started out in Corvallis, but is slowly moving its operations towards Portland. Its members have a connection that's apparent to even a casual observer. They have fun with the music, but when they attempt their quieter, more introspective songs, they seem to struggle a bit.

What Evelate does best is craft reggae-tinged, danceable grooves. When they let fly and just go, they sound great! They know how to weave styles in and out of their songs, sometimes letting the bass take the lead. The response has been good, keeping them playing. They recently recorded their second CD.

For the band to keep moving forward, simplicity and multiplicity — and more and more live shows — are the key. Their simpler songs are their strongest. As Baron's songwriting ripens and matures, Evelate should be able to tackle the ballad with greater aplomb and sharpen up their swings through various musical states. For now, they're a great live band with a real future. — *Jeff Winicour*



Tibet Day at DIVA SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2005

3:00 - Tibetan tea reception. Traditional and contemporary tangka display. Calligraphy. Discussion.

4:00 - Tibetan singing bowl demonstration.

5:00 - Film: "The Yogis of Tibet" (77 minutes). Discussion to follow.

Entrance donation requested. Proceeds from this event support Tibetan refugees at Garden monastery's Lumbum Khangsten in South India.

The Johnson Unit
The Johnson Unit plays a great mix of Classic, Alternative, Hard rock, and even some Disco. If you want to hear covers ranging from "Are you gonna be my girl" by Jet, to the Commodores, to Sublime, Nirvana, Green Day, and Foo Fighters grab a friend and catch a show either Friday or Saturday night. Go to Eugene Weekly's clubs page for details.

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	Upcoming Shows & Events	
	Fri 7/8 @ 9 PM THE TALK DIRTY TOUR FEATURING DIE YOUNG OF SHAPESHIFTERS	
Weekly Events	Mon 7/11 @ 8 PM LINK WRAY WITH THE SAWYER FAMILY	
	Fri 7/22 @ 8 PM "EARLY SHOW" MELISSA FERRICK	
THURSDAYS @ 10 PM 80'S NIGHT	Fri 7/22 @ 11 PM "LATE SHOW" RAPID FIRE	
SATURDAYS @ 9 PM FREAKS IN THE HOUSE NO COVER ELECTRO-HAUS DANCE PARTY	SAT 7/23 @ 8 PM "EARLY SHOW" SARAH BETTENS (OF K'S CHOICE)	
SUNDAYS @ 10 PM JOHN HENRY'S BROADWAY REVUE LIVE BURLESQUE SHOW	SUN 7/31 @ 10 PM PERFORMING WITH THE BROADWAY REVUE THE ERIC MCFADDEN TRIO	
WEDNESDAYS @ 10 PM REGGAE VS. HIP-HOP DJ KAL EL VS. DJ TEKNEEK	77 W. Broadway #342-3358 www.johnhenrysclub.com	