

SLACKER MUSICIANS? NOT IN THIS TOWN!

These musicians never sleep BY VANESSA SALVIA

While you come home to veg out after a day's work, many local musicians face a night of rehearsals and gigs for any number of musical projects. We grilled a handful of busy local musicians about why they do it and how they manage to juggle several bands plus day jobs.

Michael Roderick (Wheel of Meat, Birdie Jo [albeit only once a year], Mood Area 52, Scrambled Ape) "daylights" as an 8th grade English teacher. His latest outfit, Cat Chicken, is named for the food you feed the cats after the people eat. This group writes original songs about weird things in Oregon's history: "ghost stories, train robberies and abandoned lovers and shanghaied sailors," says Roderick. "It's a good leftovers project, and it's an excuse to do something fun with some really good musicians." He schedules gigs only on weekends, is hella organized and doesn't have children, so that helps.

"You want to stay busy and maybe make some money," says **Bruce Hartnell** (Los Mex Pistols del Norte, Detonators). "If you only have one band, you can beat it to death." Hartnell manages bands for every drinking holiday, including Beowulf Tone Poem for Oktoberfest and Glenwood Rebel Rovers for St. Patrick's Day.



Michael Roderick



Jeremiah Harris

Jeremiah Harris plays in all of Hartnell's projects as well as Pistol Whipped Prophets, Stone Mosey and Weiner Kids. Harris devotes every evening to music, and he appreciates Eugene's diversity. "Thanks to Bruce, I've learned hours and hours of folk music from different countries," he says. "There are opportunities here you can't get if you're focused on one particular band." With all this member-swapping, it's hard for Eugene

bands to tour, Harris says, "because no doubt someone else in the band is in another band doing something simultaneously." Harris's favorite local band to play in is the LCC Orchestra, where he plays string bass. "I do have to say 'no' sometimes," he says, "but not because I want to. It comes down to too few hours in the day."

Some musicians compensate by keeping their day jobs to a minimum, like **Will Lindsay** (Middian, Happy Bastards, Los Mex Pistols, all Hartnell's projects, Clawhammer). He does carpentry during daylight hours but can avoid work when he has to. Middian and Happy Bastards have strict twice-weekly practice schedules. "Sometimes it gets a little overwhelming, but I just do it," Lindsay says. He loves playing music and especially loves being in bands that tour. "If a band's going to tour, that really makes me want to find the time to play with them," he says. "If I had it my way I'd get in the van with one of the bands and we'd never come home again. I've missed out on a couple of jobs where I could have made good money, but ultimately in five years I'll have fond memories of the tour I went on, not the job I did."



Will Lindsay

Tony Figoli (Heavenly Oceans, West Coast Rhythm Kings, Skip Jones, pick-up work) says his interest in music is so varied that one band just can't satisfy. Figoli does website design in his "spare time," saying, "I don't make my living off music so there's no pressure. It's not crucial if I don't make rent." Figoli picks and chooses gigs based on three factors: fun, exposure and money. "It could



Tony Figoli

have one of those totally missing, like a lot of fun but no money, and I'd do it."

Skip Jones (Spirit of New Orleans, J.C. Rico, Etouffee, pick-up work, hosting Rooster's Blues Jam) is one of the hardest-workin' guys in town. The only way he could manage was to keep everything local — no touring. "I'm not turning down a lot of work but it does happen," he says. For 10 years he has made his living exclusively from playing music. "I'm lucky that way," he jokes. "And like Woody Allen says, 90 percent of success is just showing up!"



Skip Jones

Earth Day at the Co-op!

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

- 10% off all organic produce
- 6% off all Local 6 products (over 1200 choices!)
- Food samples from Local 6 businesses
- Purchase 6 or more Local 6 products and get a free plant! (while supplies last, 1 per customer)



Local 6 products are grown, made or processed by a business owned and located within the six counties surrounding Corvallis. They are labeled for easy identification in our stores.

Come
celebrate
with us!

First Alternative
NATURAL FOODS CO-OP



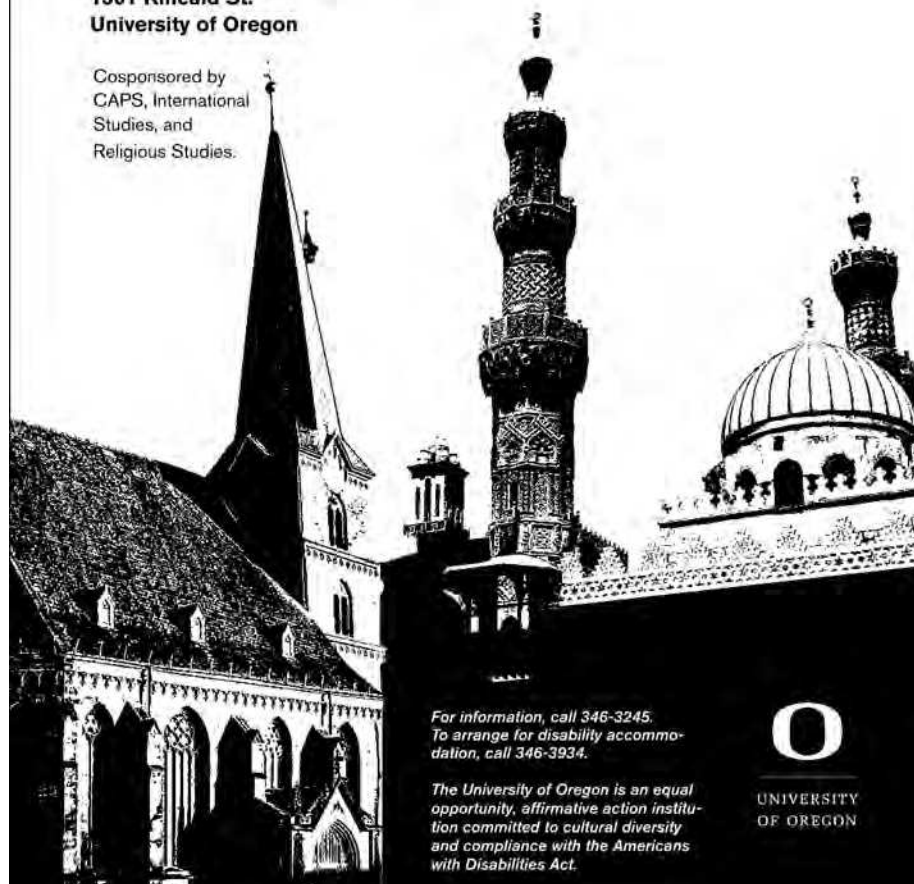
North Store
NW 29th & Grant, Corvallis
452-3115 • Open Daily 7 to 9
South Store
1007 SE 3rd St., Corvallis
753-3115 • Open Daily 9 to 9
www.firstalt.coop

The Oregon Humanities Center and the
Robert and Evelyn Nelson Wulf Professorship in the Humanities present

"The Christian and Islamic Reformations Compared"

a public lecture by
Francis Robinson, University of London
Thursday, April 19, 2007
7:30 p.m.
Knight Library Browsing Room
1501 Kincaid St.
University of Oregon

Cosponsored by
CAPS, International
Studies, and
Religious Studies.



For information, call 346-3245.
To arrange for disability accommo-
dation, call 346-3934.

The University of Oregon is an equal
opportunity, affirmative action institu-
tion committed to cultural diversity
and compliance with the Americans
with Disabilities Act.

UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON