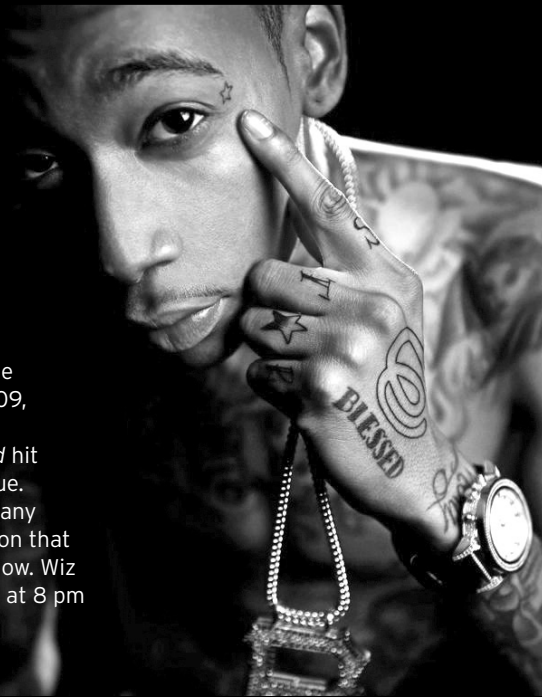


Wiz Kid

Pittsburgh rapper **Wiz Khalifa** rhymes about maybe five things total: your girlfriend, smoking weed, smoking weed with your girlfriend, getting drunk and getting money, in no particular order of importance. His latest release, a mixtape called *Kush and Orange Juice* (no false advertising here), is a laid-back set of summery, radio-friendly jams for the kids to get drunk and hook up to. Even if you know nothing else about him, all it takes is 30 seconds of listening to this guy to know he could teach graduate courses in hip hop entrepreneurship. Khalifa burst onto the hip hop scene in 2006 with *Show and Prove*, a debut so commercially viable Warner Bros. snapped up the cocky young MC just a year later. After that, though, the label kept delaying the release of Khalifa's sophomore album. So in 2009, the MC decided to part ways with Warner and regain control of his own career. It was a wise move: There's no reason for an MC with a *Billboard* hit under his belt to let his albums languish in the major label release queue. In the business of hip hop, Internet buzz is a more powerful force than any major label marketing machine, and Khalifa knows it. There's no question that he's making it all the way to the top – it's just a question of when and how. Wiz Khalifa, Fashawn, Jasmine Solano, NO I.D. & Yung If, DJ Crown perform at 8 pm Thursday, May 13, at WOW Hall. \$15 adv., \$18 door. – *Sara Brickner*



The Roots of Reggae

It's easy to assume that everyone knows about **Toots and the Maytals**, particularly in a weed-smoking, reggae-loving burg like this one. But even though they're one of the most prolific, hard-working and seminal reggae acts in the history of the genre – second only to Bob Marley and maaaybe Peter Tosh – it never ceases to amaze me how many people have heard the Clash's cover of "Pressure Drop" or Sublime's cover of "54-36 (Was My Number)" but meet me with a blank stare when I mention the band that actually wrote those songs. Reggae fans will already know all this stuff, but in case you need a primer, here are a few things you must know about this band. One: Toots and the Maytals' career was rudely interrupted by a possession charge that sent frontman Toots Hibbert to jail and later inspired Hibbert to write "54-46 (Was My Number)" about his time in lockdown. Two: Toots and the Maytals' cover of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" outshines the original more than any cover in history. Finally – and this is all that really matters – Toots and the Maytals put on one of the most joyful, entertaining, leave-you-with-the-warm-fuzzies shows you're likely to experience in your lifetime, and not just because you've been inhaling weed smoke all night (whether you want to or not). Catch these reggae icons while they're still around – as critic Robert Christgau once said, Hibbert is the closest thing to Otis Redding left on the planet. And they're still releasing new music: The band's latest, *Flip and Twist*, just dropped on April 20. But of course. Toots and the Maytals play with Rey Fresco at 8 pm Wednesday, May 19, at the McDonald Theatre. \$21 adv., \$26 door. – *Sara Brickner*



Setting a New Bar

It's been just over a month since **As I Lay Dying** released their long-awaited new album *The Powerless Rise*, their first in more than three years. Vocalist Tim Lambesis has a jokey thrash metal side project, Austrian Death Machine, that mocks Arnold Schwarzenegger, and it sounds like some of Austrian Death Machine's "total brutal" approach is rubbing off on Lambesis' primary band.

As I Lay Dying are one of the "big three" in metalcore – along with Shadows Fall and Killswitch Engage – and they've forged a formula of clean vocals mixed with screaming parts, shreddy guitar solos, chuggy breakdowns and syrupy sing-songy choruses that band after band now wants to copy. It may seem like a rigid structure, and in many ways it is, but on *The Powerless Rise*, their fifth album, they've reached a pinnacle of lean, mean and heavy. Guitars parts are heavier. Relentless double bass beats permeate each song. Some breakdowns, such as the one in "Anodyne Sea," are thrashy and doomy beyond any of their past efforts. Lambesis also seems to have grown into more range as a vocalist. At times his vocals are lower, more growly and higher-pitched than what he's accomplished in the past.

After honing their craft and defining a genre for more than 10 years, it seems that AILD has matured enough to pull a little farther away from their metalcore roots. I don't expect them to give up the formula entirely, but it's nice to hear them setting the bar a little higher for the other bands that will inevitably follow. As I Lay Dying, Demon Hunter, Blessthefall and War of Ages play at 7 pm Tuesday, May 18, at McDonald Theatre. \$18 adv., \$22 door. – *Vanessa Salvia*

Bringing the Party Back

Like many of Portland's best bands, **The Quick and Easy Boys** have roots in Eugene. After making their name as a good-time funk rock party band here, they made their way north to the big city and have continued their ascension, drawing crowds of more than 200 people to their shows in the Rose City. Now The Quick and Easy Boys are releasing their sophomore album, *Red Light Rabbit*, nationwide on Nashville-based PerCapita Records, and they're stopping by Eugene to celebrate.

The Quick and Easy Boys have a sound that is truly eclectic, with funk, rock, disco, honky-tonk and punk mixing in equal portions. The band aptly describes themselves as a hybrid of the Minutemen, Funkadelic and Willie Nelson. On "Take Your Medicine," the first single from *Red Light Rabbit*, The Quick and Easy Boys start with a Bee Gees-esque "four-on-the-floor" disco shuffle, add some Red Hot Chili Peppers style garage-funk and finish it with hooky blue-eyed soul vocals. What ties it all together is a sense of fun and energy that comes through in the recording and is a big part of the band's growing reputation as a live act.

Like all great live bands, The Quick and Easy Boys leave it all on stage, creating a party atmosphere wherever they play. Any live show that includes formidable moustaches, ten-gallon hats and a red cape makes for a good night out. The Quick and Easy Boys and Reeble Jar play at 9:30 pm Saturday, May 15, at John Henry's. 21+. \$5. – *William Kennedy*



Bike to work! The Power of Once

Bicycle or walk to work, school or errands just once this week and you'll notice the energy generated in you and those around you. Bike or walk one week this month (May is Bike Month) or one month this year and enjoy life! Need gear, advice or service? Visit us.

Winter gear closeouts at 20%–40% Off!
2705 Willamette St • 541.484.5410
Mon–Fri 11–7, Sat 10–6

arriving by bike™
Urban Cycling Outfitters



THE ADULT SHOP

NEW! SYNERGY™
The New Hybrid Lubricant from WET®

DVDs as low as \$5.99

290 River Rd
688.5411

86784 Franklin
636.3203

720 Garfield
345.2873