

Sequined, shakin' Red Elvises rock Eugene



Courtesy of Red Elvises

The Red Elvises rocked the WOW Hall last Thursday with their 'Siberian Surf Rock.'

■ With plenty of butt-shaking, disco-dancing fervor, the four-member band knows how to rock in nostalgic style

By Mason West
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Red Elvises, "your favorite band," rocked the WOW Hall last Thursday night with a combination of great tunes, witty banter, and costumes that would have put a disco ball to shame. To kick off this stop of their "Shake Your Pelvis 2000" tour, bass player/vocalist Oleg Bernov came out and took pictures of the audience. Right off, everyone knew this wasn't going to be your average concert.

The Red Elvises were formed in Los Angeles in 1996, when three Russians from Siberia met a drummer from Texas and began to create what they call "Siberian Surf Rock."

Avi Sills, drummer and vocalist, grew up in Eugene and attended the University for his first year of college. The hometown boy gave his family and fans a great show as he sang the final encore, "Play That Funky Music." The crowd went nuts.

But Avi didn't steal the spotlight — all four of the band members are hams. Igor Yuzov, guitar player and vocalist, provided

most of the dancing for the evening. His melodrama in the emotional songs swayed the crowd along with laughs while Zhenya Kolykhanov, lead guitar/vocals, kept the guitar solos in good stock with lots of hip gyrations and sassy looks.

Bernov was the easiest one to see with his cherry-red hair and giant Balalayka, the traditional name for his triangle-shaped, three-string bass. He also provided most of the comic relief. Just before the band began playing, he told everyone to raise their arms and make the "hardcore" hand sign. Then he told us to take away the pinky. Left with an index finger pointed to the sky, Bernov began to do the "Staying Alive" dance.

"The index finger," Bernov proclaimed. "The most important part of your body."

This proved true as the audience repeated the motion twice later in the concert to "Everybody Disco" (like boys in San Francisco), and "Closet Disco Dancer."

The latter song was the first encore, and when the band started playing Igor came running on

stage in a full silver-sequin suit. The crowd cheered for them and moved their index fingers in and out, trying to weave some imaginary basket.

"This is a show," said Sills. "You get your money's worth at our show."

In a short interview with the band, Sills spoke about where the band is headed.

"This band is going all the way," he said.

And it sure looks like it. They have appeared in four movies, including "Six String Samurai," performed on the TV show Melrose Place, released six CDs in four years and have been in a Kit-Kat commercial.

The audience showcased a range of ages, demonstrating the Red Elvises' broad appeal. Even local campus celebrity Frog showed up, making it a real party.

Giving everything to please the crowd, the Elvises swung their guitars in unison, got the audience clapping along, shook their rears for all to see, and even pulled some enthusiastic fans up onstage to dance.

A concert by the Red Elvises is not one to be missed, should the opportunity present itself again. Sills said that the band hopes to be back in Eugene in a few months.

Friends not always good roomies

Dear Harlan,
They say friends don't always make the best roommates. About 6 months ago, a friend of mine broke up with his girlfriend and needed a place to live. My boyfriend and I had known him about 2 years and liked him a lot, so we decided to let him move in with us.

It became clear after a few months that our friend had problems. He is 32 years old, but behaves like his own inner child, badly in need of a parenting figure to curb his chronic messiness, irresponsibility with money, poor time management, emotional insensitivity and deep insecurity. We've tried talking to him to try to inspire him to get his act together, with little success.

Now, he's failing to pay bills on time, bouncing rent checks and becoming generally unreliable as a roommate. I want to be a good friend to my roommate, but being so close to his neurosis and his bad lifestyle habits is causing me distress. It feels like he is taking advantage of my friendship.

What can I do to make this situation better for everyone involved?

—Frustrated but Concerned

Dear Frustrated,
Make sure he takes the trash out with him on his way out the door. Sometimes being a true friend means being honest with the guy. I say two more weeks and that's enough.

It's bad enough you have to share his dirty clothes and poor hygiene, but you shouldn't be responsible for his emotional problems. He's not paying rent or paying his bills and not doing the bare minimum to have any right to share a living space with you.

Things aren't working out, so either you and your boyfriend goes or he goes. Considering he's the one not paying rent, he should probably be the one to go first.

Dear Harlan,
My friend and I both like the same guy, but this is no ordinary crush. We both feel like he's the guy that we've liked most out of



ADVICE

Ask Harlan

all the guys that we've liked. Besides, we've liked the same guys before and that was actually pretty funny. But this time, it's completely different.

We both know that the situation has a lot of potential to become very ugly. We realize that our friendship is more important, but we REALLY like this guy. What should we do?
—Ugly situation

Dear Ugly,
If you can't do an every-other-day kind of rotation then do a no-day rotation.

If letting him choose the girl isn't an option, then opt for no one to see him. Your friendship is way too valuable to waste on some guy. You or your friend will only date him for a few months. You or her will just break-up and then you'll be left with no one to wipe away the other one's tears. You and your friend need to talk it out and come to some happy compromise before things get ugly.

Honestly, it's hard for me not to question a friendship where jealousy could so easily rip something so powerful apart. You should be happy for her and she should be happy for you. This whole situation might say more about your friendship than it does about which of you gets the guy.

Dear Harlan:
I am a 20-year-old student. Lately, I've become close to a guy I met at school. He always wants me to get together with him and study which is a great idea because I really like him and I get to spend time with him.

Does this mean that he likes me? If so, should I ask him out?

Thanks for your help!

—Confused

Dear Confused:
Either he's having a horribly hard time grasping the material or he's having a horribly hard time trying not to grasp you every time you sit next to him to study.

My guess is he likes studying your smile, studying your eyes and studying your flowery smelling hair and rose perfume every time you turn your head and unintentionally offer him a whiff. There's no reason to be confused. Chances are, he likes you, so stop wasting time.

It's exam season, and that means it's time to make your pass. Now, go study.

Dear Harlan:
A few weeks ago I went to a party and drank way too much. I ended up sleeping with a guy I've only known for three weeks. I remember telling him I had a boyfriend, but I don't remember anything after that. I don't even know if we used a condom.

My boyfriend asked me if I cheated on him, but I lied and said "No." I feel terrible because of the whole situation. I also think I'm pregnant, because my period is two weeks late and it is never irregular. If I am, then I will get an abortion.

My question is should I tell my boyfriend about this or should I just forget about it?

—Full of Regret

Dear Full of Regret:
Yes, tell your boyfriend. Now, it's my turn to ask you my questions.

How could you get so drunk you have unsafe sex with a stranger? Do you understand how emotional having an abortion can be? Why can't you ask this guy if he used a condom? When are you getting help for your drinking problem?

Please write back with answers...

Harlan is not a licensed psychologist, therapist or physician, but he is a licensed driver. Write Help Me, Harlan! through theWeb at www.helpmeharlan.com. All letters submitted become property of the column.

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