Culture

erse marches through history



that denote the letter than it.

Concert Review Secondhand Serenade serves up another crowd

sports editor This summer, under the haze of dry ice, Secondhand Sere-

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nade slowly seduced the crowded audience at the Altar Bar in the Strip District area of Pittsburgh.

Lately, bars and nightclubs have replaced some of the old markets in the Strip District, with venues like the Altar Bar, a converted catholic church, pledging to bring live entertainment back to Pittsburgh and the Strip.

My first sentiments of going to the concert were apprehensive at best. I trudged into the surprisingly crowded bar and prepared myself for three opening bands.

ner Runner made a loud and monumental appearance jumping right into one of their loudest and most popular singles, "So Obvious.'

This got people moving on their feet and the band really put on a great show. It reminded me why I loved going to concerts in the first place. I was sad to see them go when they cleared the stage and made room for the White Tie Affair.

Chris Wallace, the lead singer for the White Tie Affair, came on stage and immediately energized the crowd into a wild barbaric mosh-pitting machine that required security to step in so no one got hurt. To me, that was the peak of the show. Despite security, nothing stopped Pittsburgh from having a good time. The city hadn't had much to cheer about thanks to the Pirates All though this was an all ages event with very little alcohol being served, soon enough girls were dancing on the bar and even a few were crowd surfing from one side of the bar to the other.

sically revolve around the lead singer and guitarist John Vensley. Vensley is an extremely talented acoustic artist, but I wasn't sure whether or not he could follow the energetic performances that had preceded him. He started strong, though, with a few new and unreleased songs. As many members of the crowd were exhausted from getting wild with the White Tie Affair, the music of Secondhand Serenade was a relaxing cool-down that really tied the night together. He finished the concert with an enchanting voice and intricate guitar work that truly wowed the crowd.

It ended as every good concert should, when Secondhand Serenade came back and graced their fans with two encore songs, ending with his most popular "Fall You." It's safe to say that everyone in at tendance left the venue with feelings of satisfaction from four solid performances and remained mesmerized as they took to the Pittsburgh streets. After this particular concert, I felt motivated make more of an effort to make it to concerts and give all music more of a chance. The next time you catch wind of Camera Can't Lie, Runner Runner, The White Tie Affair or Secondhand Serenade coming to a venue near you, make sure you jump on tickets for a truly entertaining night that will not be forgotten easily.

new home, with the title "I'm a

Hummingbird." The next track

that struck me was "Oh So

Lovely," because it's completely

full of hope, which isn't neces-

sarily the case with the majority

of Everett's songs. Oddly

enough it sounded awesomely

similar to Jeff Buckley's "Hal-

lelujah" with the same sort of

rhythmic patterns and sullen ex-

Speaking to the low-fi pop

side of The Eels music, the track

"Spectacular Girl" stands out as

well with a seamless blend of vi-

olin and keyboard. Tomorrow

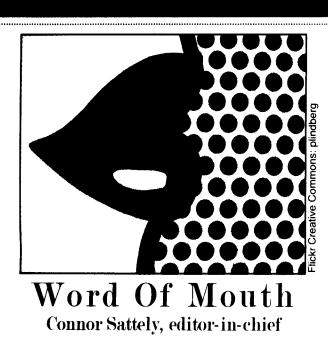
Morning, all in all, is a great end

to the concept trilogy as well as

an amazing new album from a

band that has yet to let me

pression of redemption.



Usually, I am not entertained by opening bands, so I stood by and waited patiently for them to get through their sets. I had never heard of any of them, but the crowd around me was singing praises about each of them.

I was surprised as the first band, Camera Can't Lie, took the stage and performed some impressive music for what looked like a garage band. Later, I learned this was their first appearance on the tour, which only impressed me more.

The party really started rolling as Run-

After the sweaty haze had lifted from the exhausted crowd and Wallace had pulled himself away from numerous groping girls in the crowd, Secondhand Serenade took the stage.

For those who have Secondhand Serenade on their iPod, they do not sound like the most energetic band, and the songs ba-

tracks like "A Line in the Dirt"

and "Little Bird," it's easy to un-

derstand why. The theme of the

album is lost love. "Little Bird"

is a song about a guy who devel-

ops a respect for a small bird on

his porch after his girlfriend

breaks up with him with several

references to the bird being a

reaper-like figure. This album

might strike you as sounding

simpler than the other two in

the trilogy but it doesn't res-

onate any less; yet another

Tomorrow Morning, the most

recent release, is about redemp-

tion from desire (Hombre Lobo)

and lost love (End Times). The

second track of the album builds

up to an amazing orchestral

chorus where E recounts the

album straight from the heart,

complex melodies, intricate chord progressions and clever and creative combinations of instrumentals in music. I believe there is a trend in "good" music to go back to the simple, the noncomplex, and focus on the fundamentals of what makes good music. Good lyrics, good melodies, a sound that gels and a message sent by the entirety of the music that actually means something.

This is where Brendan James comes in. I know you haven't heard of him. It's because he only has one CD out - The Day is Brave. This CD does not contain strange harmonies or types of music you've never heard before. It contains. high quality, thoughtfully written and performed music that I believe anyone from any taste of music can enjoy.

The thing that makes Brendan James so great, aside from his stellar vocals, is the lyrics in the songs. James writes his songs himself and channels his life experiences through the lyrics. They're not just about anything - they deal with real experiences that every average person faces. He also accompanies himself with instrumentals and is an accomplished pianist.

don't want to spend money, it's no problem. Go on YouTube and search for Brendan James, if you need somewhere to start, start with "The Other Side." I promise you won't be disappointed. If you like it, listen some more, and maybe scrounge up some change to buy the CD to support this up-and-coming artist.

James also will be releasing his second CD, which will be self-titled and available Sept. 7.

"The album is self-titled because I feel like it's my first recording that really showcases the different sides of me as a musician," James said, according to an artist-provided biography accompanying the album. "It's got everything from the mellow to the upbeat, to the somber to the unashamedly positive.

"I have a lot of different sides and I wanted to make sure my music reflected that."

With an accomplished new producer, Warren Huart (The Fray, Colbie Caillat, Korn), James is primed to explode onto the 2010 music scene as one of the decade's early successful solo artists. His new album promises to be the launching point of his career. If you take my advice, you can say you knew him way hen.

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MUSIC MIX·UP KirstenPrice,		\Im Teddy Thompson, <i>Bella</i>		
Brixton To Brooklyn 4 Sara Bareilles,	2 The Acorn, <i>No Ghost</i> 5 Ryan Bingham & The Deed	6 Interpol, <i>Interpol</i>		
H Sara Darenies, Kaleiodoscope Heart	5 Ryan Bingham & The Dead Junky Star	Eden Brent, 9 <i>Ain't Got No Troubles</i>		
⁷ Bachman & Turner, Bachman & Turner	8 Anberlin, Dark Is The Way: Light Is A Place	10 Sam Prekop, Old Punch Card		

making simple, "stroll" type songs for almost twenty years and it only gets better. Since Tomorrow Morning is the last installment to a trilogy, it would make sense to say a little bit about the first two in the concept series.

ally Spanish for werewolf, has the overarching theme of desire. It's single, "Fresh Blood," is surprisingly very poppy with the simple idea of a werewolf needing fresh blood on a midnight walk. My second favorite track was "Beginners Luck," about getting the girl from the first meet and traveling across the

Album in January Award" from



man and only consistent member, Mark Oliver

Everett, recently released the last installment of a trilogy of concept albums: Hombre Lobo (2009), End Times (2010), and this newest release, Tomorrow Morning (2010). That's three albums in the span of two years, adding to his earlier seven studio albums, making Everett better known as "E" - rather prolific.

The Eels style is simple; some drum beats, some guitar and heavy keyboard influence to create some of the greatest sounds in the alternative/indie

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Hombre Lobo, which is actucountry with her.

End Times received the "Best

down.