

# Sharks and Harleys, Pirates and Thieves

by Jonathan Weber

Guitarist Raven Storm was at wits end with the Las Vegas music scene. After being involved with several failed bands, he was ready to move on. His reason for staying—Pirates and Thieves.

"It all started with me and Kryss Turner (keyboards), who I've known for a couple of years," Storm said. "I was getting tired of the Vegas scene...I was ready to leave."

"I saved your ass," Turner offered triumphantly. "I came up to him (Storm) one day and said 'Hey, I've got a guy (lead singer Christopher Kelly) coming up from Milwaukee. Do you want to play?'"

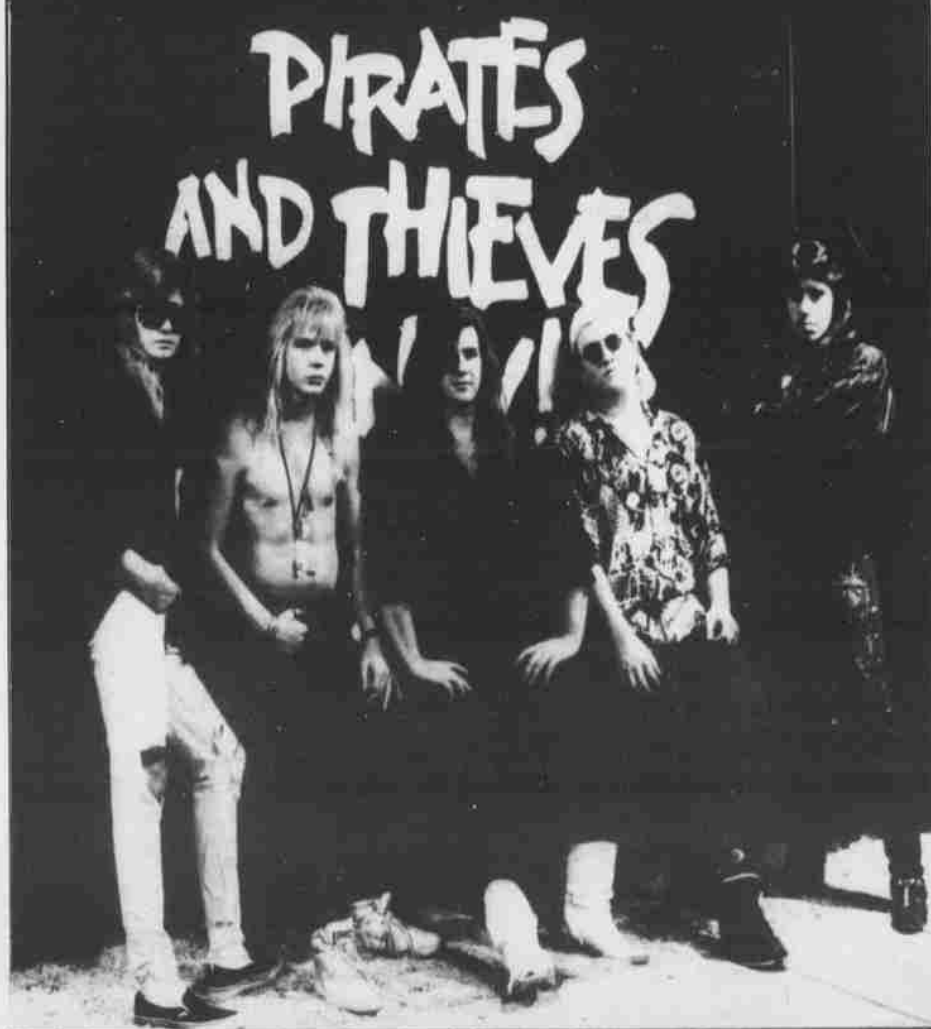
"He's (Turner) the only one I was going to try something with in this town," Storm returned.

Acquiring bassist Paul Landrum from the band Roller, and drummer Ty Turco from Cherry Kiss, the Pirate's crew was ready to sail.

Recently, I caught up with Pirates and Thieves at the Shark Club on Harley Davidson Bike Night. Waiting for Pirates and Thieves to come on stage, the object of the game was staying out of the way of 200 pound men in leather with "Ron's Hog Heaven" written on their backs. Actually, these biker-titans were very pleasant; only the occasional open beer was flung across the bar in good humor for good measure, no harm done.

If only things had been so simple for Pirates and Thieves. No sooner had their energetic opener "Kingdom Come" ended, the tech-

After several failed Las Vegas bands, local guitarist gets going with Pirates and Thieves



Pirates and Thieves: from left to right, Ty Turco, Christopher Kelly, Paul Landrum, Kryss Turner and Raven Storm.

nical troubles began. Unfortunately, Pirates and Thieves could ill-afford the sound problems. Opening that night for Kinky Stunt, they would possibly be seen by RCA scouts who were rumored to be covering the show.

Two songs and a bass-to-amp cord later, Pirates and Thieves jammed as though nothing had happened. Recovering from the temporary pause in action, blond frontman Kelly grabbed the mic and let the crowd have their Pirate

cover of Zeppelin's "Rock & Roll."

Talk about upper register. Kelly had everyone in the house hiding their crystal. Holding down co-guitar duties opposite Carvin-guitars endorsed Storm, Kelly was impressive.

Storm was a whirlwind of blazing leads. Diverse and extremely melodic, his leads were as fun to listen to as they were to watch. Curiously, this metal axe-man lacked one ingredient common to many who are good and know it—ego.

"A lot of people get into bands to show what they can do—especially guitar players," Storm said. "I have plenty of room to do that kind of thing. The main thing I'm trying to do is add to the song (and) make the band sound good."

A veteran of the Vegas music scene, Storm is no stranger to the trial-and-error process. "We've all been through a million attitudes, a million egos," Storm said of his pre-Pirate years. Band members Turner and Landrum nodded in agreement.

"Sooner or later, we'll be working up to the Top Ramen level," quipped Turner in respect to the band's struggle for success.

The sum of these personalities and talents was a tight sound. The years should smooth the rough edges since the current Pirate lineup is all of one month old.

Looking to the future, Storm and the Pirates have their work cut out for them.

"We want to shake things up here," Storm said.

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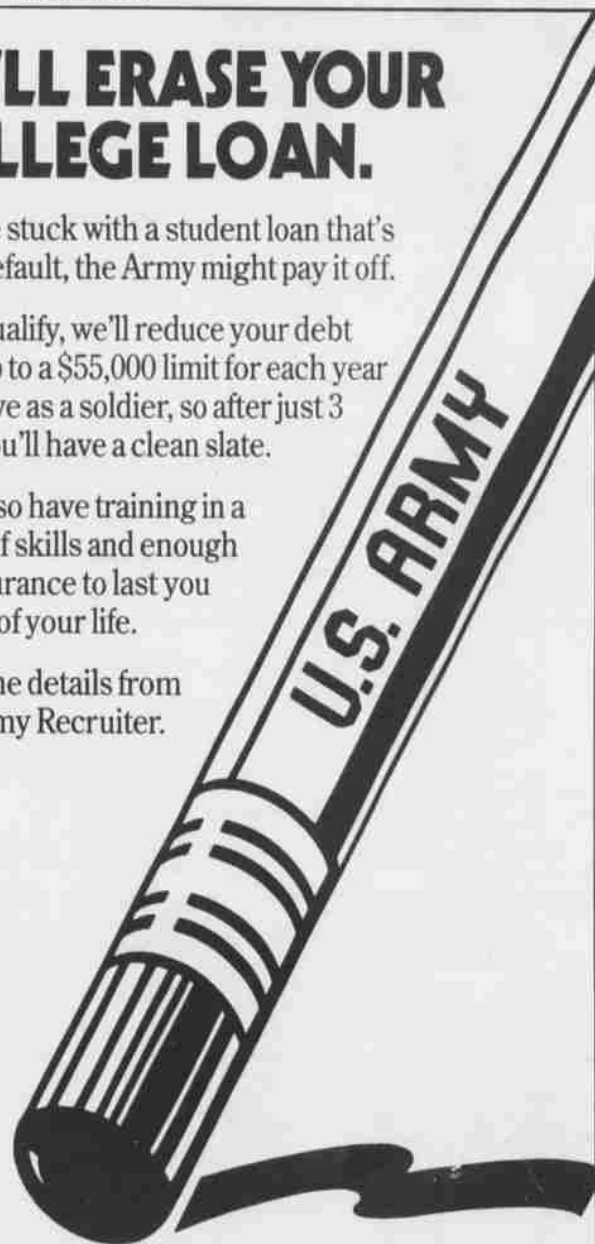
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