

# Aspen Daily News

"If you don't want it printed, don't let it happen."

Sat, 18 Aug 2007 09:00:36 MDT

Partly sunny. Cool.



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Photo Credit: Zach Ornitz/Aspen Daily News  
 Food Network cooking sensation Ming Tsai talks to the crowd about dipping sauces for freshly-made beef and shrimp satay on Friday at the St. Regis Hotel during the 25th annual Food & Wine Magazine Classic.

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**Quick Poll**

What should Aspen do about its bear problem?

Hire another full time enforcement officer and increase penalty fines.

## Lez is More

*Jason Hood - Time Out Music Columnist*

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Fri 08/17/2007 06:01AM MST

To anyone that has ever read this column it should be obvious that I am not only familiar with, but enamored, smitten and down-right weak kneed in love with rock 'n' roll.

Of course I enjoy the blues and jazz roots of rock along with reggae, funk, classical and rap, but my heart, my soul and my spirit revolve around a crunchy guitar and an overtly sexual drumbeat. I enjoy the groupie's too, but this is not the appropriate forum to discuss such an obvious weakness.

One thing I've learned in my rock n' roll travels is that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Think about it: Jimi Hendrix covered Robert Johnson, Devo covered the Rolling Stones and EVERYONE has covered Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi." Hell, my bands have covered The Clash, Talking Heads and Faith No More. Why? Because we love the original band's artistry.

Well, after a single listen to their music, it's obvious Lez Zeppelin has a tremendous amount of love and respect for Rock and Roll Hall of Famer's Led Zeppelin. Lez Zeppelin is honoring Aspen by playing Belly Up this Thursday, Aug. 23, and to the uninitiated, one thing should be made perfectly clear; this band of four striking women is not a novelty act.

Let's be honest, there is a galaxy of cover bands within slingshot range of your front porch. Bands that mean well and have their hearts in the right place, but can't quite pull off a Van Halen lick because they don't know a harmonic from a Hammond B3. Great cover bands are always, without exception, great musicians.

Lez Zeppelin are great musicians. And then some.

Front woman extraordinaire Sarah McLellan can (and will, I'm sure) stand toe-to-toe with any lead singer you can name. Robert Plant included.

I've always had a problem with guys saying a woman doesn't have what it takes because she "doesn't have the balls." What does having a pair of testicles have to do with kicking ass and taking names? Get back to me after you spend 15 hours in labor passing an 8-pound human through your holiest of holies, tough guy.

Despite McLellan's runway model good looks, she will strictly punish you for your ignorant skepticism regarding her talent. Hers is a voice to be reckoned with; a mighty structure of strength and beauty. Her vocals on the opening stanzas of "Kashmir" are not only a clone of Plant's, but it also acts as a time machine. It



- Require bilingual instructions for bear-proof closure on all receptacles.
- Try to amend state law to bring back the spring bear hunting season.
- Start a petting zoo.

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takes you to those heady days spent killing time on the hood of your best friends Camaro in the school parking lot.

If McLellan for some reason doesn't garner your attention and respect, maybe her posse will.

The classic, tumbling drum intros to "Rock'n'Roll" will for all time belong to the late John Bonham. Helen Destroy must be the wild man's ghost. I've heard Bonham's son Jason play the song and I've heard Ringo Starr's son Zach Starkey play it. I'm sorry, but Ms. Destroy tops them both.

In the grand scheme, few people are blessed with ultimate rhythm. There is, of course, Charlie Watts, Neil Peart, Omar Hakim, Bonham and my good friend Jimmy the Pitbull. Helen Destroy also fits the bill and once you see her live, she'll prove it to you.

Led Zeppelin's unsung hero was a black sheep. His name was John Paul Jones and he liked to stand on stage in the shadow of his amplifier and brutalize the audience with a stampede of uncivilized bass grooves. Lisa Brigantino, for all intents and purposes, is John Paul Jones. She is note for note perfection. She is thunder. She's the dangerous criminal in the shadows of impending doom. Get used to her because she'll always be in the back of your mind. She's that tick-tock of the clock that keeps you up at three in the morning.

Being able to play like Jimmy Page is a blessing. I've been playing guitar for 27 years and I've not mastered his technique, tone, style or feel. I don't believe Steph Paynes is even 27-years old and she channels Page. Now to all you guitar purists out there this is going to sound like blasphemy, but there are certain riffs as played by Paynes that rival those of Page. Jimmy deserves all the credit for chord progressions, originality, tone, mood and the rest, but I'm sorry, Steph Paynes is a Mutha.

Listen if you will to the solo on Led Zeppelin's version of "Communication Breakdown." Perfection never sounded so, well ... perfect. Page nailed it for Led and Payne drives the point home for Led.

I'm going to get so much hate mail for the above statements that I should probably change my e-mail address. But you know what? Music is in the ear of the beholder. One man's Barry Manilow is another man's Metallica. And one man's Led Zeppelin is another man's Led Zeppelin.

And you know what else? It really hasn't been "a long time since I rock 'n' rolled."

*hood@aspendedailynews.com*

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