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10 local bands to keep an eye and ear on in 2006

LIFE AND ARTS D1

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006

10 bands to watch

THE LIST THE EMERGENCY DAYLIGHT BASEMENT HEAD LIKE A KITE COMMON MARKET SERA CAHOONE ROY INVISIBLE EYES THE BLANES LEVY FULLER AND THE LIBRARY RED NOTE



BY TIZZY ASHER
Special to the P-I

Predicting which Seattle bands will break big in the coming year is like betting on the horse races. No matter how informed you try to become or how many charts you build, you often end up hanging your hopes on a dud.

Part of this is because there are so many unforeseen variables in the music world. The drummer and the guitarist have a tiff and can no longer stay in the same room. The bassist gets caught doping and has to scratch from the race. Equipment is sabotaged or stolen, people get sick, and realities, such as pregnancy and day jobs, complicate matters.

Another part is the fickleness of local listeners. Trends come and go, and shifting winds can cause a sudden burst of interest in unusual genres or styles.

You may think that klezmer-hip-hop-new-wave band is primed for the top this year, but unless enough of your friends agree, it's likely to bring up the rear.

In short, there's no way of saying for certain who'll break away from the pack in 2006. But this year, I've tried a different approach, which is spending a couple of weeks in the new year snooping around the barn with open ears. Here is a list of out-of-the-gate favorites for 2006, chosen through informed decisions. Not all are new bands—some just seem due for a win.

Place your bets. Of course, if you put all your money on the bobtailed nag and it's the gray that crosses that line first, don't blame us. Just stomp on your betting stub and consider yourself initiated into the world of predicting the

SEE BANDS, D6

diences.

Another band that blends local and electronic instrumentation is **Head Like a Kite**, the new project from Sushirobo guitarist Dave Einmo. HLAKE's debut album, which comes out today, is "Random Portraits of the Home Movie" (Pattern 25). It offers a unique and successful gimmick: Einmo borrows sound reels from Super 8 movies shot by his parents in the 1970s and sets them against jarring new-wave guitar sounds and bumping drums. He enlists a slew of local notables to help, and the result feels like being trapped aboard the original USS Enterprise with Ian Curtis.

Fans of the new crop of locals worshipping the 1980s, including RazRez and Infomatik, should find much to love in the band's jerky and often sinister sounds. The national magazine *Alternative Press* definitely did — it gave "Random Portraits" the coveted five-out-of-five review.