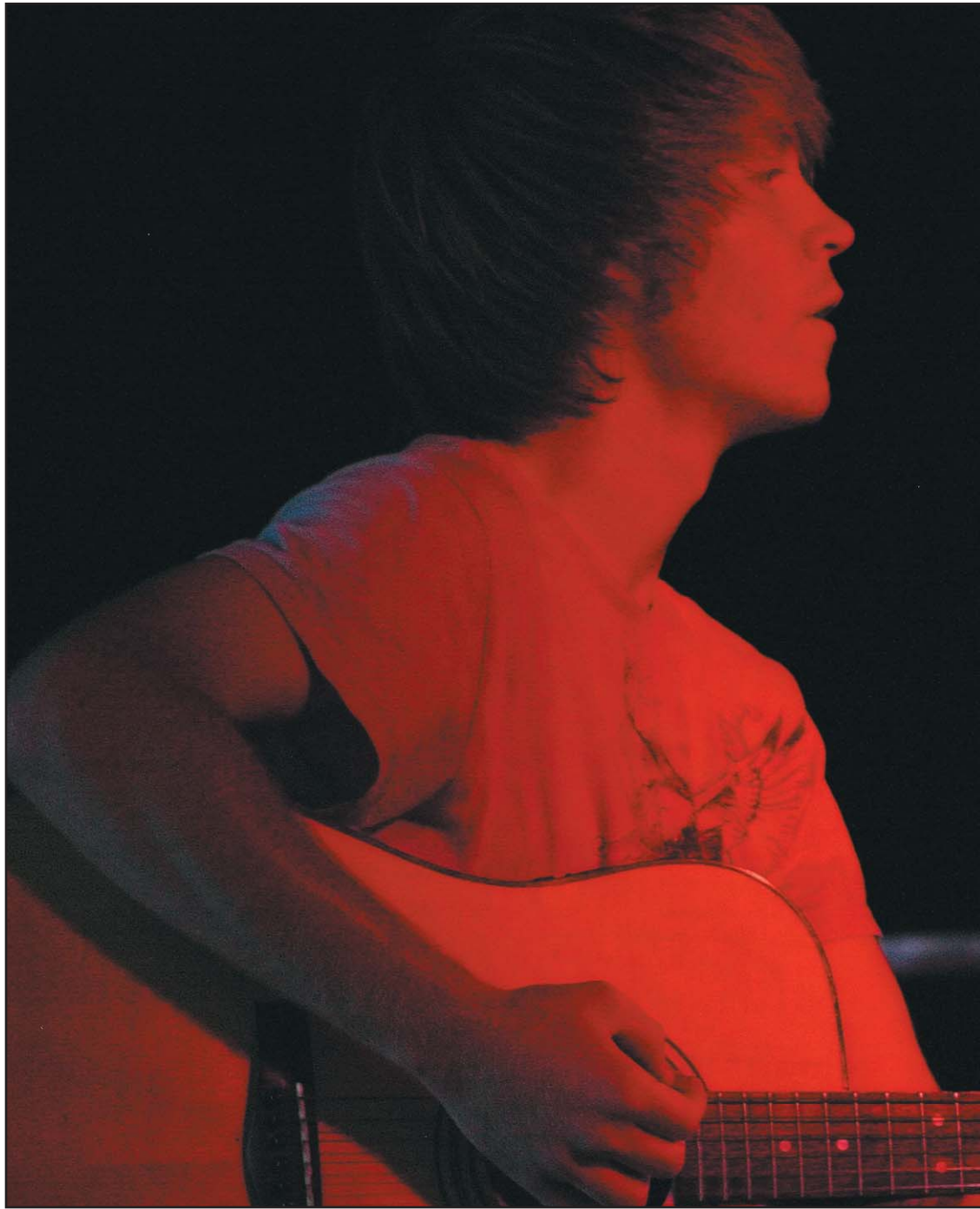


# Ripple-what? Rippledome rockin' The Boulevard



Blair Kelly / Staff Photographer/Lewis and Clark

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If you didn't believe the pregnant man rumors, I have found his child. Andrew Stockdale (of Wolfmother) and Jack White (of The White Stripes) are the loving parents.

Introducing Adam Smith, vocalist for Rippledome, and

the cops were after me." Trust me boys-we will be right behind you.

If war protest isn't your thing and Half Baked wasn't your movie, don't worry.

Next up was sugary sweet Miles from Home who are only about 75 miles away from their home in Pullman, Washington. They would have been unable to fit their six members and their "filled to the brim en-

seemed to be pleased, and did not miss a chance to rush out the door to tell the band a quick story or plead for one last song.

National Product followed with a loud, hollering showcase of lyrics that were hardly understandable. As a result, much of the crowd went out for a smoke break; whether this was due to the departing of Goodnight Sunrise or National Prod-

*The bands soothing sounds make you want to rip off your clothes and replace them with flowers and leaves and sway to their mellow riffs*

vocalist for all things peace, love and hippie.

The Boulevard wasn't packed to the ceiling Aug. 19, but the atmosphere could not have been better. Parked outside were vehicles and trailers containing Rippledome, Miles from Home, Goodnight Sunrise, National Product, 1997 and their equipment, tuned, tightened and readied for playing.

Spokane's own Rippledome was up first. The band's soothing sounds make you want to rip off your clothes and replace them with flowers and leaves and sway to their mellow riffs.

The "Spanish Song" was the favorite of the night, "I hid out in the jungle/ when

ergy level" if the stage had been any smaller.

Miles from Home was a definite home-run for anyone who wants to jump around and have a great time.

The star of the night, or rather the icing "On Your Birthday" cake, was Goodnight Sunrise who played their new demo "On Your Birthday" and even threw in some bubbles, spirit fingers and bubblegum-y pop band dance moves throughout their time-slot.

Goodnight Sunrise definitely gave off a "Cute is What We Aim For" vibe with their catchy lyrics and bounciness. By the end of the last song, the crowd

uct's failure to please, we may never know.

Four hours in and 1997 hit the stage as the last band to play, the only band with a female member, and the furthest from home, coming all the way from Chicago, Illinois. The combination of voices gave 1997 a unique sound that was the perfect end to a noteworthy night.

Between local bands and countrywide groups, the hometown heroes definitely reigned that night. Our friends from Pullman gave us "grandma's hospitality" after their both lively and memorable show, and Rippledome was simply epic.

Adam Smith performs in the band Rippledome.

## All Thai'd up in art: festival displays variety of artwork

EMILY STECKLER  
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FERRIS

On the weekend of Aug. 2, the annual two-day art festival in Bigfork, MT displayed a wide variety of artwork ranging from mirrors made of recycled cans, to artists who painted with cattle markers.

All eyes seemed to be attracted to one of the more unique presenters, Sunti Pichetchaiyakul of Thailand, and his American wife Erica. One of his more popular pieces is the sculpture of an 86-year old holy monk from Thailand. The international Thai artist loves to see the expressions on people's faces, as they stand mesmerized by the meditating monk.

Once they realize the monk is just a sculpture, the "holy cows" and "oh my god's" start pouring out. Intricate details include blue-purple veins in the arms, age spots on the face, cracks in the lips, wrinkles in the forehead and even the dark purple eyelids as if the monk hasn't gotten enough sleep.

"The reaction is always similar, but it's quite encouraging to

see individuals from all over the world, speaking different languages and respecting different religions all experiencing my work with astonishment," Sunti said.

Even though Erica tries to persuade the viewers to come into the booth and enjoy Sunti's other paintings and oils, the viewers cannot seem to take their eyes off the monk.

Born in Chumpuang, Nakhon Ratchasima, Sunti started drawing at age two, but the pictures did not become animals and people until age four. He remembers sculpting at age four with the clay from his local river.

"I enjoyed sculpting Buddhas and elephants," Sunti said. At six years old he was selling sculptures of UFO's, spaceships, and superheroes to friends; at seven he won a regional art contest.

"Whatever I have to create art with is whatever I use. I love creating my own designs with recycled materials," Sunti said.

"It's very powerful and spiritually gratifying to be taken away with Sunti to another dimension through his artwork," Erica said. "From blades of grass, the texture of sand, shadows on the wall, and backlight of a tree... Sunti sees the world everyday as though experiencing it for the first time."

His meditating monk, mostly made of clay, is just one step in a multi-step process in creating fiberglass resin sculptures. The process also uses wax, plaster and concrete.

He begins the process taking many pictures from numerous angles of his subject. He then attaches his clay to a wooden support structure quickly so the clay does not dry out. He immediately coats the clay in plaster. A wax mold is formed to be used for creating the fine detail. The wax gets coated in another plaster coat to create a mold of silicon and then a fiberglass resin model. He paints the sculpture with acrylic paint to produce the final product.

At age 36, Sunti has produced artwork for over 50 temples in Thailand. He has been featured on television in Thailand, Japan, Korea, China, and also UBC and CNN World. Sunti owns two galleries in Bangkok and hopes to temporarily get a studio in Flathead Valley within the next month or two.

"I am so eager to see the world and continue my art wherever I go. I love to see different styles of art intergrated with culture," Sunti said.



Emily Steckler/ Staff Photographer/Ferris

Thai artist Sunti Pichetchaiyakul sculpts at an art festival in Bigfork, MT.

## Ride the Okkervil River all day long

Second part of double album boasts combination of unique sounds

JORDAN SATTERFIELD  
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FERRIS

"The Stand Ins" is Okkervil River's promised second part to a proposed double album that was kicked off last year with "The Stage Names."

If you are familiar with the band, their latest effort is another great addition to the bands vast back-catalog. If this band is a whole new idea to you, fear not, as "The Stand Ins" may be one of the band's most welcoming albums yet.

Okkervil River boast an amazing combination of unique sounds--the band's obvious Bob Dylan influence seeps through every note, every lyric with an almost flaming intensity. Otherwise, the band's influences could be number of things. Musically, "The Stand Ins" shows Okkervil River in a very eclectic stage, with almost each song playing out in a different style or sound than the last. You can clearly hear the folk, the country, the rock, and the pop in every way they want you to.

But that doesn't make anything about the album feel disjointed; every song feels like part of the bigger picture. Check out the perfectly executed use of a horn section on track four, "Starry Stairs." And what about the strings in the brooding "Calling and Not Calling My Ex"? Most notably, the memorable "Pop Lie" is an upbeat, synth-laden and clever pop track with a catchy central guitar riff and a clear goal--something a lot of similar eclectic tracks lose in the wrong hands.

"Singer Songwriter" has the best use of the electric guitar of

any song on this whole album, including a little guitar solo near the end, and the only guitar solo I've ever gotten up and danced to. Clearly this band has matured musically and they aren't afraid to prove it to you- in the most comfortable way possible, of course.

Literally, the album is a complete triumph. Will Sheff's lyrical work here can be hilarious, terribly sad, or even a bit of both. "On Tour With Zykos" manages to get a few different emotions out of the listener, as Sheff rambles in a way that inspires laughs and jerks a few tears. "I go home/ Take off clothes/Smoke a bowl/ Watch a whole TV movie," Sheff proclaims, taking the role of a certain heartbroken female. Not two bars later, he whines, "I can't say that I'm feeling/Oh, that much at all/At 27 years old." It's the kind of dry, self-

deprecating humor in poetry that Sheff marvelously weaves through this whole album, on songs like the previous and others, including the crying, desperate ballad "Blue Tulip," and the previously mentioned "Starry Stairs."

A year ago I attempted to get into Okkervil River using "The Stage Names" as my vehicle, and had no luck. Maybe I was in a more stubborn musical state a year ago, but I certainly found it easier to embrace of Okkervil River's vest qualities with "The Stand Ins."

Whether or not you've heard of this band, you need to hear this album. This is destined to be one of the year's most focused and contrary-wise eclectic albums, and to miss such a wonderful thing would be a real pity.

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