

music

Lord, these musicals are schlocky, aren't they? But it's schlock that we love, from tearjerkers like "You'll Never Walk Alone" (*Carousel*) and "I Dreamed a Dream" (*Les Mis*) to the saccharine "Circle of Life" from *Lion King*. The splendid spectacle features soloists Shirley Andress, Bill Hulings, Laura Decher Wayte and David Gustafson along with a barbershop quartet, which we just know will nail "Lida Rose." Do we love you, Eugene Concert Choir? Oh yes, we love you, and we'll gladly tell you ... at 11 am Saturday, March 8, for the Broadway Kids concert at the Hult (\$15, \$5 youth; family pack available) and again at 2:30 pm Sunday, March 9, for the lengthier version (\$19-\$34). – *Suzi Steffen*

Birds of Pray

Christian punk rock. Sounds like an oxymoron, but this nonsecular subgenre consistently gains popularity each year. **Hawk Nelson** leads the pack alongside mainstream favorites Relient K and FM Static. Hawk Nelson leans more toward the pop-punk side, sounding a bit like New Found Glory and Good Charlotte and citing Green Day and pop-punk favorites Blink-182 as influences. Though their name sounds like it ought to belong to a tough guy in a Western, Hawk Nelson doesn't so much spin a six-gun as offer positive lyrics that encourage higher self-esteem and optimism in listeners. "So many people are struggling today. Most of all they need a friend, and we believe everyone has a friend in God," says frontman Jason Dunn. The band views success as a matter of making friends rather than of winning fans – a canny way to put it in the age of

MySpace, where popularity is measured by number of "friends."

Hawk Nelson sounds like your average pop-punk band; odds are most listeners won't catch on to the fact they're a Christian band on first listen. The Christian message the band promotes comes across relatively subtly in most songs, such as the first single from *Hawk Nelson is My Friend* (due out April 1), "Friend Like That." "I'm not a wanna-be / I'm who I want to be / And I intend to be / How you created me." The last song on the album, "I Still Want You," will be when it hits you. "I know that Jesus has the answer / And he's bigger than the cancer in you." Hawk Nelson and Run Kid Run play at 7 pm Thursday, March 13, at the McDonald Theater. \$15 adv., \$20 door. – *Anne Pick*



Hawk Nelson



*Want a place to enjoy the sunshine
Surf the net for a bit
Work away from the office or home
Chat with a friend
Play a game of chess or cribbage
Read a book or do a crossword
Or just do nothing and just BE
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of coffee or tea*

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