

Endless Mindless offer 'aggressive progressive' alternative

by Tricia Romano

When the members of Endless Mindless first started creating music together, they played with all acoustic guitars and lead singer Russel Rader would make up nonsense lyrics by ear. More Endless Mindless, as they were called back then, were into music for the fun of it.

Now one less word and three drummers later, music has become the center of their lives. Endless Mindless first started about two years ago, when Rader and guitarist John Mendicino played together in a punk/blues outfit called The Watkins Drive Project Blues Review Featuring Some Guy Named John From Cleveland, Ohio. After kicking it around on the Las Vegas music scene, they disbanded and Mendicino and Rader hooked up with bassist Rick Duarte.

Over the years, the band's sound has evolved from the strange acoustical, tongue-in-cheek bits, to a psychedelic surreal sound, and eventually, to what they are today. Endless Mindless combines the computerized drumming sound of the early '80s (provided by drummer

Bruce Gonyea Jr.) with hard-edged rock 'n' roll guitar and funky bass lines. Added to that is Rader's stylistic vocals. It is a sound that the band has dubbed as "aggressive progressive."

"I think that we are a progressive band in that we don't necessarily adhere to what rock 'n' roll is right now. I think that we are a rock-based band, but we allow ourselves the ability to branch out into other things," Rader said.

The band's sound points to the band members influences. The names Yes, Pink Floyd and David Gilmour were all regularly mentioned as having an effect on the music of Endless Mindless.

"I think Pink Floyd hits more of our whole band. More than anything else, they have a "big" sound and that's what we're trying to achieve," Rader said.

As individuals, the members of Endless Mindless have very different and separate influences. Rader, noted Jim Morrison's dark poetry and Trent Reznor's Nine Inch Nails as his favorites. Rader's lyrics, however, are unlike Morrison's and Reznor's; he deals not with dark mysteries, but rather with the hu-

man condition as he sees it. Gonyea Jr. points to drummers Terry Bozio and Phil Collins as his blueprints for his drumming style. At the young age of 23, Gonyea probably holds the record for the number of bands he has joined, 10.

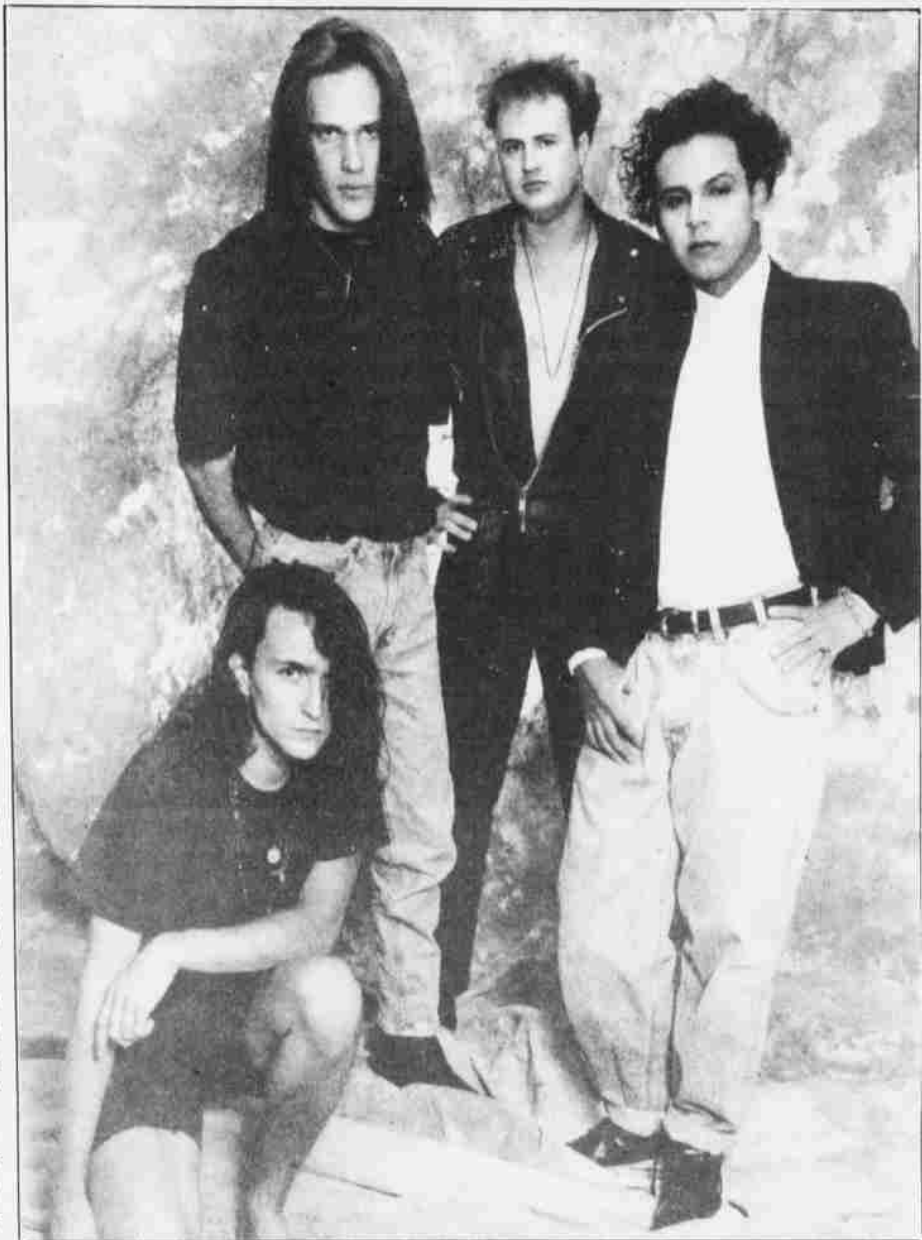
On the flip side is Duarte, for whom Endless Mindless is his first band. Duarte, who draws from players in Rush, David Gilmour, says that he also listens to some heavy metal music. "I listen more to the production of the entire music... Some heavy metal... like I like Nirvana, Alice In Chains and Def Leppard."

Mendicino, who at 25 is the oldest member of the band, started playing guitar 10 years ago. He started out playing to AC/DC riffs and has since turned to the blues.

"I just kind of have a philosophy on playing that it's better to play so that you can get the feeling across," said Mendicino.

While all four members do work full-time, only Mendicino has found the time to continue schooling at UNLV. The rest of the band has put school on hold for now.

As for their future career in music, they have al-



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ready put their foot in the door. They printed up packets and sent them out along with a three-song demotape

to record companies. They are currently looking to set up a mini-tour in Vegas clubs.

As for their music, Mendicino sums up Endless Mindless, simply saying, "It stands on it's own."

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