

three founding members met in fall 2003 in the UO residence hall that gave them their name, which explains their slow start and freshness to the Eugene music scene. While college is a great place to meet like-minded musicians, it's a constant battle to keep up with studies and play music on a regular basis. As a result, music usually comes second.

Since 2003, the band has gone through a few member shakeups as well as experiencing the dreaded conflicting-musical-directions battle. But eventually the band (now Nicholas Arjuna, Matthew Radich, Daniel Rosove and Dan Duerfeldt) found their "cohesive and unified sound." Drawing from influences like Neil Young, Wilco and Doug Martsch, The Walton Complex plays a mix of jam rock and blues with a garage-band sound. While the band is still working on a professional recording, the songs on its MySpace page point to the band's growing professionalism and confidence. "Take" begins with a smooth slide guitar that is quickly replaced with an electric guitar riff that switches between building choruses and mellow verses. "Your Garden" is more bluesy but with a hint of



'60s rock. Some sort of reverb is always present on the vocals, which places the lyrics in the background and foregrounds intricate song structure and the musicians' skills.

"Returning from their long break, the Walton Complex has adapted, channeling their musically independent energy into a new raw sound, filled with dissonance, tension, and detailed musical interplay," says their MySpace page. But sadly, the boys' email hinted at the band's end. If that's the case, take the opportunity to see them while you still can. The Walton Complex and Boy Eats Drum Machine play at 10 pm Sunday, June 24, at the Indigo District. 21+ show. \$3. — Amanda Burhop

**Drinking on the Job**

Jeff Burke and Vida Wakeman enjoy the simple things in life: acoustic guitar, road trips, drinking on the job and country music. Hailing from New Orleans, **The Jeff & Vida Band** has its own southern style — a

mix of rockabilly and bluegrass.

The duo met in Madison, Wisconsin, where Wakeman attended the university. From there they left for New York City to pursue their music career, but NYC didn't give the duo the inspiration they were looking for. They found their muse on a road trip to Nashville.

"We left New York because we couldn't afford to live there anymore, and we were thinking pretty heavily about moving to Nashville," says Burke in press material. "We never did make it to Nashville. After we visited some friends in the southeast, we needed to make some money, and New

Orleans was the place to do that. We have lived there ever since."

Their musical influences range from Bob Dylan to Chuck Berry. Wakeman, the main singer-songwriter of the group, was influenced the most by her father's musical tastes: Merle Haggard, Patsy Cline, Little Richard. Burke, the group's main instrumentalist, began playing on an electric guitar but soon switched to the acoustic, later picking up the banjo and mandolin after being exposed to bluegrass and roots music. "I started listening to Doc Watson when I lived in New York City and then a friend invited me down to the Merlefest in North Carolina. I

was so excited by the raw power that all those great musicians could get out of just their acoustic instruments that all I wanted to do was learn how to play that style of music," he says in press material.

With a voice as unique as Janis Joplin's and a look that is as wild and free-spirited as her music, Wakeman has a mesmerizing quality that makes you want to listen. And Burke, the Ricky to her Lucy, has no problem matching her vivaciousness with a vitality all his own. The Jeff & Vida Band and The Comforters play at 9 pm Wednesday, June 27, at Sam Bond's Garage. 21+ show. \$5. — Deanna Uutela

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