

EVERYTHING IS POLITICAL

On the opening track "Appropriation," from DC punk band **Priests'** excellent 2017 release *Nothing Feels Normal*, vocalist Katie Alice Greer snarls like a toothy Debbie Harry: "It feels good to buy something you can't afford." Beneath her, the song propels over a jittery, anxious groove, falling somewhere between surf rock and early B-52s.

This kind of social commentary and satire of consumer culture threads throughout the album, such as on the Ramones-esque tune "Pink White House," in which Greer recites: "Anything you want/ Anyone you want/ Anywhere you want," invoking the political discourse of our current pussy-grabber in chief.

But while Greer understands that such themes and imagery can be interpreted as topical, she says political context can be found in almost anything. "It can be hard to find any meaning in it when people call us a political band," she explains. "A lot of times I write songs that aren't about interpersonal relationships, but are more about structural flaws in our two-party electoral system or cultural appropriation."

But throughout *Nothing Feels Normal*, the social subtext is presented, in the tradition of the best punk rock, as anti-sloganeering, or even *un-messages*. If everything is political, then everything is also protest. And this dynamic, in the universe of Priests, is exhausting.

Elsewhere on the album, over a blank-verse, no-wave groove, Daniele Daniele sits in on spoken-word vocals: "All the sudden all this science, and evolution and progress/ I mean sure, it looks good from a distance/ but when you're really inside of it you realize it's fucking terrifying."

"It's about anxieties but also the dangers of abstract thought," Daniele explains. "Which are things that aren't necessarily political, but the problems of being a creature in the world."

Priests return to Eugene alongside **Stef Chura** and **Lithics** 7 pm Saturday, Feb. 18, at The Boreal; \$11, all-ages. — *Will Kennedy*



PHOTO BY AUDREY MELTON

HI-FI LOUNGE - ALL EVENTS 21+ PLEASE
 SUNDAYS: DJ BIZIO'S SOUL TRIBE FREE 9PM
 TUESDAYS: REGGAE NIGHT HOSTED BY SOL SEED FREE 9PM
 WEDNESDAYS: FUNK JAM FREE 10PM
 THURS FEB 16: GIBBZ w- PATRICK SLAYZE \$10 ADV \$12 DOS 10PM
 FRI FEB 17: MCTUFF \$10ADV \$10DOS 10PM
 SAT FEB 18: SHWAR TOWN PRESENTS: VIBRATIONS \$5/\$7 10PM
HI-FI MUSIC HALL
 HIFIMUSICHALL.COM
 44 E 7th Ave in Eugene (corner of 7th Avenue & Willamette Street)

THE REVIVALISTS

w-CON BRIO

FEB 16 THURSDAY 7 PM DOORS 8 PM SHOW
 21+ AGES

LEFTOVER SALMON

w-WORLD'S FINEST

FEB 18 SATURDAY 7 PM DOORS 8 PM SHOW
 21+ AGES

JEFF AUSTIN BAND

FEB 19 SUNDAY 7 PM DOORS 8 PM SHOW
 21+ AGES

D.O.A. & MDC

FEB 20 MONDAY 9 PM SHOW
 LIVE IN HI-FI LOUNGE 21+ AGES

DEAD WINTER CARPENTERS & DANNY BARNES

FEB 23 THURSDAY LIVE IN HI-FI LOUNGE 10 PM SHOW
 21+ AGES

MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE DANCE PARTY

w- ELEVEN EYES - SOUL VIBRATOR
 NOUNS AND VERBS feat. EMILY TURNER

FEB 24 FRIDAY 7 PM DOORS 8 PM SHOW
 21+ AGES

CHICANO BATMAN

w-79.5 & SADGIRL

FEB 25 SATURDAY LIVE IN HI-FI LOUNGE 10 PM SHOW
 21+ AGES

OTEP w/AMELIA

FEB 28 TUESDAY ONE DAY WAITING
 THE CONVALESCENCE 7 PM DOORS 8 PM SHOW
 ALL AGES