



Toothless Lion

For four albums, Seattle songwriter **David Bazan** chronicled heartache, humdrum and spiritual strife as the only constant member and songwriting force behind the band Pedro the Lion. His music possessed the same mope quotient as Elliot Smith's, but his lyrics, often centering on the ebb and flow of his faith, allowed critics to frequently and unfairly pigeonhole him as a Christian indie rocker. He never used his songs as a pulpit, and his fans, identifying with his bleeding-heart honesty, came from every spiritual and secular stripe. As of last year though, Bazan retired the Lion and began attempting to roar under his own name.

On his first official solo release, *Fewer Moving Parts*, Bazan buries the subtle soul-searching in favor of self-importance and heavy-handed potshots. The first song, "Selling Advertising," takes aim at the record reviewers who focused on his faith. It's a shallow indictment that doles out clichés and stumbles on depthless contention with Bazan singing, "Am I a Christian? Are you a Jew? / Did you kill my Lord? Must I forgive you?" On "Backwoods Nation," the singer (and pastor's son) tries to get political, but ends up preaching to the choir with an overbearing critique of the U.S. The message is as dumbed-down and insipid as the lazy chord progression as he cries out, "Calling all rednecks to put down their sluggers / And pick up their machine guns and kill camel fuckers," and he continues, "Ain't it a shame that due process / Stands in the way of swift justice." It's a vapid satire of the state of the nation, and it just goes to show that it's easy to put your tongue in your cheek when your message has no teeth to begin with. That said, let's hope he resurrects some Pedro the Lion songs. David Bazan plays with J. Tillman at 8 pm Thursday, Dec. 13, at the Indigo District. All ages. \$8. —*Jeremy Ohmes*

Ferocious Furies

"Oh say can you see / By the torn fishnet tights / That it's roller derby / Yeah us girls, we're really tough!" Those are only the first few sassy lines of the Emerald City Roller Girls' (ECRG) Roller Derby Anthem (the melody should be familiar). These badass chicks are in a league of their own ... and looking for some financial support. One team, The Fast Track Furies, is ready to strut some toned skater bodies to help their team make some money at the **Derby Girl Do-It-Yourself Fashion Show**. Music, fashion and short films collide to provide a fun fundraiser night for the Furies.

As of now, the ECRG league consists of several teams stacked with rosters of women who don't make roller skating look cute beyond their tank tops and feisty attitudes: These unpaid and devoted ladies are ready to compete. However, independence can also be financially difficult. The women of the ECRG personally fund their equipment and games. In order to make money for equipment and to help injured teammates, the Furies are hosting a fashion show where they plan to get creative with the classic T-shirt. The Soothsayers, Ms. Led and The Co-Stars will play, and teammate Laura Strobel will premiere a montage of The Fast Track Furies' Oct. 13 "Fall Brawl" game against Fresh Meat. "Some of the teammates are injured right now, and we want to raise money to help them get better," says Jack Hoffman, better known as team captain "One Eyed Jack."

The Fast Track Furies are confident that this is only the beginning of a fun skating year. "It's good to see us progress so quickly and com-



Eyedeas and Abilities



Dirty Sweet

municate well with one another," says Hoffman. "I'm really proud of us. We have come a long way in a short time." The DIY Fashion Show starts at 9:30 pm Friday, December 7, at Sam Bond's Garage. 21+ event. \$5-\$10 ss. —*Katie Cornell*

Feels So Dirty, It's Sweet

Looking more like beggars than monarchs, the guys of **Dirty Sweet** definitely don't seem like the ideal candidates to bring home to meet mom and dad. Unless, that is, your parents happen to be stuck in the '70s

and dig long hair and beards. Doesn't matter — one listen, and you're hooked. Dirty Sweet brings the kind of rock and roll missing from today's music scene with their debut album ... *Of Monarchs and Beggars*.

Dirty Sweet produces a classic rock sound reminiscent of Led Zeppelin and Foghat, and their songs might fit in nicely on the *Almost Famous* or *Dazed and Confused* soundtracks. Contemporary comparisons lean towards The Wildbirds and The Black Crowes (not just because several of the members look like Chris Robinson).

Dirty Sweet, which formed in 2003, has toured with The Killers, Jimmy Eat World and Chris Cornell. They played a month of sold-out shows at Hollywood's infamous Viper Room and took home the awards for both "best rock band" and "best rock album" at the 2007 San Diego Music Awards

"Baby Come Home" will have you shaking and rocking along, wondering who wouldn't want to come home to Dirty Sweet. "Delilah" takes a different route than the Plain White T's song that uses the same name in the title. "Hey Delilah, won't you give me back my favorite blue jeans / 'Cause you know that they look better on me."

Dirty Sweet plays with Limousine and the Dregs at 10 pm Saturday, Dec. 8, at John Henry's. 21+. \$4. —*Anne Pick*

Good Eyedeas

Here in the Northwest, we love us some indie-hop. That's why, come December 9, the WOW Hall will open its doors and welcome the dynamic duo **Eyedeas and Abilities**. Mike Averill (Eyedeas) is best known as a force in the underground battle circuit, grabbing number one spots at the Scribble Jam '99 and the Rock Steady Anniversary in 2000 as well as the HBO-sponsored Blaze Battle in Chicago. Alongside Eyedeas on the ones and twos is DJ Abilities, aka Gregory Keltgen. Like Averill, Keltgen grew up in Minnesota and started cutting his teeth within the local hip hop scene, eventually making a

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