

# ZZ Top are outlaws of rock 'n' roll

by Tina Lyttle  
Staff Reporter

Rock veterans ZZ Top rolled into Las Vegas on Saturday, Nov. 24 on their Recycler Tour. Once again, the multi-talented and humorous trio from Texas cleaned house in an unusual way. Guitarist Billy Gibbons, bassist Dusty Hill and drummer Frank Beard provided large-scale entertainment by combining dancing and humor with each song.

The outlandish set-up of stockpiled cars and TV sets provided interesting visual effects. An escalator that moved to the left and right of the stage put excitement in the show when member strutted on it.

Dressed in white suits and cheap sunglasses and sporting those full-faced beards ZZ Top is known for, Gibbons and Hill began their synchronized movements to numerous toe-tapping tunes.

"Sleeping Bag" started off their list of hits, while "Sharp Dressed Man" and "A Fool For Your Stockings" kept up the action. "Ten Foot Pole" was one of

the many sing-a-longs. A spinning disco ball that projected laser lights onto a big screen above the audience was introduced with "Legs." During "Concrete and Steel" a crane scooped up the bearded duo and dropped them in a recycling bin. To the audience's satisfaction, they weren't crushed into small pieces, but instead drove onto the stage in compacted cars.

ZZ Top received a well deserved encore and came out once more to perform "Tube Snake Boogie" and "Tush." Closing the night of musical goodies wrapped in first-class delivery, fireworks exploded as a car toppled over the stage. The show ended with a bang.

Amidst the excitement of ZZ Top, The Jeff Healey Band proved to be great openers. Jeff Healey, a blind singer, songwriter and guitar player, was led to a chair in the middle of the stage where he remained seated for most of the set.

Songs played from their first album included "Confidence Man," a top 10 rock hit, and "Hideaway," a powerful instru-



Yell Photo / Matt Dovel

ZZ Top - The Texas trio slammed out new and old tunes during their recent Las Vegas concert.

mental piece. From "Hell to Pay," Healey's second LP, he played "Full Circle," perhaps the band's hardest rock tune, along with the sweet emotion of "I Think I Love You Too Much."

"While My Guitar Gently Weeps" captured the audience's

attention while a jam session set, Healey seemingly gazed into the lights while displaying his unique musical talent.

Throughout the end of the heart.

His performance proved that eyes aren't necessary to see music — it comes straight from the heart.

## Jeff Healey Band "Hell to Pay" but better for it

by Tina Lyttle  
Staff Reporter

Returning from the success of their debut album, "See The Light," The Jeff Healey Band is back to stir up action. To support their second Arista release, "Hell To Pay," they have begun their first U.S. arena tour as ZZ Top's special guests.

In a recently taped interview, Jeff Healey said he felt optimistic about the new album and tour and that "recent fame hasn't changed my insight into music."

"Hell To Pay" is definitely a progression into a fuller sound, and Healey said, "This album shows growth through time between the band members."

What sets them apart from other bands?

"It's that we base our music on improvised spontaneous sounds from each member incor-

porating his own style," Healey said. By topping the charts, this unique group has proven successful.

"Hell To Pay" captures the heart of rock with an underlying blues feel. The trio's songs range from the harder edge of "Full Circle," the latest release, to the acclaimed rendition of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." When asked why they decided to record it, Healey said, "It was natural. We've been doing it since we began. We didn't plan on having George Harrison on the album, so it worked out great."

Healey, overcoming the setbacks from being blind at an early age, is perfecting his style of playing the guitar on his lap like a piano. This has made him popular in the media, but he said he feels it shouldn't be an important aspect of his playing.



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ZZ Top - Wows the crowd with bluesy rock sound.



The Jeff Healey Band

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