

Mindset: tonight at Sherlock's

John Amorose
features editor

Lock the windows and close the doors citizens of Erie. F.A.D. Records' newest face, Mindset, is invading Sherlock's tonight in support of their self-titled debut album. Mindset's sound is a wall of screeching grooves over thundering bass riffs, provided by the string section of new guitarist Johnny Martin and bassist John O'Neil. Kenny Windley's driving drum beat, added to Roddy Lane's haunting vocals makes this one of the most impressive debut albums since Korn's self-titled release in 1994 (Immortal/Epic records).

Mindset's fourteen soulful, yet angst ridden tracks, display influences from several of today's most popular metal/alternative crossover bands. Hints of Korn and Rage Against the Machine can be found on the album's opening track "Shed the Skin," which deals with looking past race by "shedding the skin." Other songs like "ihateudon'tleaveme" (I hate you, don't leave me) deal with the difficulties of relationships for both

the man and the woman.

The most intriguing and controversial song on Mindset is "If the Devil wore Adidas," the title of which could lead to many common misconceptions. As lead singer Roddy Lane explains, "America is such a trendy country with trendy people. We are all guilty of this. Everyone should wake up and listen to the words." The song pokes particular fun at Alanis *Morissette*, who in her video "You oughta know" looked like "a walking Adidas billboard."

Since its relatively obscure beginning in 1994, Virginia Beach based Mindset has achieved a hard hitting, but unforgettable sound that leaves a lasting impression without compromising anything. So cancel all plans for tonight and take in the Mindset experience at Sherlock's. These guys are going to be big, so this may be one of the last chances to see them in a small venue. On my "classes I'd skip to go see them" scale, Mindset gets a four out of five.



photo courtesy of F.A.D. Records

Tonight: From Virginia Beach, Mindset performs at Sherlock's.

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ACROSS

- 1 Funny fellow
- 5 Endures
- 10 Captures
- 14 "There ought to be —!"
- 15 Domed dwelling
- 16 Shelter
- 17 Withered
- 18 Melon, e.g.
- 19 Genuine
- 20 Wellness
- 22 Change the course of
- 24 Recent
- 26 Period
- 27 Moon shape
- 31 Inherent character
- 35 Make public
- 36 Start
- 38 Cornelia — Skinner
- 39 Reduce
- 41 Poisonous plant
- 43 Rends
- 44 School in England
- 45 Kind of salts
- 47 So-so grade
- 48 Deli item
- 51 Upholstered pieces
- 53 Hr. part
- 54 Lab burner
- 55 Noncombustible material
- 60 With hands on hips
- 64 Film spool
- 65 In the company of
- 67 Peek
- 68 One of a pair
- 69 Chili con —
- 70 Best or Ferber
- 71 Luge
- 72 Poem by Kilmer
- 73 Gainsay

DOWN

- 1 Legal tender
- 2 Toward shelter
- 3 — avis
- 4 Resides
- 5 Makes less oppressive
- 6 In the past
- 7 Aspersion
- 8 Went very fast
- 9 Heavy with moisture
- 10 Commentator
- 11 Busy as —
- 12 Bric-a—
- 13 Sediment
- 21 South-of-the-border snack
- 23 Writer Levin
- 25 Happen afterward
- 27 Promontories
- 28 Lariat
- 29 Flynn the swashbuckler
- 30 Pace
- 32 City in New York
- 33 Get more mellow
- 34 Curved letters
- 37 Eat some of
- 40 Painted
- 42 Rustic dwellings
- 46 Friar
- 49 Badly: pref.
- 50 Not broken
- 52 Posted
- 55 Parts of jackets
- 56 Marine creature
- 57 — noire
- 58 Sharif or Bradley
- 59 Achy
- 61 Fashion
- 62 City on the Rhine
- 63 Approve
- 66 Compass pt.

See answers next page

New generation swings to big band sounds and lounge tunes

By Korky Vann—Special to The Hartford Courant

The lights go down, and the dance floor fills with couples dancing cheek-to-cheek. A tuxedo-clad band leader and a torchy female vocalist scat and croon. Men in velvet smoking jackets and women in cocktail dresses mambo and fox trot the night away. If this sounds like a scene from a 1940s movie, or a retirement home social, check again.

These days, the dressed-to-the-nines couples are likely to be Generation X-ers. And the bands providing the retro sounds are contemporary alternative music groups with names like Combustible Edison, the Squirrel Nut Zippers or the Cocktails, not Count Basie or Tommy Dorsey. If you've been avoiding popular music since your kids started playing heavy metal, it might be time to take another listen. Some of it's going to sound more familiar than you expect.

"There are a number of pop bands that are re-discovering the emotional power of music beyond rock 'n' roll," says Chris Jacobs, publicist for Sub Pop, a Seattle-based alternative music label. "In many cases, that means a re-interpretation of the big band sound

of the '30s and '40s as well as the cocktail lounge sound of the '50s."

Most of Sub Pop's artists are bands such as Elevator To Hell, Six-Finger Satellite and Pigeonhed - groups that tend to attract the flannel-shirted, Doc Marten-wearing crowd. But the label also represents the Rhode Island-based Combustible Edison, a swing band credited with starting the retro music craze, and Friends of Dean Martinex, a group with a mellow '50s lounge sound.

The bands draw a fox-trotting following of formally attired twentysomethings who call themselves the "Cocktail Nation." Both the fans and the bands, says Jacobs, put their own '90s twist on the music and the style of the swing and post-swing eras.

"The sound and the ambiance are similar, not identical, to 40 and 50 years ago, but the origins are unmistakable," says Jacobs. "After all, these aren't people who lived it, they're the grunge kids who have grown up and put on vintage dinner jackets. They've created an atmosphere based on perceptions from movies and books."

According to Jacobs, the cocktail-sipping, swing dancing, New Age rat-packers are looking for little more style in their lives. The resulting trend, he says, is part retro, part kitsch and part sophistication.

Dave Sweetapple, sales manager at Surefire Music Distribution

Company in Boston, says it's also a trend that shows no sign of slowing down.

"The so-called 'cocktail genre' grew out of a totally camp scene. When it started a few years ago, I thought it would peak quickly," says Sweetapple. "But it's evolved and developed a following with the age group that goes out to clubs and buys records. There's definitely a sustained interest."

Two recent movies highlighting the contemporary swing scene; "Swingers," and Disney's "Swing Kids," reflect that. Music industry experts say the trend was also fueled by interest in artists such as Tony Bennett, whose career spans more than four decades. Since the 1950s, Bennett has sold countless hit records. But when he was re-discovered by a younger generation in the early '90s, his career took off again.

"Now, Tony Bennett is on MTV. He comes to town and sells out in two days," says Sweetwater. "And the audience is a mixed crowd of kids, their parents and their grandparents."

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