

## Reason for Existence an emerging presence in the local music scene

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There is a local band on the rise that everyone, regardless of age, gender, or any other barriers, ought to give a listen. The band Reason for Existence is a three piece ensemble of musical talent that consists of brothers Matt Chavez on drums and Tommy Chavez doing main vocals and guitar, along with good friend Connor Gilchrist on bass.

Despite the fact that Reason for Existence has played around six shows up to this point, these boys are in no way new to the music scene. Starting about a year ago, Connor, 18, and Matt, 17, were formerly members of The Prostates until creative differences led them to split from the remaining band members and find new vocals which guided them to join forces with current vocalist, Tommy.

"That's what the band is to us, it's personal and other people can relate," Tommy, 16, stated as the reason behind the decision to change the band's name.

As to what kind of sound Reason for Existence brings to the table, Matt explains, "We're punk with various metal influences," throwing in some personal motivations from bands such as Bad Religion and The Misfits.

Tommy added, "We try not to be too specific, but we play our own version of punk."

Reason for Existence not only finds motivation for their music by looking to world-renowned bands, but also in individuals such as Pat Freeman and the bassist from Rancid, which were only a couple mentioned by Gilchrist of which he looks to for a main drive when he plays.

"We write about things that piss us off and we express how we think they can be changed," Tommy said, acknowledging that these are factors that go into how the band's songs are formed and come together.

Of course, trying to please everyone with such a diverse punk sound sometimes is a challenge in itself. On top of dealing with that aspect, Reason for Existence has yet a few other

obstacles to overcome. Practice time is essential, any musician knows that, but for this band, rehearsal is a struggle.

Residing in the Valley and being brothers, Matt and Tommy have no problem getting together for a practice session whenever they feel like it, but because Connor lives on the North side of town, the commute and getting to practice with the rest of his band mates proves to be taxing.

The band members as a whole get to practice a few times a month which allows for three to four hours of practice time a week, if they're lucky. Fortunately, Connor will be moving into the Chavez house sometime in the near future which will make for unlimited preparation time for shows and other upcoming performances.

On the contrary, doing what you love always has its upsides and in this situation, the positives definitely outweigh the negatives. Eventually, the boys are rewarded for all of their hard work, time, and effort when they get the chance to be on stage and please the crowd by sharing their music.

"I love seeing my friends there in the crowd because I know they're supporting us," Connor said.

"I love playing shows and getting comments afterward, the compliments and the constructive criticism, but compliments are better," Tommy said.

Reason for Existence has many plans for the future, such as getting more support and building a large fan base. As for where they see themselves ten years from now, the band members picture that they will have out five or more full-length albums and that they will be able to tour to any place that the fans are demanding them.

As for any words of advice for aspiring musicians, Matt put it best, "Play with your heart and keep it simple."

Reason for Existence has a show June 14 at the Emyprean where you can see this mohawk-sporting, metal accessory-wearing, leopard print bass-playing troupe do what they do best.

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Zoe Moore / Staff Photographer

The band Reason for Existence is seen here at the Emyprean. From the left, the band's members are Matt Chavez, Connor Gilchrist and Tommy Chavez.

## 'Arm's Way' demonstrates a new sound for Islands



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On May 19, Islands released their sophomore album "Arm's Way." The six-piece band formed in Montreal, Quebec where they released their first album, "Return to the Sea," in 2006. This past album featured a more synthetic pop sound than that in "Arm's Way," which has more of a techno-punk feel.

The album starts out strong with "The Arm," reminiscent of the album's name, in which the old sound of "Sea" blends with the new sound established in "Arms."

"The Arm" starts out with a bouncy tropical feel, but then moves into swaggering beats and rhythms that continue throughout the album.

By the third song, the new sound of Islands has completely developed. "J'aime Vous Voire Quitter" is a fast paced techno-punk gem, which retains many vital aspects of earlier works. This track creates excitement by juxtaposing pulsating beats with ambient orchestral lines and dynamic vocals throughout.

However, the Islands did not completely abandon their old sounds. Many tracks, including "Pieces of You" and "Kids Don't Know Shit" include orchestral phrases similar to those in "Rough Gem," a popular track from "Return to the Sea."

The latter half of the album is not as memorable as the first. Although maintaining the original Islands sound, the songs seem to run together. This background-sounding music while not displeasing, lacks the excitement created in the earlier songs.

Islands have created an album that refines their sound while keeping important features from earlier music. This coming-of-age album is a pleasure to be heard.

## Asian drink 'bubble tea' worth a try

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"I don't really know if I want to buy this." "No, it's really good. It's like a milk shake, but with fruit in it."

"So where are the bubbles?" "They aren't actually bubbles. It's these giant brown tapioca balls. You suck them up through a straw, with the tea."

"And this is bubble tea." "Yeah." "And you actually pay for this?" "Oh yeah."

Describing bubble tea to the uninitiated is kind of like explaining the World of Warcraft to your grandmother. It just makes you look stupid. However, the blow to your credibility is a small price to pay for this delicious, and oddly addicting Asian drink.

Originating in Taiwan in the late '80s, bubble tea has quickly gained popularity in nearly every Asian country, particularly Japan. Metropolises like Seattle and L.A. boast many bubble tea shops, though the shops also seem to be springing up at small cities all over the U.S. and Canada. The Bubble Garden, located on Ash, is one of two bubble tea shops currently operating in Spokane.

Traditionally, bubble tea consists of sweetened black tea with milk (or dairy substitute) poured over large sweetened tapioca "bubbles" or "pearls." In Asian countries these are usually referred to as *boba*, which is a Taiwanese slang word for "large breasts."

The new trend in bubble tea is "snow tea," which is made of shaved ice, fruit or fruit concentrate, and flavored powders blended to a smoothie-like consistency.

The Bubble Garden offers mostly just this snow variety of bubble tea, but also offers specialties like Thai bubble tea, and optional lychee (fruit) bubbles instead of tapioca.

The teas themselves come in over fifteen flavors, and the friendly staff will be more than happy to make you a custom order.

On a recent trip I sampled a friend's chocolate-avocado drink. It was a little too avocado-y for me, but he finished it in twenty minutes flat. Other recommendations include pineapple, chocolate peanut butter, and peach, but with the array of choices you might want to consider giving

yourself time to think it over.

The teas don't come cheap, running at around five dollars for their smallest size, but a trip to the Garden is more of an experience than a simple pit stop.

"It's really cool," said frequent patron Alex Nagy, 18, of Lewis and Clark. "The whole place is kind of futuristic."

Sleek, mod-designed furniture and colorful lighting give the Bubble Garden the feel of a funky downtown lounge, complete with a flat screen TV to gaze at while you slurp your strawberry snow tea.

Behind the counter is a precision factory at work, with state-of-the-art rectangular blenders, neat rows of flavor powder jars, and an amazing cellophane lid machine that actually seals your tea inside its cup, awaiting the puncture of your giant multi-colored straw.

Some of the perhaps more timid souls I have exposed to bubble tea were put off by its strangeness, citing it as "just too ... weird." If you possess a more adventurous spirit, and don't mind a bit of a drive, a journey to The Bubble Garden during this long, hot summer would be time well spent.



Lauren Colton / Photo Editor

Bubble tea is more of an experience than a drink. Drink up!