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Hell's Belles plays John Henry's on Friday, Feb. 20

Hard Rock

Zeke rocks, fretless Francs appear in town.

If the WOW Hall Supersuckers/ Hangmen show whet your appetite for more raw, powerful rock and roll, this upcoming week should prove satisfying. On Friday the 13th at John Henry's, infamous trio **Zeke** is scheduled to appear, along with **Jet City Fix**, **PB Army** and **Courtesy Clerks**.

The raging Clerks and PB Army could carry a show by themselves, but with the kick-ass energy of Zeke, the night promises to be legendary. Zeke has recently wrapped up recording on 18 songs that are destined for an April 6 release by Relapse Records on *Till The Living End*. This band, known for its instantly recognizable hybrid of punk and metal performed at impossible speed, has packed this new record full of "Sabbath-y" sounding numbers as well as self-described "breakneck Zeke standards."

Producer Jack Endino says *Living End* will have an overall Motorhead vibe. With song titles like "On Through the Night," "Long Train Runnin'," and "Ride to Live," you know it's going to penetrate your brain like a jackhammer. Zeke also recently had a track released on a Relapse compilation, *Contaminated VI*.

Looking a little ahead, John Henry's boasts the return of **Hell's Belles** on Friday, Feb. 20. Hell's Belles, whose name is taken from an AC/DC song, formed in 2000 to pay homage to the rockin' Aussie band. Lead singer Om Johari sings with electric intensity, while Adrian "Angus" Conner channels Angus Young's spirit (as well as his wardrobe) and shreds on lead guitar. These two ladies are joined by bad-ass chicks Lisa Brisbois on rhythm guitar, bassist Mandy Reed and drummer Janet Trares who power out the tunes and blow the audience away. You will be thrilled no matter how many times you've heard AC/DC's songs.

At the other end of the musical spectrum is an experimental show by fretless guitar pioneers **Ned Evett** and **Franck Vigroux**.

Boise, Idaho-based musician Evett and French musician Vigroux are doing their part to improve U.S.-France relations by collaborating in recording sessions that have culminated in an "experimental pop" CD. The artists will showcase their music at a Feb. 18 Cafe Paradiso show.

Evett was recognized in 2003 as winner of the North American Rock Guitar Competition, while Vigroux is artistic director of France's La Nuit De La Fretless, the world's premier fretless guitar festival. The two musicians first met in 2001 at La Nuit. Since then, the pair has produced the world's first fretless guitar compilation, a 16-track CD featuring eight different acoustic and fretless guitarists from around the world. Evett and Vigroux share the belief that the fretless guitar is a "melodically liberating" instrument that allows a player to place his or her fingers directly on the strings without any interfering frets, giving them complete control over a note's pitch.

The musician's eponymous CD fuses rock and pop with blues, jazz and even a touch of country for an eclectic sound. Many of the guitar world's brightest stars, from Joe Satriani to Doug Martsch, have sung Ned Evett's praises, calling him "amazing" and "unearthly."

Some of the praise lavished on Evett is due to his role as inventor of the glass-necked guitar. Evett coaxes inconceivable notes from this beautiful instrument and has a stage presence that leaves audiences rapt. He has recorded for more than 20 years with some of the world's most loved artists, including Maria McKee, Rosalie Sorrels, Pink Martini's China Forbes and Built To Spill. In fact, 1993's Built To Spill CD, *The Normal Years*, features the first recording of Evett playing his trademarked glass-necked instrument. In addition to being a session player, Evett's licks have been heard on numerous television commercials, as well as the Fox network's 1998 football season theme. **EW**

THE NIGHT PROMISES TO BE LEGENDARY.

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