

# music

was time for a name change, and Hilton began the '80s as Eek-A-Mouse – the name of the racehorse he always bet on.

The '80s started off badly for reggae fans, after the death of reggae icon Bob Marley, but Eek-A-Mouse didn't let the tragedy keep him down. He continued making music that honors his Jamaican roots – playing regularly at the Jamaican music festival Reggae Sunsplash and teaming up with reggae duo Michigan and Smiley. He has more recently been featured on Christian rock group P.O.D.'s album *Satellite*, lending his vocals to the rock-reggae track "Ridiculous." Above all else he has tried to stay true to his Rastafarian beliefs.

"As I continue to present this original music to the fans, and the world. I will remember, and respect those that have made reggae music what it has become," he says on his website. "Music from the downtrodden underprivileged people of Jamaica, a little island in the sun of the West Indies. I love reggae because reggae is me the 'EEK.' "

Eek-A-Mouse appears at 9 pm Tuesday, June 21, at Taboo. 21+ show. \$15 adv., \$17 door. – Deanna Uutela

## Temperature Rising

"I got the fever" is a phrase that, like the music of the band currently singing it, **The Young Immortals**, sits at a juncture of musical genres and subgenres. It could indicate hormone-driven strains of hair metal, à la Poison, or '60s pop harmonies, à la Big Star. It could belong to a sultry siren or an ironic indie band.

In short, it's a pretty nonspecific line to make into the hook of your big single, but isn't that how it always works? And it is, for The Young Immortals, a hook. (So is the picture on their MySpace page of one band member caught mid-air and mid-kick, actually.) "The Fever" is a song that deserves all the words I overuse in music previews: jaunty, peppy, synth-decorated, owing something to jangly Britpop and something to the showmanship of '80s bands (you can just hear the potential for onstage charisma in singer Jacob Ray's voice). Clearly, it's not just me affected by this sorta-'80s, sorta-'90s pop rock; The Young Immortals recently won a battle of the bands at the Crystal Ballroom in their hometown of Portland, and they got a song on a Starbucks compilation. As a result, "The band receives dozens of emails per day from strangers who have heard 'The Fever' at Starbucks" or on Starbucks' XFM station, says the press release for the band's Eugene show. That may sound like small change, but

dozens of emails a day is nothing to scoff at for a wee band trying to make a name for itself.

There are two other tunes on The Young Immortals' MySpace page: a slightly slinky thing called "Motive" that's just asking to echo through a large performance room, and "Hot For Sarah," a jokey, simple ditty sprinkled with a playful tambourine. The band's first album, *When History Meets Fiction*, is due out July 1, and immediate after its release, a sprawling summer tour is in the works. But first: Eugene. The Young Immortals play with The Dead Americans, The Filthiest People Alive and The Co-Stars at 10 pm Saturday, June 16, at Diablo's Downtown Lounge. 21+ show. \$6. – Molly Templeton

The Young Immortals



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