

Ariel View - An overview of the Las Vegas scene

BY ARIEL-STAFF WRITER

Creedle- What the heck is it?

When *Tripping Daisy* (who rules) played Favorites on Sunday night, they had an opening band called **Creedle** who a lot of people had never heard of. Well, meet **Creedle**. They are a more than interesting group of people.

This San Diego band is comprised of five guys and a 45-year-old ex-housewife named Scraps who doesn't look a day over 25, if that.

They've played Las Vegas twice before which is no great surprise since guitarist Devon E Levins used to live here (he even played in a local band). Also, Levins wants everyone to know that "Personal Regrets rule!"

Recently, **Creedle** got a new tour bus. Yep, it's an old school bus loaded with all the essentials. You know, diet soda and canned ravioli. They say that Chef Boy-ardee is sponsoring this tour. Sure he is! If only they had a can opener. Oh, and there's a "no oatmeal on the road" clause, too. Don't ask.

Creedle's album is called *Half Man, Half Pie* which is curious since their singer's name is Pieboy. So, what's with this Marie Calendar obsession? Levins answers, "our songs deal with mathematical equations. 'Pie' is actually 'Pi.'" That sounds logical.

Now, just to give you a glimpse inside the minds of **Creedle** (which are scary places) this question was asked... "What was the last thing you each mail ordered?" Answers: Magma CD's, mint condition *Star Wars* figures (R2D2 rules), an alternative lifestyles film called

Switch Hitters and a subscription to *Sassy* (because Ed McMahon offered ten million dollars).

Is it all becoming clear now? This question from the movie *Heathers* was then posed. On the day that you get the check from Ed McMahon, aliens land on the Earth and say they are going to blow it up in 24 hours. What do you do with the money? After a chorus of "buy dope" Levins declares that he would "open a practice room for the Las Vegas bands." It would also be a club, so that the bands could actually have a place to perform. Of course, it would only be for 24 hours, but still, it's a pretty good idea.

These guys then started talking about one of the world's greatest bands. **Ween!** Trumpet player and videographer (?) Pepe is the **Ween** expert of the band. He worships them (as everyone should).

Levins pipes in, "We have a special bond with **Ween** because of the two 'e's' in the middle of our names."

After idle discussion of whether the beer would be free, they talked about their stage show. They say they have a Baby Grand on stage and there are page turners for them because they read the music as they play. Well, they certainly have a lot going on. But, really, the sheet music wasn't even visible when they performed. Go figure!

Their tour started here in Las Vegas and is taking them to the Midwest. Their music is totally loud. Even if you don't like loud music, you must check them out. They are a major trip!

So, now you've been formally introduced. Their shows are black tie events, so rent a tux next time they play and waltz or something.

Paris Green- Who the heck are they?

Paris Green. Their name has certainly gotten around although they have played few gigs in the year and a half that they've been together. But, alas, they are another cool local band and are comprised of Mike Zabriskie, bass and vocals; Darren Reeves, drums; and Justin Saragoza, guitar.

Unlike most of the Las Vegas bands, **Paris Green's** only native Nevedan is Saragoza. Zabriskie hails from New Mexico while Reeves strolled on down from Washington. Somehow they all met and **Paris Green** was born.

One of the main reasons they don't play often is that they like to play loud; they've even been banned from a few places. According to Reeves, "Justin's guitar playing isn't pretty, but it makes loud sounds." Volume seems to be

the key to **Paris Green**.

Like previous bands featured in "Ariel View," **Paris Green** appear on the *Free Aspirin and Tender Sympathy* CD (which is still available at The Underground). **Scrubs** hooked them up with its producers and "Milkman" was given its place on the CD.

Also, **Paris Green** has a cassette available at Benway Bop (across from UNLV behind Wendy's) that features three of their songs. The cover of the tape has this really cool-looking geometric image. Reeves explains that it is a "bucket wheel for an AA water meter used for measuring stream velocities." Okay. Where the heck did that come from? Actually, Reeves' day job puts him into a geological position and allows him to have such knowledge. They get my vote for most original cover art!

Basically, these are three guys who love playing music and miss vinyl (records, that is). Saragoza mentions that their sets tend to "sound operatic because there are no pauses between songs."

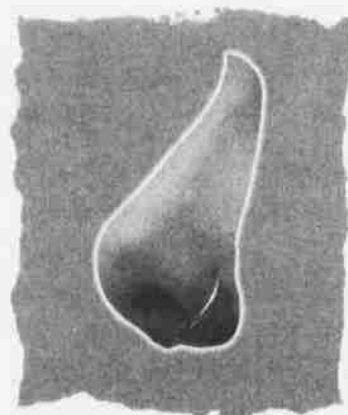
At this time they don't have any gigs coming up, but they will eventually. When you go see them, remember to wear your ear plugs. Oh, by the way, they are looking for a manager. Call Justin Saragoza at 454-9439 if you're interested. And go buy their cassette because it rocks!



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