

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

Sound Waves

Volume 19

Issue 5

February 2009

CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS & MORE

An Interview
With

MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE

Southern New England's
Leading Entertainment & Dining Guide

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FRIDAY

SATURDAY

6
WICKED PEACH
ROCK GODS

**MIND, BODY
& SOUL**
(FEAT. ANDRE)
R&B HAPPY HOUR

7

1800
ALT ROCK
LOUD & PROUD

13
SuGaR
FUNK, HIP HOP
DISCO, R&B

SUNDAY GRAVY
CLASSIC ROCK
HAPPY HOUR

14

VERTIGO
VALENTINES PARTY
TRAVEL & JEWELRY
PRIZES

20
HARD KNOXX
THEY'RE BAACK!

MELAENA
GOOD TIME ROCKIN'
HAPPY HOUR

21

**FLOWERS
& KAIN**
THROW YOUR
"L'S UP!!

27
**FROM JERSEY
WITH LOVE**
HIGH ENERGY
PARTY BAND

JAY DEMPSEY
NEW COUNTRY
HAPPY HOUR

28

SIREN
HITS FROM THE
80'S & BEYOND

**MONDAY NIGHTS
& WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**
CENTER STAGE KARAOKE
w/Mike Mrazik 9pm

TUESDAY NIGHTS
PUB QUIZ NIGHT at STASH'S
FREE TO PLAY - 7pm
Form a Team or Play Solo Hosted by
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THURSDAY IS
Wii NIGHT!
PLAY GUITAR HERO,
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Check out our Late Night Menu
HAPPY HOUR BUFFET
Every Thursday & Friday

Stash's Cafe
Happy Hour
Fridays!

6-9pm

FRIDAY 6th
MIND, BODY
& SOUL

FRIDAY 13th
SUNDAY
GRAVY

FRIDAY 20th
MELAENA

FRIDAY 27th
JAY DEMPSEY
& HIGHWAY CALL

6-9pm

VALENTINE'S
DAY

SATURDAY ~ FEBRUARY 14th

Dinner for 2 Specials



Music by **VERTIGO**

Jewelry ~ Travel ~ Spa ~ Lingerie
Gift Package Prizes

 DAYTONA 500

SUNDAY ~ FEBRUARY 15th

22 TV's ~ 2-10' Projection Screens
Race Day Specials

STASH' CAFE
WII Bowling League

SUNDAY NIGHTS

See Mark or Graham for Details!

Friday February 27th



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WITH LOVE

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11:30 ~ 4:00 Lunch
Sun-Thurs
4:00 ~ 10:00 Dinner
Fri-Sat 4-11

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1 Block from the flagpole, across from the beautiful Mystic River!

HAPPY HOUR M~F 3-6

Free Wings & Discount Beers

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Monday TOMMY G	Wine Tastings Every Tuesday Night <i>(Seats must be purchased in advance)</i>	Check out our menu & more at www.mysticriverwalk.com	
⁴ GRAHAM & BRANDON	⁵ RON DRAGO	⁶ SHAWN TAYLOR	⁷ DAVE LAUDON DUO
¹¹ SUE MENHART	¹² CHRISTOPHER JOHN	¹³ JAMES HARRIS	¹⁴ RON DRAGO
¹⁸ CHRISTOPHER JOHN	¹⁹ RON DRAGO	²⁰ PHIL NEWLAND & CHUCK DAVIS	²¹ DAVE LAUDON DUO
²⁵ GOPHER BROKE	²⁶ DAN STEVENS	²⁷ JAMES HARRIS	²⁸ THE SHARKS

INSIDE THE WAVE

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



MADD

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Sound Waves

February 2009
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 5

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CONCERT DATES

Aaron Lewis

28 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

B.B. King/Buddy Guy

18 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI

Barefoot Truth

18 - Johnson & Wales, Providence, RI

Barry Manilow

11 - Dunkin' Donuts Cntr, Providence, RI

Chris Duarte Group

26 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT

Eric Sardinas

28 - Black-Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT

Jewel

6 - Fox Theatre, Mashentucket, CT

John Hammond

27 - Chan's, Woonsocket, RI

Johnny Winter

7 - Wolf Den, Mashentucket, CT

Kid Rock

14,15 - MGM Grand, Mashentucket, CT

The Pretenders

7 - Fox Theatre, Mashentucket, CT

Richie Havens

8 - Bushnell, Hartford, CT

Ryan Adams

20 - Shubert Theater, New Haven, CT

Shemekia Copeland

21 - Wolf Den, Mashentucket, CT

3 Doors Down

27 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT



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February 2009
 11 thru 19

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9 Oscar-worthy films
 on the giant screen...

The Dutchess

WED., February 11
 7:30pm PG-13/105 Min
 Life of 18th century aristocrat,
 Duchess of Devonshire.

Rachel Getting Married

R/116 min
 THURS., February 12
 7:30pm R/116 min
 An estranged daughter returns
 home for her sister's wedding.

Dark Knight

FRI., February 13
 7:30pm PG-13/152 min
 Batman sets out to dismantle the
 criminal organizations that
 plague the city streets.

Vicky Cristina Barcelona

SAT., February 14
 7:30pm PG-13/96 min
 A beguiling tragicomedy, with
 beautiful views of the Spanish
 city and a well-matched cast.

Reel Love: ♥

A NL Main Street Fundraiser \$25
 Film, dessert & wine reception
 with silent and live auctions.

Changeling

R/140 min
 SUN., February 15 3pm
 A woman confronts a corrupted
 LAPD after her son is abducted.

The Visitor

7:30pm
 MON., February 16

Frozen River

7:30pm
 TUES., February 17

I've Loved You So Long

7:30pm
 WED., February 18

Happy-Go-Lucky

THURS., Feb 19 7:30pm

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- MONDAYS -

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\$1 Beef Tacos
\$6
Pitchers

- TUESDAYS -

1/2
PRICE
Beef BURRITO
~ \$3.75 ~

- WEDNESDAYS -

\$3 ~ Coronas/Lights
\$4 ~ 16oz Margaritas
\$1.95
Roast Beef Dinner
In House Only

- THURSDAYS -

1/2
PRICE
Chicken BURRITO
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- FRIDAYS -

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HAPPY HOUR
BUFFET
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& More

February 14th
Valentine's Day
Saturday Nite
- Band -

**HARD
KNO**



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HARD KNOXX

VALENTINE' DAY



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- Saturday Night ~ March 7th -

SIREN

- Tuesday ~ March 17th -



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DJ DANNY O - 10pm

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Golden Tee ~ Darts



MUSIC NOTES

"A Footprint In The Sand"

By Mark T. Gould

As a devotee of music who has the rhythms, rhymes and righteousness of rock 'n' roll literally dripping from my soul, I have counted innumerable influences who have shaped my passions for the sound over the years.

Some are clearly bigger and broader than others, that is, your basic Beatles, Rolling Stones, B.B. King, Bruce Springsteen and the like. Some are just as powerful, but unmistakably closer to home, like my parents, the soulful Greg Piccolo, the bluesy Sugar Ray Norcia and others.

But, aside from my folks, I can truly say that it all started with a fellow named Bob Lavalley.

It is, then that I write this column with a proud mixture of joy, wonderful memories and a great degree of delight for a man who probably, no, make that definitely, first opened my eyes to the endless possibilities of this music and its magic, when we were both barely into our teens, and who is now, thankfully and gloriously, finally making it his time in music, with the release of his long-overdue first CD, "It Was You."

Bob's an old friend from Mystic, where we both grew up. We'd lost track of each other for a bit, but he found me through Sound Waves, and noted, within our ensuing e-mail correspondence, that he'd finally released his first album. Naturally, I asked him to send me a copy, and he did. When I put it on and listened to his superb, emotionally-charged voice, spot-on guitar and bass playing, and his moving, yet down to Earth, songs, I thought 'man, oh, man, is this so good, and does he ever deserve it.'

When I say old in relation to Bob and me, I mean old, as in playing Little League baseball together on a team managed by his father (a wonderful, giving man, to whom Bob appropriately dedicates the CD, and he couldn't have made a better choice) with games umpired by my father, type of old. That's how far back we go.

You kind of had to be there to understand Bob's impact, but I have such vivid memories of his influence on all of us at a time where, as he points out in his CD liner notes and press release, we were simultaneously being exposed to, and rejecting the limitations we saw and heard, in our parents' music, as we made it, well, like the man said, "our time."

"My dad's records were the most influential because I would spend hours drifting off to sleep while the record changer in the hi-fi dropped one 45rpm after another,"

Bob remembered, in a recent interview. "The song styles, the lyrics, from all the best people, were imbedded in my psyche."

Back then, hell, even now, I was the pretender, and Bob, as his splendid new album clearly shows, was the real thing. I struggled with drums and guitar in a garage band, literally in my next door neighbor's garage, when, strange for the time, Bob began by initially copping Herb Alpert licks on the trumpet. He was good enough that, around the time of what we then called junior high school, he was simultaneously named to the School Band of America, sort of the musical equivalent of an athlete being named an All-America, and was given detention by our less than tolerant teachers for practicing too loudly outside the school during class time.

"My Grandpa Bill had the album 'Going Places', (and) I remember the bi-plane with Herb on the wing with his trumpet, an ear-to-ear grin, and a shapely leg in a fish-net stocking and high heels. I was there." Bob said. " (It was 'rent me a trumpet, Mom, I wanna learn'".

I remember that Bob always looked determined when he blew that horn, even at so young an age, and judging from the photo inside his CD case, he's still looking, and sounding, that way now.

But even stronger winds of change were blowing. I recall one day, probably around '68 or so, when Bob got off the school bus with a very new look. We were still quite young, and totally influenced by our folks, which meant trousers, button-down shirts and tie shoes for school.

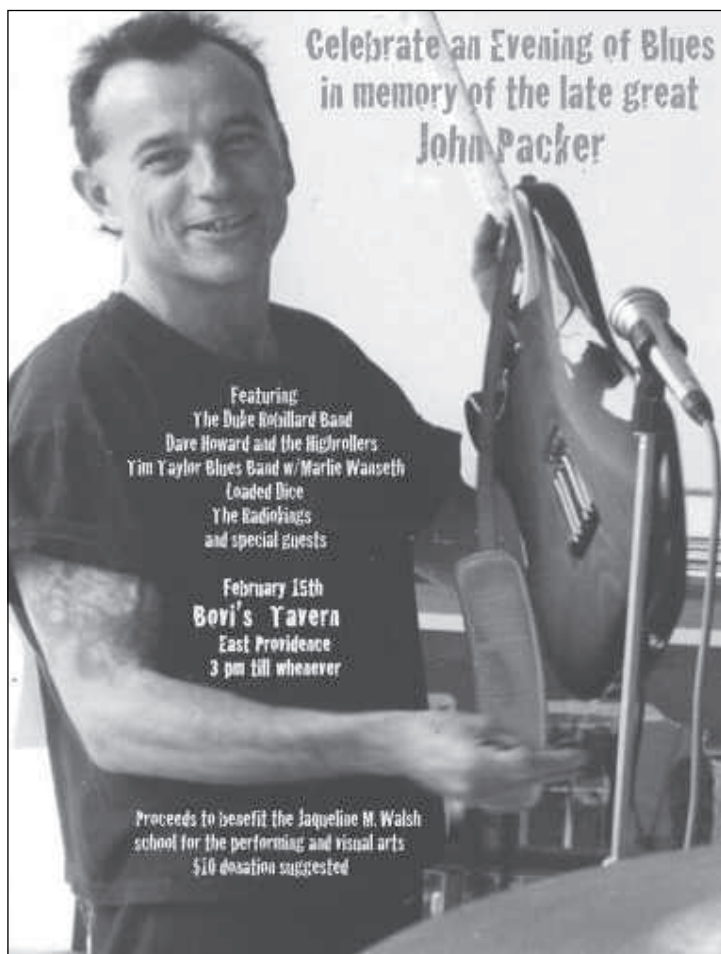
Not this day, though. Bob walked in, looking as determined as ever, but this time he was wearing blue jean bell bottoms, a tie-dye shirt and boots. I remember not long after that he traded in his trumpet for a bass guitar, and Alpert for some guys named Clapton and Hendrix.

"The trumpet was great, but at 16 there isn't much to do with it outside school," he recalled. "A guitar, though, can be your own accompaniment. I went into a Woolworth store and picked out my first three rock albums. 'Led Zeppelin I,' (Hendrix's) 'Are You Experienced' and 'In A Gadda Da Vida.' I was instantly transformed."

Whoa. The counterculture was marching through our little burg of Mystic, and our best musician was leading the charge. Soon, I was bugging my parents for bell bottoms, tie-dyes and boots. And, like I said, I tried, man, did I try, to be a musician like Bob. More importantly, I listened, really listened, to Clapton, Hendrix and all the others that shaped our new time.

On that day, Bob set off a chain reaction that continues to shape my existence. Now, at the ripe age of 53, I still can't carry a tune, but I remain hopelessly, completely, emotionally bonded to popular music, and its infinite promises and possibilities. And, now, it just feels right that the friend who set off this chain reaction in me is finally getting his due.

"I just write an honest pop/rock song, hopefully with a catchy lyric and a groove," Bob said. "It was a long year, but I knew I had enough experience under my belt to make a good record. I learned a lot in the studio and hope to apply the knowledge to a second CD if I ever get



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East Providence
3 pm till whenever

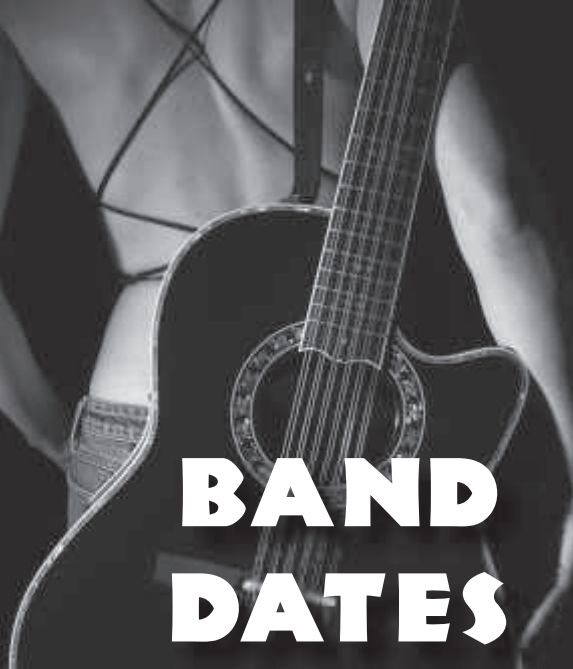
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BAND DATES

ALTER EGO

14 - Junes Pub, Killingworth, CT

BOTTOM DRAWER

14 - Christopher's, Groton, CT

THE BUZZ

7 - Club Nostalgia, Warwick, RI
21 - Christophers, Groton, CT

THE CARTELLS

7 - French Club, Jewett City, CT 6:30
13,27 - Stella Doro, Old Saybrook, CT
14 - Jakes, Wallingford, CT

CHASING BAXTER

21 - Casey's Lounge, Groton, CT
27 - Christopher's, Groton, CT

DANNY WATSON

13 - The Black Sheep, Niantic, CT

DAN STEVENS

6 - Suds Pub, Bethel, ME
7 - Black Bull Tavern, Rockland, ME
12 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
13 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT
15 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT 1-4
19 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
24 - Painted Pony, Bethlehem, CT 7:30
25 - Red Lion, Stockbridge, MA
26 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT 8pm
27 - G. W. Tavern, Washington Depot, CT
28 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT

DARIN KEECH & BAND OF HUMANS

11 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic CT
13 - Pier 27, Mystic, CT
14 - Daniel Packer Inn, Mystic, CT

10 SOUND WAVES

DOGIE & THE COWPIE POACHERS

11,18,25 - Billy Goodes, Newport, RI
12,19,26 - O'Brien's Pub, Newport, RI

DOUBLE FISTED

6 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT
20 - Sneeker's Cafe, Groton, CT
27 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT

DYN-O-MYTE DISCO REVIEW

12 - 39 West, Cranston, RI
21 - The Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA
27 - Geraldines, W. Springfield, MA
28 - Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA

EIGHT TO THE BAR

13 - Maple Tree, Simsbury, CT
14 - Town Hall, W. Hartford, CT
20 - Unitarian, Princeton, NJ
21 - Elks Lodge, W. Warwick, RI
22 - K of C, Wallingford, CT 4-7pm
26 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7pm

FACE FIRST

6 - Bank St. Cafe, New London, CT
12,13 - Legends, Gales Ferry, CT
28 - PJ O'Connors, Preston, CT

THE GOAT ROPERS

6,14 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8pm
27 - Holy Ghost Hall, E. Taunton, MA
28 - Francis Farm, Rehoboth, MA

GOPHERBROKE

6 - School St. Bistro, Westfield, MA 7-11
7 - Cafe on Main, Colchester, CT
11 - Red Lion, Stockbridge, MA
13 - Yarde House, So. Hadley, MA
21 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
25 - Riverwalk Rest., Mystic, CT 8-11
27 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT

GREEN TEA

14 - CC O'Briens, Pawcatuck, CT
27 - Acoustic Cafe, Bridgeport, CT

JAMES HARRIS

10,17,24 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
7,11,18,21,25 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
13,27 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT
20 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

12 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7pm
18 - Fire & Ice, Waterford, CT
27 - Stash's, New London CT 6pm

KEVIN CRANDALL BAND

13 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
14 - Dogwatch Cafe, Stonington, CT

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

14 - Oliver's, Essex, CT

SUE MENHART BAND

6 - Legends, Gales Ferry, CT
11 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8pm
21 - Happy Jacks, Plainfield, CT

SUNDAY GRAVY

13 - Stash's, New London, CT 5:30-8:30
20 - Blackwater Tavern, Exeter, RI
21 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI
26 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

2 CAT ZOO

7 - Harp n' Dragon, Norwich, CT
20 - The Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
27 - Hanafins, New London, CT

VERTIGO

14 - Stash's, New London, CT
21 - Dogwatch Cafe, Stonington, CT

WICKED PEACH

6 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
21 - One Pelham East, Newport, RI
28 - Effin's, Smithfield, RI

WILSON KANE

6,24 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
7 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
12,18,26 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
13,28 - Yummy Yummy, Niantic, CT
14,27 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT

WORLD'S SMALLEST QUARTET

6 - Chacer's Bar, Norwich, CT
7 - Two Doors Down, Moodus, CT
13 - Brookside, Higganum, CT
14 - Legion, Moodus, CT
19 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
20,21 - Elks Club, Westbrook, CT
27 - Franko's, Central Village, CT
28 - Angelico's, E. Hampton, CT

YANKEE DOGS

6 - Village Rest., Woodstock, CT

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February Means NASCAR!

Sat., Feb 7th -The Budweiser Shootout - 8pm

Sun., Feb 15th - **DAYTONA 500!!** 3pm

\$2 Bud/Bud Lt Drafts during Sunday Races!!

GREAT BANDS EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT

7th - **FAT BETTY**

14th - **GREEN TEA**

21st - **THE JAGUARS**

28th - **ALTER EGO**

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Thurs. 12th - **IZZY & MARCI**

Fri. 13th - **CHRIS KASPER**

Tuesday. 17th - **THE SHARKS**

Thurs. 19th - **LEE & ROBB**

Fri. 20th - **KGB**

Tues. 24th ~ 8-11 - **FAT TUESDAY**

WILSON & KANE

Fri. 27th - **KEVIN & HEATHER**

FREE FOOD ~ Mon-Fri HH ~ 4:30

KARAOKE/DJ EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT

Wed. **KARAOKE/TRIVIA** Contest 8-11



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Levena Holmes

MARCH 19TH, 20TH, 21ST

DAYTONA 500

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BATTLE OF THE BANDS

THUR 5th - BATTLE OF THE BAND SEMI FINALS
CURTAIN HITS THE CAST
1/2 SHAVED YAK
SUICIDE DREAM
MERCY FADES

FRI 6th - SUE MENHART BAND AWESOME ROCK
SAT 7th - BURY THE WEAK - METAL FEST

THUR 12th - BATTLE OF THE BAND SEMI FINALS
FACE FIRST
SHRYNE
BURY THE WEAK
TBA

FRI 13th - FACE FIRST and APOCALYPSE HIGHWAY
SAT 14th - TBA HAPPY SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY!
FRI 20th - LOW-FI RADIO STARS - PHENOMINAL BAND
SAT 21st - BATTLE OF THE BAND FINALS
FRI 27th - WHITE ROSE CONFESSION & FLIPSIDE



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FRIDAYS

Border Special

\$2 Drinks

8pm to 12am

From the West Coast

DJ Dondada

10pm to 2am

SATURDAYS

Border Special

\$2 Drinks

8pm to 12am

Chick Night Dance

with DJ JOEY G

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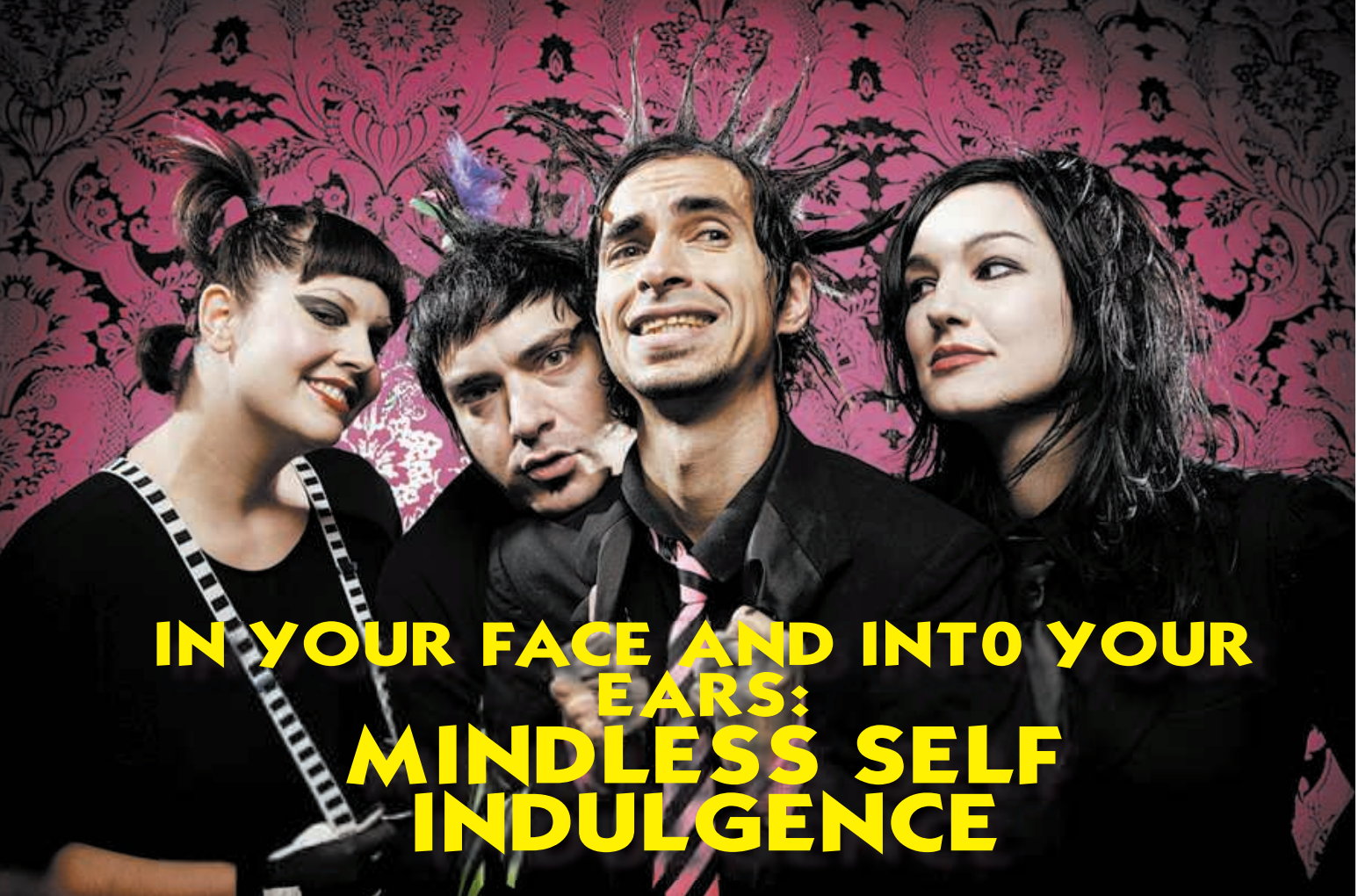
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IN YOUR FACE AND INTO YOUR EARS: MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE

By Rex Rutkoski

Mindless Self Indulgence really doesn't mind if you hate them, assures Little Jimmy Urine, vocalist and programmer for the New York City electro/punk band.

"But we do mind when people who don't get it write it off as a joke band just because we don't take ourselves so seriously," he is quick to add. "When did it become that being serious equals genuine and truthful?"

Enough people certainly are "getting it," though.

Mindless Self Indulgence (MSI), after all, has had two songs at number one and two ("Pay for It" and "On It," respectively, off their latest CD, "If") at the same time on the Billboard Hot Singles chart.

It's said that has not been accomplished since Bright Eyes did it four years ago with "Lua" and "Take it Easy (Leave Nothing)." For good measure, MSI also had a song at number five at the same time that they occupied the top two spots.

Urine is trying not to get too excited about it. "Until I'm swimming in gold I'm never gonna really notice stuff like that because it's all so goal oriented," he says. "You're gonna play a show here at this time and you go play it. You get paid and move on to the next goal. That's the same thing with the singles."

Better than a single, perhaps, is that "Never Wanted to Dance," the opening track of "If," has been selected for "Madden NFL '09," described as "one of the most influential soundtracks in videogame history."

Urine insists the band is motivated by "being able to get

away with s---," and is driven by "money and our huge egos."

"Our strength and weakness are always the same thing," he says. "It's that we are a very unique band with our own form of music that no one else does. And like anything new and unique the powers that be have a hard time applying us to all the categories that came before. A hexagon shape does not fit in a square hole."

That's the beauty of MSI, the music press seems to be saying.

The band, suggests Metal Hammer, is "an antidote to a world that takes itself too seriously," and its music is "as colorful and inventive as it is a provocative soundclash."

This is "co-ed cacophony" at its best, adds Rocksound.

The Village Voice hails MSI as "the most innovative electro-punk band since Atari Teenage Riot."

The Boston Globe praises the band's "bratty spirit..and in-your-face sound and persona."

It is no less than "freakishly fun," adds All Music Guide.

It resonates, Urine believes, "because we say and do whatever we want." "We don't kowtow to radio or MTV. We just have to make ourselves happy. We live by our own examples and our own mistakes," he says.

All of which brings Mindless Self Indulgence to today.

"We seem to be at the 'Who is this Mindless Self Indulgence?' part of our career," he says, "which is silly because we have been here for 10 years and our fans have been here for 10 years. So if you're just tuning in, you're

the one who's late."

He is not surprised MSI has made an impact. "Because we made something people want to either hate or love," he reasons.

He offers this as his "resume" - "I hate music and the trappings of all the clichés that go along with it, and I'm here to tell you don't have to deal with a band acting like a f----- 'band.' And to anyone wanting to do music I would say find another career. The music business is the worst in the world. If I was as good at doing something else I would have quit a long time ago."

The music business has been going downhill for 15 years, he adds. "It will turn into something else completely than what we all grew up with," he predicts. "What I think is so funny is that people still think it's this wonderful rock star dream like it's 1977 or some s---."

As to what he hopes people might take from the music of Mindless Self Indulgence, Urine says, "I hope they think for themselves and take what they want from it all. It's not my job to teach them or tell them what to do."

He is equally frank when asked if he wants MSI's music to give people hope and to encourage them to remain optimistic amidst the challenges of life. "I'm not here to save them or give them anything," he insists. "Some of them will die. Some will do drugs. Some will go to jail. Some will turn out OK. Some will be famous. Some will be losers. It's called life."

And his vision of life is what he writes about as the band's lyricist. "I'm inspired by that fact that I can really write about anything I want to because I'm in a band where I don't have to censor myself," Urine explains.

The creative process for the band has not changed much, he says. "Sometimes I go out of my way to make writing a song interesting, like writing a song online with all the fans. But for the most part the songwriting process has been the same."

Those fans, by the way, are people "who are sick of the same old rock'n'roll cliché bullshit," he says.

What can people expect who are seeing MSI live for the first time?

Urine: "Let's turn that (question) around. What do I expect? I expect people to dress the f--- up, do whatever the f--- they want, bring me presents and not be boring or I'm gonna get them."

First time concert goers will learn "that we are as crazy and kinetic and sexy as our music," he says.

"Every night we do different s--- and take our lives into our own hands," he adds. "I hate bands that just stand there and play. We want to entertain ourselves as well as you. Unless we do that, it's f----- boring up there."



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Music Notes Continued

the chance.

"I plan to work all these angles to target a middle age market that literally needs a role model, to show them that there is life after 50," he added.

"We were the generation that was going to change the world. What happened? It got worse. Time to wake up people. My next CD will address some of the issues," he said.

"Has there ever been a middle-age heart throb? There's a market for anything if you've got the right team," he added. "At this point in my life, I just want the music out there. I want to leave a footprint in the sand and be remembered as a good guy."

I just pray that Bob Lavalley doesn't stop at this one CD. There's a world of talent in him, just like what was evident in that young kid blowing his horn on the Mystic Junior High School stair well. So, here's to the start of a long career.

Good guy? Yes, but he's also a great and influential guy. I'm living proof of that. Thanks, Bob, for turning me on to the infinite potential, promise and possibilities of this music that, in our time, we've come to call our own.

"It Was You" is available from www.boblavalleymusic.com and from www.myspacemusic.com/boblavalley. You can also catch Bob on the road with the band Slyk at local clubs.

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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Wow, how 'bout that snow? Global warming my ass.... obviously no one was around to see my chicken's eggs freeze solid the moment they dropped outta "sally" (one of my 8 chickens....named after my grandmother's that have passed away). The cold and snow have been almost unbearable. And the weather has also done it's best to put a damper on my wanderings. But for you, my sweet barflies, well, you know, i'll do almost anything!

My first jaunt of the month was to Margarita's. We've been going there since the days of the King-Tais in the big juice jars. Hey old-timers, remember those? Back in the day, young ones, the object of drinking was to get drunk and the bars intentionally tried to do that....anyway, I had a strawberry margarita...not quite a King-Tai but you take what you can get. The music up in the bar was blasting and everyone was having a fantastic time, except for the two infants, one at a table on each side of me, who were each, individually, screaming at the top of their lungs....luckily for us, the music drowned them out, but just catching sight of their shrieking pink faces kinda puts a damper on a good time....note to young parents: we know you wanna get out sometimes, but maybe the bar, on a saturday night, with your infant, is not the greatest idea you've ever had.

So, the next leg of my wintry travels brought me back to the "has not failed me yet" DOGWATCH CAFE". I had an absolutely fabulous Cobb Salad with grilled seasoned chicken and may I tell you.....Fabulous! I actually scraped my plate!!! My luncheon partner, Ms. Bonnie Pizza, had the always delicious Dogwatch salad and was also plate scraping. The view out to the Stonington Harbor is truly breathtaking and should be enjoyed at least once by everyone! o much fun.

Well, my next stop this month was a great time at VENICE RESTAURANT for the Fifth Annual Rotary Chowder Fest, on a Saturday afternoon with my youngest son. As usual, it was freezing out and I had worked all morning and knew I was going out that evening, butttt.....for my good friend Ms. Ellen Kallmeyer, well, I had to stop by. And boy, were we both glad we did ! I know you will all find this hard to believe, but I have never been to a Chowder Fest and am not actually very fond of chowder... or at least I wasn't til I went to the Rotary Chowder Fest!! Apparently, I've just never had good chowder. And what a fabulous selection there was!

I believe there were thirteen entries in the Chowder Fest. And yes, I will mention them all. SHELTER HARBOR INN, CLIPPER HOME, WESTERLY HEALTH CENTER (personally I never knew that these two places had such good kitchen and good food coming out of them... who knew?), BAGELS N MORE serving a scrumptious Corn Chowder with cumin and actual bagels, with cream cheese and everything, , ELMRIDGE GOLF offering a very cheesy Chowder...ooohhh, VETRANO'S, MODESTO'S (my favorite...very creamy...yummy), STARBOARD GALLEY (my son's favorite...because the

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woman serving it was very nice to him and told him it was her grandma's secret recipe....he loved it), DEL PONTES, VENICE serving their famous Seafood Chowder, FRA'S, KELLY'S DELI with a Baked Potato Chowder, PIZZA PLACE with my good friend Angela serving a delicious Winter Vegetable Chowder..

The Chowder and numerous accompaniments were just delicious! I am now a bona fide Chowder Lover and would like to congratulate THE CLIPPER HOME for another win....like I said...who knew? My friend Ellen did a fabulous job with the whole thing and looked fabulous job working the room with her ever so handsome son. I know I am definitely going to be at next year's Chowder Fest along with the rest of you, right? Great job by everyone!

Well, as I said, I knew I was going out that night, so I needed to get home, nap, shower and do my thing. Of course, it's another 8 degree night...yeah, just dying to do my hair and go out...Well, I had promised my friend Robin and even though I knew that she was probably herself, hoping I would call and cancel, I wasn't gonna do it. Cold, be damned, I was goin out!! And, of course, I was so glad I did! We started off at AZU. I don't know if any of you realize this, but apparently there are people out there completely immune to the cold and snow and ice. People, even at 11 or 12, walking the streets of Mystic. The place is absolutely HAPPENING! There are people in bars, in coffee houses, in pizza places and in restaurants. And even though our absolutely stunning waitress Michelle informed us that it was slow, I was happy to see businesses booming(?) (maybe a little) during these hard economic times.

Dinner was fantastic! They have an Eggplant Tower with goat cheese and some type of cinnamon glaze that I cannot wait to go back and order again. I honestly can not stop thinking about it! The drinks, of course were unbelievable! Mine....a Cosmo (again....who knew?) Robin's....an Attitude Adjustment...loved that...actually a Margarita, but with a name like Attitude Adjustment well, how can you resist? Apparently both drinks worked quite well for our attitudes and after saying good-bye to the lovely Michelle, we were on our way to our next stop!

Enter VOODOO GRILL KARAOKE with Paul from A&M KARAOKE! Good God, people, get out there! What a fun nite! The place is pretty small and packed full of beautiful people, so it took us awhile to get a table, but thanks to my friend Ed from ADAMS GARDEN OF EDEN, along with his wife Sue and their daughter Cassandra (our adorable bartender) we finally were able to sit down. Never have I heard such a strange selections of Karaoke songs. Talking Heads (don't know the name of the song) Boston from the 80's dude and his friend standing in front of us. You know skin tight, high waisted cargo pants are sooo 80's and his ass was in front of us for a good hour and a half. But what a good job everyone did! Really! and even if you weren't so good the crowd was adoring! I mean everyone there was fantastic. War pigs guy.....War pigs girl (yes...I did hear two different versions of Black Sabbath's WarPigs at two different times that evening). Really cool! I also heard that the War Pigs

guy was an old school friend of mine, Jimmy Winslow..... Hi, Jimmy, didn't recognize you!

Our new Best Friends Jason and Wendy, who were actually with two other people, but we didn't really get to chat with them due to the tight seating, did a not so fabulous version of Johnny Cash's Jackson. But they MORE than redeemed themselves with other songs like Santeria and a Christina Aguilera song (God, how I wish I could read my writing the next day). Anyways, fabulous time.... 4 stars and all that.....will definitely be going back again. Our cute server Wayne was fabulously attentive and made everything go smoothly....I recommend him too!

Well, as you can see, I kept my part of the bargain. I definitely made it out more than usual and am glad I did, because I had such a good time at each place! Let's see what we can do during the month of February. I know that February 7th is a benefit at the Pawcatuck VFW for a good friend of mine Slim Brennan, who's up at Rhode Island Hospital with some serious health issues. Slim, we are all praying for you! I hope to see EVERYONE there!

On a much happier note, I was so happy to hear from two old friends of mine Steve Lamb and Christopher Post (apparently a SEAHORSE hanger outer) by email. HI GUYS!!! I really am so happy when someone writes and I hope to hear from more of you this month....ciao for now and as always barfly2u2@yahoo.com if you're bored and lonely!!!

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