

music

music report

BY KEVIN WIERZBICKI

BAND IN THE BUBBLE

Rock group Cartel has teamed up with soft-drink maker Dr. Pepper for a very clever publicity stunt wherein the band will live inside a sealed, see-through plastic bubble for almost a month while it records its next album. The giant bubble will be set up in New York City at Pier 54 at Hudson River Park.

The Atlanta-based quintet will enter the bubble on May 24 while a crew from MTV broadcasts the event live. MTV will be filming everything and turning the results into a series of 30-minute specials.

A spokesman for Dr. Pepper (which has lots of bubbles in it, get it?) says, referring to the fact that the action will also be streamed online, "We're going to have cameras capturing every moment, from every angle so the fans can watch it live as it happens."

The band will exit on June 12 when the bubble "bursts," and its record label, Epic, promises the album will be on the streets six weeks later on July 24. Dr. Pepper is having a contest with lots of prizes including a trip to New York to see a post "burst" concert by



Cartel

Cartel; find all the details at www.drpepperbubble.com. Hey guys, don't forget to close the bathroom door!

PASADENA LOVES OZMA

And the feeling is mutual! So much so that Ozma has paid tribute to its hometown by titling its latest release *Pasadena*. The band members literally grew up together—they met while still in high school and recorded their second and third efforts while everyone finished up their college days.

The group got off to a big start in 2000 when Rivers Cuomo swooned over its debut, *Rock and Roll Part Three* and asked the band to go on tour with Weezer. Fronted by singers Daniel Brummel and Rylen Sleg, Ozma has updated its

sound a little for *Pasadena* with new drummer Kenn Shane, while longtime keys player Star Wick gets her first opportunity to add vocals to a few songs.

Guitarist Jose Galvez rounds out the band, and he'll be bending strings like crazy when Ozma showcases *Pasadena* at its May 17 Troubadour gig. www.ozmaonline.com

THAT'S ACUTE!

Speaking of Ozma, former member Patrick Edwards has been joined by ex-Poulain singer Isaac Lekach and bassist Colt



Acute

Maloney in a new band called Acute. The trio's full length debut, *Arms Around a Stranger*, has just been released by Help Records, and they also have a pair of songs, "Follow You Home" and "The City" on the CD sampler included with the June issue of *Paste* magazine.

Listeners will notice that Acute's power-pop sounds a bit like Edwards' old band, but a sharp ear will also pick out lots of nods to the classic rock styling of the Cars and hints of the esoteric sound of XTC. Acute will be home for a show at the Troubadour on June 20

when they open for Jesse Malin. www.acuteband.com

TIM'S FLEETING HOUSE

If you're a fan of the late Jeff Buckley, you may be aware of the fact that Jeff's father Tim was also an accomplished musician, having had his heyday in the early '70s. A new DVD called *My Fleeting House* compiles rare footage of Tim's performances on long-gone TV shows like "Boboquivari" and "Late Night Line Up." Lots of interview footage is interspersed with 11 live performances.

Like his son, Tim never made it to superstardom but he was much beloved by a large contingent of avid fans. Eerily enough, Tim also passed away young, dying of a heroin overdose at the age of 28. ☘

frequency | essential concerts

BY BRIEN OVERLY



Robin Thicke

ROBIN THICKE

May 16 @ House of Blues Sunset Strip

Oh come on, you know that secretly you're totally madly in love with "Lost Without U" because it makes you feel like you just might have a little bit of soul when you sing along in your car, even when you know how awkward and uncoordinated you really are.

UNEARTH

May 17 @ The Wiltern

Just watching these guys thrash and headbang from a distance will make you drunk. Let alone when they bring the beer bong on stage. Yeah, 'nuff said.

PARAMORE

May 17 @ Avalon

There's something about sweet and cute girly pop that makes me feel really warm and fuzzy inside. There, I said it.



Paramore

It's out in the open, and now everyone knows my secret. I love girlpop.

I also love big guitar riffing as well. That's my not-so-guilty pleasure that I hope redeems some of my masculine credibility.

Luckily, the fine kids of Paramore lovingly blend together two of my favorite things with a fiery intensity and charisma that bands twice their age would find difficult to master.

Infectiously sugary, it's easy to see why the young'uns are so crazy about these Tennessee natives, but it's their commitment to all things rock that could charm the pants off of even the most jaded of critics.

BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE/THE CONFESSION

May 18 @ Avalon

Usually, the Brits have a very different understanding of what's metal than we Americans do, but every once in a great while, we can come together and agree on something for the greater good of all things thrashing.

The Welsh foursome of Bullet for My Valentine bring some of the most anthemic rock to come from overseas, while still being wildly unpredictable in their performances.

Equally as heavy, but from a little bit closer to home, opening band the Confession promises to be on the radar of all hard rock enthusiasts as well.

KROQ WEENIE ROAST Y FIESTA

May 19 @ Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre

Honestly, this year's Weenie Roast has a bit of a "been there, done that" vibe. And by a bit, I mean a lot, massive, blinding and "Jesus, pick some new bands already!"

Though not the most impressive or cutting edge of Weenie Roast lineups, perhaps indicative of

KROQ's play list at the moment, I'll still give credit for pulling out some worthwhile big guns for this one.

Linkin Park will always be a captivating live band. The quality of its music fluctuates more than Lindsay Lohan's level of sobriety, but see the group live, and these guys are just plain awe-inspiring.

I'm still not 100 percent sold on Brandon Flowers as a cowboy, at least not as a straight one, but the Killers' classic rock-inspired stylings continue to grow on me. Bad Religion remains one of the greatest bands of modern punk and brings some much-needed edginess to a very pop-friendly bill.

Similarly, as catchy as they are, Queens of the Stone Age are definitive cool rock, and they don't play nearly enough L.A. shows, so I guess I'll take what I can get. The sacred cow of indie rock, Silversun Pickups can do no wrong, blah, blah blah. 30 Seconds to Mars' Jared Leto's still a tool, blah, blah, blah.

Wait, is KROQ even *playing* Tiger Army on the radio? Whatever, when's Indie 103 going to get better reception in the valley?

BLEEDING THROUGH

May 20 @ Chain Reaction

Eighteen Visions have broken up now. Avenged Sevenfold's reign of being the be-all, end-all definition of



Bleeding Through

metal is over as quickly as they ascended to fame. And Atreyu is busy being a temporary MTV2 media darling now that it's released a mostly melodic single.

Funny how things change in a few years time, huh? Leave it to the only Orange County hardcore band to not be the proverbial prodigal son to continue reminding us what real hardcore is and bring us back to the roots of its scene.

Uncompromising in its intensity, while maintaining a focused control of all things on its stage, Bleeding Through is the polar opposite of Unearth on the stylistic spectrum, but it never loses that fun aspect of its show.

PLAIN WHITE T'S

May 22 @ the Glass House

I promise this show will be *much* better than seeing them play at the Weenie Roast. ☘