

NEW LONDON COUNTY - WINDHAM - HARTFORD - MYSTIC - RHODE ISLAND

Sound Waves

Volume 15
Issue 1
October 2004

**NEW DINING
GUIDE**

**CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS & MORE**

**ROCK THE VOTE
ISSUE!**

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With**

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MAILBAG



Dear Readers,

This month's issue, being October, is the scary issue! No it's not Halloween. It's the Pre-election issue! We have decided this year to voice our opinions on who we feel should be elected to represent us Americans in the world today. We have also concentrated on the elected officials in our state of Connecticut. Too many of the ones in office have cost people their livelihoods in the laws that they have passed. And we feel it's time to clean house! So read on and see who this magazine is supporting this election year. Most important of all - GET OUT AND VOTE!

As I write this column, the people of Florida are getting clobbered again by another hurricane. Our best wishes go out to those people. There has been too much destruction and fatalities from these storms. Most of the citizens are enduring hardships today. Most have no power and many have no livable homes. So if you can, go and donate whatever you can afford to the American Red Cross. The time is now to help. The only good that might come out of these storms is that the State has to buy new voting machines :)

Once again let me remind all our readers that this magazine is free because of the advertisers in the magazine. Show your support and visit the advertisers and tell them you saw their ad here. Thank you and enjoy what this area has to offer.

Till Next month
David L. Pottie
Editor/Publisher

**We'd like to be
out of work...
maybe someday
we will.**



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Sound Waves

October 2004
VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1

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RANT OF THE MONTH

ELECTION TIME

Well it's that time again. Time to use our American privilege and get out and vote. Trouble is most of the time it's deciding between the "better of 2 evils".

The American voting system, in my opinion is out dated. We are not fairly represented in the government. This is a 2 party system country and most of the time neither party is what we want. We should have a system like Canada, Britain, Israel and many others. Where if there is a 3rd, 4th or more candidates, then the percentage of the votes they get will be reflected in the representation in the ruling body. Therefore giving everyone a voice in the laws that govern our lives.

As for the candidates that we have this year it's scary. President G.W. Bush I feel is the worst President in our history. He has lied to us, involved us in a "personal" war, and has helped his cronies make millions. And what scares me the most is that he seems to guide the nation by the "Good Book". Religion should have no part in the politics of this country. With his beliefs (ie gay marriages) he is actually considering trying to amend the constitution. Adding bigotry to our laws.

His "Cowboy" image is also a joke. When he was reading to the children on 9/11 and was told about what happened. He actually sat there for 7 minutes with a blank stare on his face. One General that saw that said he has seen that look in combat before and would immediately remove the officer of his command.

The President's Campaign message is also of some concern. It seems to say "elect me or your children will die". Whenever the polls go down in his favor, why does the terror alert always seem to go up? He attacks Kerry on his war record, but at least Kerry has a war record. Kerry might seem indecisive sometimes, but in the "better of 2 evils" - Kerry is my choice.

Now to our local elections. As far as I'm concerned, most of our elected officials should join our ex-Governor Rowland. Below is a list of elected officials that have caused many people to go out of business and many more lose their jobs because of their action supposedly representing our welfare.

BOOT THEIR ASSES OUT HIT LIST!

Murphy, Feltman, Peters, McCluskey, Carson, Coleman, Cook, Donovan, Fleishmann, Janowski, Nardello, Orange, Panaroni, Ryan, Sayers, Stone, Winkler, Fonfara, Coleman, Lebeau, Handley, Sullivan, DeFronzo, Ciotto, Harp, Looney, Smith Jr., C. Murphy, Crisco, Prague, Peters, Finch, Newton, McDonald, Williams, Colapietro, Daily, Fasano, Abrams, Amann, Barry, Boukus, Cardin, Caruso, Cocco, Dargen, David, Dillon, Doyle, Duff, Dyson, Eposito, Kerensky, Kirkley-Bey, Lawlor, Leone, Lewis, Martinez, Mazurek, McMahon, Megna, Merrill, Mikutel, Michele, Mushinsky, O'Brien, O'Connor, Olson, Tonucci, Truglia, Villano, Wallace, Widlitz, Wilber, Willis, Zalaski, Adinolfi, Bacchiochi, Belden, Bernhard, Boucher, Carson, Hetherington, Kalinowski, Klarides, Labriola, Miler, Miner, Noujaim, O'Neill, Powers, Ryan J, Sawyer, Sherer, Stone J, Stripp, Tercyak, Tymniak, Lyons, Curry, Hyslop, Fritz, Graziani, Green, Hamm, Googins, Witkos.

Take this list to the polls with you and Boot Theirs Ass Out!

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CONCERT DATES

ANA POPOVIC

2 - Chan's, Woonsocket, RI

BETTE MIDLER

19 - Civic Center, Providence, RI

BOB WEIR

12 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

COMMANDER CODY

1 - Chan's, Woonsocket, RI

DAVID CASSIDY

8,9 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

DR. JOHN

17 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

DUKE ROBILLARD

1 - Cheney Hall, Manchester, CT

9 - Chan's, Woonsocket, RI

30 - Blackstone, Cumberland, RI

GREEN DAY

28 - Centrum, Worcester, MA

JOAN BAEZ

22 - Garde Arts Center, New London, CT

JOE ELY

24 - The Bushnell, Hartford, CT

JOHN HIATT

24 - The Bushnell, Hartford, CT

KINGS X

5 - Webster Theater, Hartford, CT

LYLE LOVETT

24 - The Bushnell, Hartford, CT

RENEE AUSTIN

22 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT

R.KELLY/JAY-Z

26 - Civic Center, Hartford, CT

STEVE EARLE

25 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT

TOWER OF POWER

7 - Lupos, Providence, RI

8 - Webster Theater, Hartford, CT



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Sunday 31st

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Review**

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MUSIC NEWS BITS

Johnny Ramone, guitarist and co-founder of the seminal punk band "**The Ramones**" that influenced a generation of rockers, has died. He was 55. Ramone, who had been fighting a five-year battle with prostate cancer, died in his sleep at his Los Angeles home surrounded by friends and family, said the band's longtime artistic director **Arturo Vega**. Ramone, whose birth name is **John Cummings**, had been hospitalized in June at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. **Johnny Ramone** was one of the original members of the struggling Ramones, whose hit songs "*I wanna be sedated*" and "*Blitzkrieg Bop*," among others, earned them an induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002. **Johnny Ramone** co-founded "The Ramones" in 1974 in New York along with singer **Joey Ramone**, bassist **Dee Dee Ramone** and drummer **Tommy Ramone**, who is the only surviving member of the original band. All four band members had different last names, but took the common name Ramone. **Joey Ramone**, whose real name is **Jeff Hyman**, died in 2001 of lymphatic cancer. **Dee Dee Ramone**, whose real name is **Douglas Colvin**, died from a drug overdose in 2002. Since its debut album in 1976, the band struggled for commercial success, but they left a formidable imprint on the rock genre. Though they never had a Top 40 song, the Ramones influenced scores of followers, including bands such as **Green Day** and **Nirvana**. Along with his wife, **Linda Cummings**, **Johnny Ramone** was surrounded at his death by friends, including **Pearl Jam** rocker **Eddie Vedder**, singer **Rob Zombie** and others. Other friends who gathered at his Los Angeles home included **Lisa Marie Presley**, **Pete Dinklage**, **Vincent Gallo** and **Talia Shire**.

Paul McCartney, **Eric Clapton**, **Sting** and **U2** are joining forces on a benefit album for Burmese democracy activist **Aung San Suu Kyi**. **R.E.M.**, **Avril Lavigne**, **Coldplay** and **Travis** are also contributing to a 27-track CD, "For the Lady: Dedicated to Freeing Aung San Suu Kyi." **Suu Kyi**, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of the National League for Democracy opposition party, has spent most of the past 14 years under house arrest. The military junta in her country, also called **Myanmar**, has tolerated little dissent since taking power after crushing a 1988 pro-democracy demonstration. The junta refused to hand over power or convene parliament after **Suu Kyi**'s party won 1990 elections. "Aung San Suu Kyi is truly one of the world's most important, yet least known, heroes," said **Chris Martin** of **Coldplay**. "No matter how much she suffers, she never backs down in her quest for freedom. That's why Coldplay are supporting this effort, and why everyone who believes in human rights should buy this CD." "Her dedication, resolve, courage and patience are the mark of a leader. We stand tall for her as she will again stand tall for herself," said **Michael Stipe**, lead singer of **R.E.M.** The album will feature a **U2** song, "*Walk On*," which is dedicated to **Suu Kyi** and has been banned in Myanmar.



JOHN KERRY for PRESIDENT

Well Folks, it's 30 days and counting for the future.... At least if you believe that the future is related specifically to the USA election! As a service to our readership, if, and I mean IF, you are amongst the 25% of Bush supporters that would vote for the guy no matter what... here's your chance... flip to the next article... Because, we know that even if you caught Bush pants down, shtupping your spouse, you'd probably say something akin to: "oh, well, at least he's a good, well-meaning Christian man."

For the 30% or so of you that are voting for Kerry, for so many logical reasons, even if those reasons can be summed up as: "Anybody but Bush." I salute you, don't wish to have you spend any precious time reading this, and hope you can convince more voters to pull the lever for Kerry. So, flip on to the next article.

Now, for you remaining voters, whether ye be fence sitters, fence hopper's, or even fence builder's this endorsement, from this magazine is for John Kerry to be elected the next President of the USA. For you few, yet, influential folk who wish to vote for Nader based upon principle... #S%^& your principles... the democracy is at risk here!

Think that's a bit dramatic? Maybe a bit over the top? Well how about imagining for a second or two the consequences of a Bush victory? Are you ready for an explosive debt and the ensuing rise of interest rates and then spiraling inflation? Are you ready for more wars in more lands, in counties whose name you can barely pronounce? And, are you ready for your sons and daughters to be drafted for these paranoid dreams of the right wing? Are you ready for a Supreme Court composed of individuals who make Clarence Thomas seem like Clara Bell the Clown in terms of right wing ideology?

For the folks who may feel they have no choice but to vote for the incumbent no matter how bad he may be given that you are not "wowed" by the challenger, let's take a look at a couple of more fractals in this election.

This president knew it would be difficult for Americans not to cheer the overthrow of a foreign dictator. He knew that much. You become a wartime leader. The country gets behind you. Dissent becomes inappropriate. In fact he calls nearly every act of dissent un-American. Nearly every book by an ex-Cabinet official is a pack of lies. If he were alive today, Bush would call Thomas Paine himself a traitor to the Republic!

He is the President who does not sense. He does not feel for the families of the dead, he does not feel for the thirty-five million of us who live in poverty, he does not feel for the forty five million Americans who cannot afford health insurance, he does not feel for the folks who are working some two or three jobs to create income stream to maintain a status quo existence much less being able to reach the dream...

But he will say in all sincerity he is relieving the wealthi

Continued Page 25

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Sat. 16th - **HARD KNOXX**

Fri. 22nd - **TBA**

Sat. 23rd - **SANTUARY**

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THURSDAYS - KARAOKE w/Dr Jay

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\$100 Cash Prize for Best Costume

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DAN STEVENS

2 - Apple Festival, Southington, CT 8pm
 3 - Shelton Day, Shelton, CT 10am
 5 - O'Driscoll's, Wilberham, MA 8pm
 6 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth, NH
 8 - Grange #173, Orrington, ME 7:30pm
 9 - Middle Earth Music Hall, Bradford, VT
 12 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA 8pm
 14 - Wooster Street Café, New Haven, CT
 15 - Sage On The Waterfall, Chester, CT
 16 - Public Library, Woodbridge, CT 2pm
 16 - Maritime Grille, Guilford, CT 7pm
 29 - G. W. Tavern, Washington Depot, CT
 30 - Maritime Grille, Guilford, CT 7pm

DEGENERATES

2 - Murphy Scarletti's, Farmington, CT
 3 - Harbor Park, Middletown, CT
 8 - Cioppino's, Ellington, CT
 15 - The Brickyard, Hartford, CT
 22 - All Stars, Manchester, CT

EIGHT TO THE BAR

1 - Ultimate Billiards, Berlin, CT
 9 - The Maple Tree, Simsbury, CT
 17 - Elks Club, Leominster, MA 7-10:30pm
 21 - Street Festival, Willimantic, CT 6-9pm
 22 - Catfish Grill, Warwick, RI
 23 - Oakdale Theater, Wallingford, CT
 24 - Rocky Neck Park, E. Lyme, CT 1-4pm
 29 - Evergreen Walk, So. Windsor, CT 4-8

ECHOING AUGUST

22 - The Acoustic Cafe, Bridgeport, CT
 27 - The Webster, Hartford, CT
 30 - Arts Barn, Madison, CT

FIVE AFTER FIVE

7 - Newport Blues Cafe, Newport, RI
 8 - Sneakers, Groton, CT
12 SOUND WAVES

9 - Burkes Tavern, Niantic, CT
 29 - The Hi-Hat Club, Providence, RI

GOPHERBROKE

1 - Doody's, N. Branford, CT
 8 - Billy Wilsons, Norwich, CT
 9 - Olde Mystic, Mystic, CT 2-4
 9 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 7:30-10
 15 - Bistro, Westfield, MA 7-11
 16 - Oliver's, Essex, CT
 18 - Red Lion, Stockbridge, MA
 22 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT

HANNAH'S FIELD

9 - Zen Bar, Farmington, CT
 16 - La Boca, Middletown, CT

Ms. MARCI & THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

9 - Dano's, Groton, CT
 15 - Ascari Lounge, Braintree, MA

PANACEA

6 - Webster Underground, Hartford, CT
 9 - Donald Oats Theater, Norwich, CT
 16 - The German Club, Mystic, CT
 22 - The Brookside, Preston, CT
 29 - VFW, Moosup, CT

PETE SERGE

23 - Daily Grind Café, Willington, CT

WICKED PEACH

2 - The Eagle, Fall River, MA
 8 - The Brickyard, Hartford, CT
 9 - Gillery's, Bristol, RI
 16 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
 22 - The Sports Bar, North Windham, CT
 23 - Jr's Rockhouse, Cranston, RI
 30 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT

WORLD'S SMALLEST QUARTET

2 - Meeting House Pub, Tolland, CT
 9 - Village Restaurant, Woodstock, CT
 15 - Billy Wilson's, Norwich, CT
 16 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
 22 - Main Street Tavern, Old Saybrook, CT
 23 - Tedore's Restaurant, Wales, MA 8-12
 30 - Billy Wilson's Norwich, CT

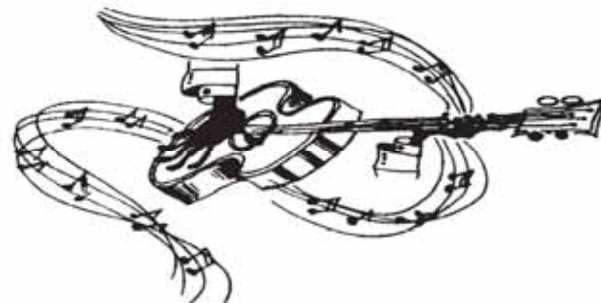
Any bands wishing to be listed for the month, **MUST** have their dates into **SOUND WAVES** by the **LAST FRIDAY** of every month. **NO** listings will be taken over the telephone. These listings are **FREE!** Mail Listings to the magazine or FAX them to:

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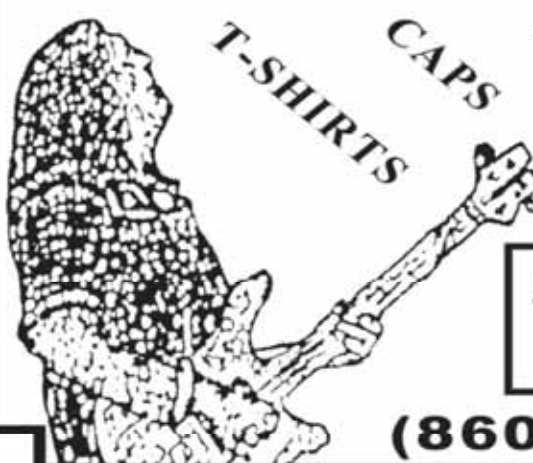
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SOUND WAVES 13

MUSIC NOTES

By Mark T. Gould

The Glory Of The Guitar

It can make you laugh. It can make you cry. It's called an axe, and that's probably because, when it's played right, it can cut you to shreds.

It's the guitar. And, now it's got a book to tell it's fabulous, first person history.

The book, called "Between the Strings: The Secret Lives of Guitars," is an absolute bouquet to that most wondrous of musical instruments. Written and edited by John August Schroeter, and containing an introduction by the Messiah of guitarists, B.B. King, it's a treasure trove of stories and vignettes, all surrounding that one-of-a-kind instrument that we all try to play, either on the fret board or, in the case of those like me, in the air.

"I've been playing guitar since high school, learning on my own from a Mel Bay chord book and a Beatles' songbook," Schroeter, who describes himself as "44 going on 21," said. "It's still the best way to learn."

Schroeter knows from where he speaks. The owner of more than 40 guitars and a former corporate marketing manager, he is the founding publisher of Fingerstyle Guitar magazine. In addition, for over the past decade, Schroeter has published his own line of books in association with Mel Bay Publications. He has also produced over a dozen CDs for noted guitarist Phil Keaggy.

"I'm always loaning out my guitars for worthy recording causes, so they are beginning to develop stories of their own," he added. "I just love guitars and anything to do with them. That's my vice."

Learning how to play the guitar is just about the only thing that readers won't fathom from this captivating tome. It's a collection of over 100 short stories, with a guitar as the venerable star of each one. Some of the tales involve guitars that were stolen and later recovered; others tell about personal, uplifting, life experiences involving a guitar, while still others describe how a special song came to them while playing their instrument.

In toto, all of life's human touch is pretty much here, that is, through the influence of the guitar.

Some of the players and storytellers, such as Charlie Daniels, Peter Frampton, Rick Derringer and others, will be familiar to most readers. Others, like Spencer Bohren, Pierce Pettis, and Grant Geissman, may not. But, like everything else within its pages, being introduced to new artists and musicians is another stellar learning experience for those who guide their way through the book. Schroeter also presents web sites for each of the contributors, so fans or those intrigued by the stories can follow up for more information on each of the musicians.

Some of the stories are poignant, such as how Richie

Furay's wife's prayers that a stolen guitar is found helped lead him to Christianity and his current life as a pastor. Others, such as how an enterprising guitar repairman's discovery of an imprint on a fingerboard inlay got a beloved guitar returned to Charlie Daniels after many years, is nothing short of inspirational. And, the story of how one guitar paved the way for a meeting between the young bluesman John Hammond, Jr. and one of his idols, Johnny Shines is poignant. Between each of the stories, Schroeter recounts quotes, alternating hilarious and thought provoking, from many guitarists about their unique relationship, love and technique of and with their wondrous instrument.

As B.B. King says in the introduction to this book, "I love the guitar. It's still teaching me, and I'm still learning. If anybody wants to learn what (the guitar) has done for us, and why so many of us still hang on and try to play it today, read this book and you'll learn why."

Writer's Note: The book is available through a web site at johnaugustmusic.com. There is also a solicitation thread on the site, for guitarists to make submissions of their own stories about their instrument, for possible use in a second volume.



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SPECIAL 20





Godsmack Interview with Shannon Larkin

By Nicole Roberge

The Grammy winning, multi-platinum selling band Godsmack has received accolades for their hard rock albums, intense live show and aggressive sound. Their album "Faceless" debuted on the Billboard Charts at #1 and still riding on that success, they released an acoustic album, "The Other Side." The band, comprised of vocalist Sully Erna, guitarist Tony Rombolo, bassist Robbie Merrill and drummer Shannon Larkin have blended the heaviness of their sound with a more subtle, laid back approach, experimenting with different sounds and rhythms, and expanding on vocals. Molding their intensity with ethereal sounds, they created a stunning album which showcases the bands ability to create captivating music, but never drifting too far from their creative roots. And too top that off, they are currently on a sold-out tour with Metallica.

Godsmack did not plan to release another album right after "Faceless," never mind an acoustic album. They had recognized that there were a couple songs in their repertoire, such as "Running Blind" and "Voices," that they would play acoustically and that they then saw a different potential in. It was when their tour ended in Japan on the first leg of the "Faceless" tour that they realized they could use a little vacation. And a vacation, to Godsmack, is working on a new album. "We were like, you know what we should do...since Hawaii's halfway back to Los Angeles, we should stop in Hawaii and get our families and fly our girlfriends out there, and just take a couple weeks off before the next tour and have a little vacation," said drummer Larkin. "We thought we could have the record label pay for this vacation, and all we have to do is record an album while we're there. It'll still be a vacation, we're in Hawaii, and it's an acoustic record, so there's not a lot of pressure. The intent wasn't to come out with our new record and sell millions of copies. But we got the label to go for it. They heard a couple songs and were like, 'Yeah we'll do this.' So basically we got a paid vacation in Hawaii. That's a good deal in itself. I'll tell you, it's the most stress free record I've ever done."

With a perfect view of the beach, they put together an eloquent album featuring seven songs, some new and some re-makes, bringing the band to a new level. It showed the

true nature of their songs demonstrating the capability of the band to step back from their usual sound and play simply and at the heart of the songs. Most hear Godsmack and think that they are only a hard-rock band, but this album demonstrates the true musicianship that each member possesses, and the intensity in their songs that can shine through whether played with an electric or acoustic guitar.

Though a different turn for the band, it wasn't so severe that fans would not embrace this sound. Instead it was just a new and different outlook on Godsmack's music. "We're lucky as a band to not have a ceiling over our heads, because of songs like 'Voodoo', 'Spiral', and 'Serenity'. It's already been out there. Putting out 'The Other Side' wasn't this big, drastic step for us. We're not gonna do anything crazy on the next record. It's gonna be a heavy, hard rock, Godsmack record, and there might be a 'Serenity' or 'Voodoo' on it probably, but for the most part, it will be along the lines of something heavier like 'Faceless.'"

There are several highlights on both "The Other Side" and "Faceless," but it is Godsmack's signature sound that Larkin finds himself drawn to the most: "On the 'Faceless' record, the song 'Changes' is my favorite Godsmack song. I think it's the anatomy of what we're trying to do. It's got the hard groove first. It's got a nice big melodic half time chorus. I think it's the perfect Godsmack song and I was bummed out when it wasn't gonna be a single. But it is what it is and I'm most proud of that album."

Godsmack has accomplished a great deal in the past couple years, building themselves up as a strong and competent band, and that in itself is a feat with the ever-changing musical climate. In an age where music groups come and go, more and more teen pop princesses emerge, and vocalists are found on TV shows, it is hard to tell what state the music industry is in.

"Trends happen, you've got hair metal and hair bands which were killed by grunge which was killed by new metal or rap rock, and I'm not really sure what's next," noted Larkin. "It's hard to say what the next thing is gonna be. For a while, the Hives and the Strokes, that was gonna be the next big thing, and of course it didn't happen that way. We always say, we're not the biggest groundbreaking band on the planet. We do good hard rock, what our idols did before us. Experimenting with different sounds and stuff...everything, I think, has been done before. And we're not trying to change what we do by being some groundbreaking new act."

Not only is music being molded by television shows, but contemporary issues also have an impact. Many bands now are finding themselves more and more involved in politics, getting involved in things like "Rock The Vote" and even letting their music take a political angle. Larkin says however, that Godsmack is not a political band, and keeps their outlook on what it should be—music. "We're that American band that only sells records in America. We back our armed forces. We let the Navy use our music. I think I'm the only guy in the band that even votes," he laughs. "None of us are very politically outspoken, but

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we're very pro-America and we back our country." Larkin believes it is the live show that keeps fans attention, and that they do not need to try to take over the airwaves or MTV, but instead bring their music to the people who appreciate it most. "We're very happy with just trying to make solid songs, and our main thing is to take the show on the road and put on a big show like they used to do, with pyrotechnics and giant drum sets, trying to make it to where it was when we were kids. We'd look forward to that thing for weeks, talk and talk with your friends, and then for weeks after you just can't stop talking about the show," he said. It is this attitude that has propelled the band and keeps fans coming back. There are 35 people on this road crew working for that hour that the band is on stage. They put their all into their music and their performance, and each night, fans leave knowing that they have seen a unique show.

It is this appreciation for the live show and touring that has now placed them on the same stage as Metallica, a band they have idolized since they were kids. "In 1982, I got a hold of their demo and that totally changed my life," Larkin said as he reminisced about his first tastes in music. "I'd never heard anything that aggressive before, and being a testosterone-filled pumped up adolescent boy growing up in West Virginia, I heard Metallica and the shit was over. I said, 'I'm not gonna do anything else until I make it in this fucking business.' It's been a long journey."

Upon hearing that first demo, touring with Metallica is probably something that the adolescent Larkin would never have imagined. "It's just a dream come true," he said as he reflected on their time on tour. "We were a little bit scared at first. The first time I met Jim Hetfield I could barely speak. I couldn't believe I was standing right in front of him. But they are really nice guys, just normal cool guys. They'd come and talk to us and hang out. It's like a dream. I'm blown away by the whole thing."

With two highly successful albums and an astonishing touring schedule with Metallica, Godsmack still has a lot on their plate. After touring consistently for a year and a half, their tour wraps up on November 25, and following that they will begin working on a new record, and Larkin says they are very excited to get back into the creative mode. "We are doing some writing out here on tour but it's hard to put yourself in that place, the writing mode, when you're in touring mode. It's just two separate entities," he said. In addition, the band just released a DVD entitled "Changes." Not only does the DVD capture the band's live performance but it also features footage of the preparation for the show—the equipment, pyrotechnics and backstage happenings. It shows how the whole show is put together, from setting the stage up, to the performance, to taking it down. It captures the essence of Godsmack and their music, and would be a great addition to any fan's collection.

Godsmack is a band known for their hard-rock sound, and even though they turned that around with "The Other Side," that only goes to demonstrate the vast capabilities of this band. Their live show is stunning, and no

CONTINUED PAGE 25

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WALLS OF JERICHO

"All Hail The Dead"

Trustkill Records

In a time that's seen a lot of hardcore bands grow softer and mellow out, Walls Of Jericho stands strong as a band dedicated to making powerful, passionate, and energetic music. "All Hail The Dead" is a vicious bite back from a band that continues to brutally smash down the boundaries of gender and lyrical content. Walls Of Jericho is hardcore the way it's supposed to be: brutal, uncompromising, and strong. This record broods with an intense fury, starting slow in the first and title track "All Hail The Dead," and mounting at its peak during "Jaded," only to continue its unrelenting barrage for the rest of the album.

In Greek, the name Candice means Fire White, a fitting name for a woman who sings with such an honest and fiery contempt. In fact, Candice Kuculain's ferocity is unmatched by even some of the most well known hardcore singers, her voice is a gun spitting bullets in the face of everyone who has ever done her wrong. A look at the lyrics shows a pretty balanced mix of personal struggles and social awareness. Songs like "There's No I In F*ck You," "A Little Piece Of Me," and "Fixing Broken Hearts" are filled with despair, hopelessness, and heartache, and an emotional honesty you won't find in any other hardcore band. These are lyrics that transcend genre and are unafraid of stepping out from the typical hardcore mantra of strength and solidarity.

With lyrics like "these tears are not for you, these tears are for me," and "I'm tired of being strong," Candice shows her vulnerability, but she also conveys her self-determination and pride with the lines "I'm taking back what you took away," and "I'm moving on from you". However, the lyrics that hit hardest are during the chant in "Revival Never Goes Out Of Style" where Candice makes one of the best points about hardcore in the mainstream: "all this time wishing our voices could be heard, now we finally have a voice and no one says a f*cking word". It's true there's been a lack of political and social statement by a lot of hardcore bands, but with "Day And A Thousand Years," Walls Of Jericho shows their un-

derstanding of the world around them, what's wrong with it, and their willingness to fight for their rights.

"All Hail The Dead" begins with guitar feedback, and then crashes straight into a breakdown, building into a fast and chaotic masterpiece. The most amazing thing about the musicianship on this album is that it never slows down, it never quits, it just keeps going at the same brutal, breakneck pace. The guitars grind, growl, and scream, and the drums roll, pound, and crash like thunder. I've never heard a record that has combined all the elements I love about hardcore as effectively as this one. It has the grinding style of 100 Demons, the chants, breakdowns, and rolling bass drums of Hatebreed, the guitar melodies of Evergreen Terrace, the hardcore punk beats of Until The End, and the old-school metal influence of Strife. It's just as hard as it is heavy, just as punk as it is metal, and that makes for an incredible hardcore album. It rips, it punches, and it slams with a cold, aggressive beauty. Although keeping to a distinct and consistent sound, each song on this album is different enough that you never tire of listening to it, it never gets old and it never gets boring. I find it very hard to listen to this record and sit still, everything about it makes you want to move, and a visit to their live show proves I'm by far not the only one who feels this way.

"All Hail The Dead" is amazing, not enough can be said about this album, but at the same time it's almost impossible to put most of it into words. This is by far one of the best hardcore CD's I've heard in a long time, and for all the progress the band has made, they haven't compromised their sound or integrity. If you're a hardcore fan I highly recommend adding this disc to your collection. If you don't like this record, you don't like hardcore.

-Wyatt Shibley

DIANE SCHNIER

"Before Cowboys"

Basemental Records

This is an interesting release. It's not something you'll find at Strawberries and it's not going to be the selection of the month for your Columbia House CD Club. Where you will find it is on the moe. website at www.moe.org. moe., as you may or may not know, is the band that put the "jam" in jamband. And yes, they do spell their name

with a lower case m and a period at the end. Diane is married to founding member Al Schnier who not only produced this disc but also plays guitar, bass, keyboard, and mandolin. Gordon Stone is a special guest on few of the tracks playing banjo on the first cut and pedal steel on three other tunes. Diane, who wrote all the songs, handles the vocals, piano, and drums.

This is a very feminine disc. If it was a movie it would be a chick flick. I don't mean this in a negative way though. Diane has a very sweet way about her. She's very much a girly girl with a mellifluous and melodic voice. This is what makes the disc interesting. Contrast that with moe. - a band that comes across like Popeye after a plate full of spinach. If this recording is to find its market, and I hope it does, it won't be with the majority of hardcore moe. fans or jambands fans in general. It will be with fans of Joni Mitchell, Sarah McLachlan, Suzanne Vega or the whole Lilith faire scene. Al Schnier may play on this disc, but Al appropriately underplays it letting Diane's piano be the dominant instrument.

There are 13 tracks on the disc and all but one were written between 1993 and 1996. A spare and haunting tune called "Soldier" was penned in 2003. The songs, as many as 75 according to Diane, spent years on old cassette tapes stored under her bed. It was only when Diane wanted to preserve them by burning them on to CD's did the idea to release some of them first come to light. After all, the Schniers have a home studio! Diane jokes that she and Al worked the past year and a half, 3 hours on and four weeks off, before finally coming up with a finished product.

The disc has whimsical songs like "Fly On The Wall," love songs like "Winooski," and touching ballads like "Waterfall," and "Cloud 9." However, one thing that can definitely be said about the entire disc is that the songs are intensely personal and you come away from it thinking that you've known Diane Schnier for years. She really puts her heart and soul into her music. This CD was a nice change of pace from the stuff that I usually listen to like, like, let me think for a second, like moe. for example. And the more I listen to "Before Cowboys" the more I like it. The Schniers have their own website and you can hear some of the tracks by logging on to www.alschnier.com/diane. So check it out for yourself and see if you like it as much as I did.

*** 1/2

- Bill Harriman

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KEB' MO'
*"Peace...Back by
Popular Demand"*
Okeh/Epic Records

Keb' Mo', aka Kevin Moore, has a remarkable resume of music. His records continuously score high in content, in production, in overall listen-ability. It comes as no surprise that this selection of covers titled "Peace... Back by Popular Demand" meets all expectations of quality.

The timing of the record is not coincidental. The election is a month away, and all sorts of folks are expressing a point of view. In Mo's view, the paramount question revolves around peace. That is not to be confused with questions about war. His song "Talk," the only non-cover, asks a simple question with no simple answer: "why don't we talk to each other?"

The remaining inspired collection of covers is an excellent example of creative instrumentation. New instruments on the songs include mandolins, violins, trombones, and all sorts of percussion not typically found on a Keb' Mo' record. The CD opens with the anthem penned by Stephen Stills, "For What It's Worth," and ends with John Lennon's, "Imagine." It

is particularly nice to hear an update of the Marvin Gaye song, "What's Happening Brother."

This is a courageous CD, much like Steve Earle's release and the new Green Day CD. The songs obviously are included to make a piercing statement. Three years ago, such a statement would have been received with all the warmth of Leona Helmsley doing jail time.... As welcome as the collection may have been then to the necessary debate, it is equally welcome today. The sentiments expressed are widespread and more and more folks are asking the same thing (to quote Mo's song, 'Talk') "Why don't we talk to each other, understand one another, talk to each other, that's all."

- Saba

STEVE EARLE
*"The Revolution
Starts...Now"*
Artemis Records

Does Steve Earle ever make a bad, no, even an average, record? Does he, in fact, ever write a bad or boring song?

The answer, with his newest release, continues to be "definitely not." "Revo-

lution," operating two-thirds in the vein of his political, "stand up and fight" songs and one-third love songs, is another magnificent release from easily one of the handful of the finest songwriters performing in popular music today.

Earle's music has always had an edge, but the inspired addition of the brilliant guitarist Eric "Roscoe" Ambel, founder of the lamented but not forgotten Del Lords, raises the musical bar still another notch for the Dukes, Earle's longtime backing band.

As with any Earle record, each track is distinct, but fits into the whole. The most scathing are "F the CC," (complete with a new version of the "Fish Cheer"), and "Condi, Condi," a skewered love song, if there can be such a thing, to national security adviser Condoleeza Rice. Yet, Earle's softer side enriches "Comin' Around," a duet with the incomparable Emmylou Harris, and "I Thought You Should Know."

For Earle, "The Revolution Starts....Now," and the great songwriting and performing continues.

- Mark T. Gould



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John Kerry Continued

est one percent of the population of their tax burden for the sake of the rest of us, and that he is polluting the air we breathe for the sake of our economy, and that he is decreasing the safety regulations for coal mines to save the coal miners' jobs, and that he is depriving workers of their time-and-a-half benefits for overtime because this is actually a way to honor them by raising them into the professional class.

And then there is the fear factor. No. Not the TV show.... The Bush election strategy. The current administration of Bush, number 43, has done a great job to insure that each and every one of us never forgets 9-11. Heck, they have presented 9-11 as a reason for every action and reaction in the three years post that tragic day. Unemployed? 9-11. No health insurance? 9-11. Investments tanked? 9-11. Air quality bad? 9-11. Civil liberties violated or suspended? 9-11. Two and Three dollar a gallon gas? 9-11. 9-11 has gone from a tragic act to a political strategy, and no one, and I mean no one ought to be rewarded for running on the ghosts of dead people.

A vote for Bush is a vote for fear. Any one out there wish to acknowledge that they voted for fear?

A vote for Kerry is a vote to repeal the dark shadow of the current Executive Branch. It is a vote that expresses a fundamental human value: that we are a visionary and pioneering people. We are a people, who do not cower in fear, yet rather a people who will rise beyond tragedy and find a better way to carry on. We are a people who need not be reminded not to forget, like some little school child, yet, we are a people who have the wit to remember.

We remember that this country was founded and forged in much more hostile times. As a nascent nation we were confronted by enemies within and from without on a consistent basis. We remember the American way was not one of fear but of courage. We remember that the most courageous of acts is not to make war with your enemy, but to find a lasting solution insuring war is not repeated. We remember that we have a sacred duty to hand down it to our grandchildren a place in better shape than however we found it. We remember a time of decency, regardless of party in power. We remember when a candidate for the highest office in the land ran on a record and was held accountable. We remember a time beyond empty phrases, sound bites and slogans where a candidate ran on a platform that was visionary, not on a national tragedy, not on the souls of the departed.

Bush must be defeated. Not because he snorted cocaine. Not because he failed to serve his country in a war time effort. Not because he barely managed a C average thru all of his post high school education. Not because, nepotism is an alien force in our pluralistic society. Not because he has squandered the peace dividend on his own agenda. Not because he continues to insult the electorate with lies and with cover-ups. Not because he despises science and cannot find a way to say no to powerful lobbyists including the religious right wing fanatics out there.

Bush must be defeated because, this is **our** great country. Not a country owned by corporations and fronted by politi-

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cians. He must be defeated because the greater cause is the viability of the republic. He must be defeated because your children and your dreams are much more important than his own personal agenda.

On 02 November, you have an opportunity to take back your inalienable rights. Vote for John Kerry and John Edwards. We are not better off today than we were four years ago. We are not freer. We are not safer. In your hearts and minds you know this to be true. For all of you outside of the solid Bush Incorporated 25%, this is your opportunity for courage. It is the time to wrest back the country from corporate special interests and ill sanctioned politico's. And to insure that this great country remains truly the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave!

We urge you to vote for John Kerry on 02 November. Thank you.

- Saba



COVER STORY CONTINUED

matter what the atmosphere or circumstances, they will always put their all into the performance. They are that band whose fans will anticipate the show for weeks before, and after seeing them, will rave about it for weeks after. They are the type of band they admired as kids, and in a music industry that sometimes strays from the music, it is refreshing to know there is a band out there that lives for it.

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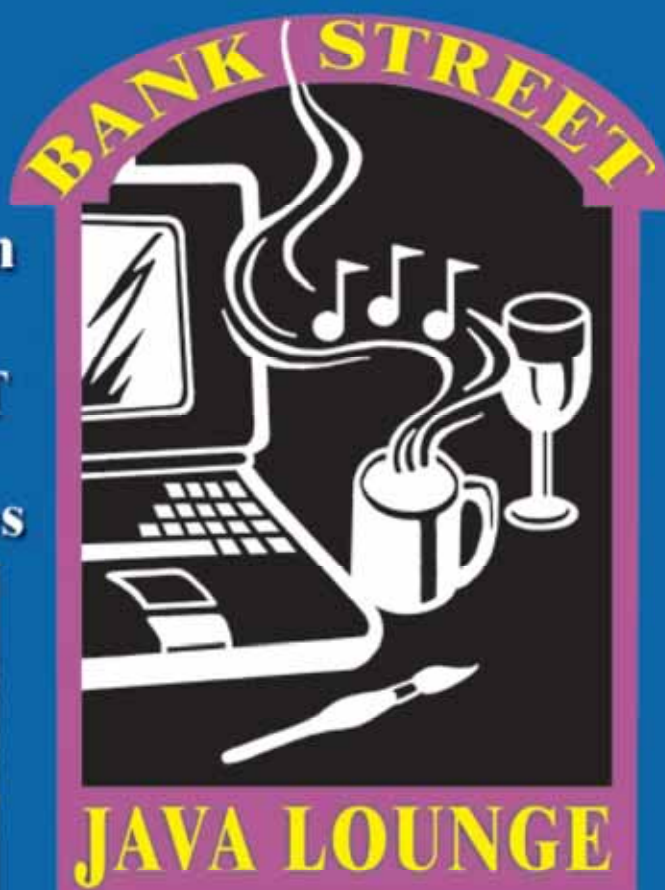
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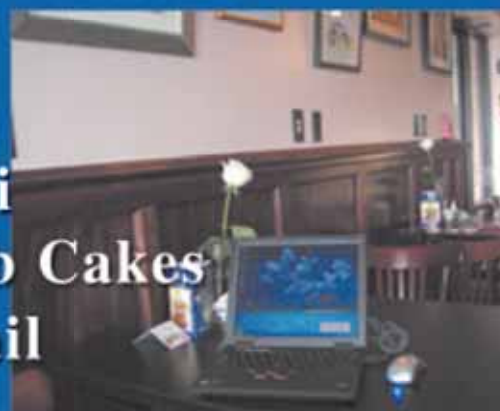
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