



Children of the video age: NESkimos

They Got Game

NESkimos

Friday, July 14

Doors open at 8:30 p.m.

Jack Rabbits, 1528 Hendricks Ave.,
Jacksonville
398-7496

Just days ago, the members of NESkimos flew to Grapevine, Texas, to perform at the Intel Summer Championships, one of several events in this year's World Series of Video Games. The quartet from St. Augustine — which performs rocked-out versions of Nintendo video game themes — was honored by the invitation to play for so many people, and a little bit of nervous. Guitarist Dr. Wily acknowledged feeling pressure to play well. "But that probably won't stop us from sucking horribly," he said. "It never does."

The NESkimos formed in 2001 out of a mutual love for Nintendo after Dr. Wily realized that he remembered all of the tunes from his favorite games and thought other musicians might like to cover the songs. Dr. Wily, guitarist Johntendo and bassist Trevor Belmont were (and still are) Nintendo junkies. Drummer Mario grew up as a Sega kid, a trait that is practically sacrilege in this band. Fortunately, Mario is a solid-enough drummer that the other guys let it slide.

Today, NESkimo songs are posted

on the band's Soundclick.com page, but there are plans to formally release a pair of albums — one of new recordings of already released material and one of new songs. The records were due out last year, but got pushed back till the end of this summer. Initially the NESkimos were afraid to record any of their songs due to copyright issues, but

Guitarist Dr. Wily acknowledged feeling pressure to play well. "But that probably won't stop us from sucking horribly."

after seeing other bands release Nintendo songs and hearing that Nintendo flat-out ignored any band's request to get a legitimate license to release the songs, the NESkimos embrace a Mario-may-care attitude.

Of course, NESkimos shows indulge the nostalgia of classic games like Super Mario Brothers, The Legend of Zelda and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. "Everybody enjoys the really obvious [songs]. Even people that would probably not admit it," observes Dr. Wily. "Everybody loses it when we do Mario and Zelda." ☉