

## The Desert Island Question

By Eddie Capozzi  
Capital Times Staff Writer

When I volunteered to write a music column, I realized I could just review a CD or check out a band and write nice things about them.

I will do that from time to time. But, I thought it would be cooler to start the semester with something a little different: "The Desert Island Question."

Being new to the Harrisburg area (I'm from New York City) and having such a short time to prepare something decent, I decided to ask the people of the Harrisburg area a question: "If you were stranded on a desert island and could bring just three CD's, which would they be?"

I'm often asked, "What kind of music do you like?" My answer is "everything from Alice in Chains to Billie Holliday." In other words, all music.

So, since the desert island question always intrigued me, I thought it would be interesting to ask what music people couldn't live without.

I tried to ask a wide variety of subjects: Penn State students, bartenders, lawyers, secretaries, etc. Here's what they had to say.

Sal, a bartender from Nick's in Harrisburg, said, "Wow, that's a tough one, being an Italian from

Philadelphia and growing up with Italian music." He chose Puccini's *LaBohemme*, Bob Marley's *Kaya* and the Grateful Dead's *American Beauty*.

Misty, a student from Lebanon, said, "That's easy." She rattled these off immediately: Radiohead's *Karma Police*, Rage Against the Machine's first album and Sting's *Fields of Gold*.

Lou, a lawyer from Harrisburg, picked The Beatles' *White Album*, Pink Floyd's *The Wall* and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*.

Jen, a receptionist from Enola, smiled and selected Limp Bizkit's first album, Garth Brooks' *Greatest Hits* and Kid Rock's first album.

Tammy, a Penn State student, changed her mind several times but finally decided on the Rolling Stones' *Hot Rocks*, Sarah McLachlan's *Surfacing* and Queen's *Greatest Hits*.

And, if you're interested, mine are Pink Floyd's *Wish You Were Here*, Nirvana's *Nevermind* and Fleetwood Mac's *Rumors*.

So that's "The Desert Island Question." See you next time.....Peace.

## Remaining Activity Fee Funds

Campus individuals and clubs may submit proposals for the remaining Student Activities fee monies. Proposals should be submitted for spring projects only. The deadline is Jan. 21. Forms and information are available in Olmsted 200 or call Wanda at 948-6018.

## Band to Perform Live at WPSH

Local rock band Devoted Molded will visit the campus radio station, WPSH, on Jan. 26. The band will perform a special acoustic set at 11:30 a.m. for the Lion's Den Lunchhour Jam which is sponsored by WPSH.

Students are encouraged to tune to 88.9 FM to listen to the live performance, or stop by the WPSH studio, W343 Olmsted, to catch a glimpse of the event.

For more information call 948-6396.



Photo courtesy of Brad Moist

Devoted Molded

## Speakeasy is Flammable

By Brad Moist  
Capital Times Staff Writer

Progressive rock. Those two words perfectly describe Stavesacre's sound on their new album, *Speakeasy*, on Tooth and Nail Records.

Their first album, *Friction* (1996) was an experiment. *Absolutes* is the album that put Stavesacre on the map.

The band's third album threatens to take modern rock in a new direction.

The band is composed of Mark Salomon on vocals, Ryan Dennee on guitar, Dirk Lemmenes on bass, and Sam West on drums.

They have blown critics away with this album. Their label, Tooth and Nail Records, is so pleased with the album that they are marketing it as "one of the most important modern rock albums of the decade."

Even people who did not like the previous albums have been so shocked by *Speakeasy* that they were forced into spasms. This album is that good.

I am one of those people. I wasn't a big fan of *Friction*. *Absolutes* was wonderfully written and had some incredible songs. Nothing could have prepared me for the elegant and destructive sound that is captured on *Speakeasy*.

"Where does such a change between records come from?" you ask. The answer lies in the departure of a founder and the full-time acceptance of a tour member.

The band's founding guitar player, Jeff Bellew, quit Stavesacre just before the band went into the studio. So Ryan Dennee, the band's tour guitarist, joined the band and brought the pop influences he gained while being Plankeye's tour guitarist in 1997.

Though Bellew did do some guitar work in the studio, the mature sound and growth is definitely a result of Dennee's pop influence.

Each song is crafted and molded to perfection. The album contains true progressive and modern rock with a pop twist on "Keep Waiting," "Minuteman" and "St. Eriksplan."

Embracing a punk and hard-core mix, "You Know How It Is," finds Salomon screaming, "I wanna keep my eyes on you, on you," at the breakdown and at the end of the song.



Also found are the catchy, mellower tracks "Rivers Underneath" and my personal favorite "Gold and Silver." This song builds and explodes at the end reflecting some emo influences such as "The Juliana Theory."

My only gripe is that there are no lyrics in the packaging of the album. Salomon is one of my most admired song writers. Even though the past albums weren't favorites, the lyrics were far superior to a lot of the junk out there on the airwaves.

The third track "Keep Waiting," screams to radio stations "hey, play me." It is, by far, the song that will catch your ear and pull you in better than Quint did any shark. The catchy and poppy guitar rift will be playing in your head.

I apologize that I can't include some of the lyrics, but you try listening to a CD, writing some lyrics, listening to that same part over, and then fixing what you wrote. It becomes a pain in the neck.

So if there are any musicians reading this, remember: ALWAYS PUT LYRICS IN YOUR ALBUM PACKAGING!!

Perhaps the most unique aspect of Stavesacre is Salomon's vocal style, which cannot be compared to anyone else.

His unique voice has been known to turn listeners away even though the music is incredible. It's not that Salomon has a bad voice. It is just that his voice is a complete representation of independent music and most people are only mainstream

music oriented.

The track "Gold and Silver" is the song that will win people over. It is unlike anything old Stavesacre fans have heard and is a song that, I think, will be embraced by mainstream radio.

Obvious Radiohead influences can be heard on that track. It grasps your soul at the beginning, holds it while breaking you down into a state of humility, then explodes at the end. The song makes you feel that all is well in the world if our eyes look to the true almighty love.

It has been a while since an album has completely impressed me with such growth and maturity, musically and lyrically.

Most of the time people tend to leave a band, or criticize a band, for maturing, because true maturity in music is catchy music.

Stavesacre has finally captured catchy music while being able to knock you off your ass at the same time. The music is flammable and dares to change the way we view modern rock.

For more info on the band go to [www.stavesacre.com](http://www.stavesacre.com) or [www.toothandnail.com](http://www.toothandnail.com).

If you want to buy this album, go to [www.toothandnail-mailorder.com](http://www.toothandnail-mailorder.com). It'll be cheaper there than anywhere and you'll get it in a week.

Do not be too  
timid and squeamish  
about your actions. All  
life is an experiment.  
- Emerson