

## Without warning, it's the



*Washington City Paper's* superficially revealing inquiry into the musical mind.

So, when you're out for a night on the town, do you really wanna hear the over-amplified angst of some moody loser, or would you rather listen to spot-on versions of the songs you already love?



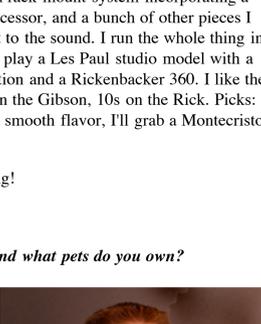
We're talking your Foo Fighters, your Green Day, your Donnas, your Crüe, the guaranteed classics. Of course, you need music to get the party started and keep it going. Which is why you need **DR. FU**. Sunny Trippel (vocals), Greg Gonzalez (guitar), Rob Harris (bass/vocals), Greg Yadzinski (guitar), and Chris DeChiara (drums/vocals) are consummate cover artists who work hard to capture the precise musical moments that make magical memories. Mmmm....The Fu will be playing favorites at Bungalow Billiards in Sterling this Saturday, June 18, and at the free **Summer Concert Series** at Continental Billiards in Rosslyn on Saturday, June 25.

### rigs&cigs

*What equipment do you use and what's your favorite smoke?*

**SUNNY:** Nothing purple. No smoking.

**ROB:** I play a few basses, some even have strings! OK, two five-strings ([Warwick](#) and [Dingwall](#)) and a four-string, a super-cool Gibson Flying V bass. My favorite smoke is definitely "[Smoke on the Water](#)" by Deep Purple. Ian Gillan is the man.



Sunny Trippel

**GREG G:** I have a Les Paul standard with a Fender Twin, and I use a Boss GT6 to model the guitar sounds of the bands we cover. My favorite smoke is salmon.

**GREG Y:** My main rig is a custom rack-mount system incorporating a Marshall preamp, Alesis effects processor, and a bunch of other pieces I won't go into lest I reveal the secret to the sound. I run the whole thing in stereo to a Marshall 4x12 cabinet. I play a Les Paul studio model with a [Dimarzio DP100](#) in the bridge position and a Rickenbacker 360. I like the [GHS Nickel Rocker strings](#)—11s on the Gibson, 10s on the Rick. Picks: Tortex 1.14mm. If reaching for that smooth flavor, I'll grab a Montecristo Tubos cigar.

**CHRIS:** I've never smoked anything!

### sets&pets

*What kind of drums do you play and what pets do you own?*

**SUNNY:** I beat the hell outta my tonsils. No pets.

**ROB:** Not all that relevant as I am the bassist, but I do have fish.

**GREG G:** A groundhog lives in my backyard. His name is Claude. He ate my lawn.



Chris DeChiara

**GREG Y:** I have a nifty set of Tupperware I can get a great sound out of. I've got a jet-black dog named Shadow. He's a good kid, just a little misguided—a great noisemaker with teeth trained specifically to protect the instruments above all else!

**CHRIS:** [DW Collector Series](#)—fast sizes. Combination of Zildjian, Paiste, and Sabian cymbals, and an LP [Vibraslap!](#) I have two short-haired tabbies, Maddie and Maurice.

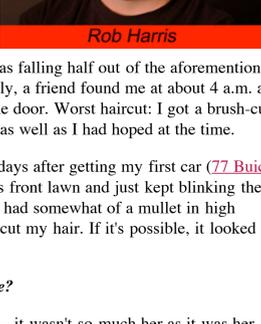
### bars&cars

*What's your favorite D.C. hangout and your favorite automobile?*

**SUNNY:** The Kennedy Center. Segway Human Transporter (HT) i series.

**ROB:** I am a city-phobe and spend most of my time in the suburbs. If you make me choose, my favorite place in D.C. is the [Jefferson Memorial](#).

My favorite ride is a 1999 Subaru Outback wagon. Blue. With Batman floor mats. I'm looking for one right now.



Greg Yadzinski

**GREG G:** My favorite car is "the Homer."

**GREG Y:** My favorite hangout is wherever we're playing, 'cause it's the fastest party in town. My favorite ride was my first: a 1981 Honda Civic. That was one HOT brown sedan!

**CHRIS:** Jaxx for the latest hair-band reunion. Not a car freak.

### dogs&wigs

*What's the worst place you've crashed and your worst haircut?*

**SUNNY:** In an alley in Key West. I cut it—it's great.

**ROB:** I spent last night in a ditch. Worst haircut? In college, I shaved part of my head so I looked like I was wearing a 'coon-skin cap. 'Twas fashionable at the time.



Rob Harris

**GREG G:** I slept in a booth of a bar in Chicago during a rave. I had a mighty mullet in the '80s.

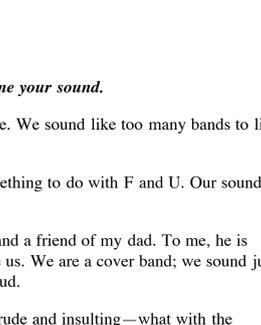
**GREG Y:** Worst place I crashed was falling half out of the aforementioned Honda civic after a party. Fortunately, a friend found me at about 4 a.m. and at least sat me upright and closed the door. Worst haircut: I got a brush-cut when I was 12 that didn't work out as well as I had hoped at the time.

**CHRIS:** I hit a traffic light over 4 days after getting my first car ([77 Buick Skyhawk](#)). It ended up in someone's front lawn and just kept blinking the rest of the day. Worst Haircut: (1) I had somewhat of a mullet in high school, then had a neighbor's mom cut my hair. If it's possible, it looked worse. (2) Boot camp haircut!!

*Worst roommate and best audience?*

**SUNNY:** My good friend Shannon—it wasn't so much her as it was her boyfriend, who routinely ate all of my food, locked me out of my bedroom several times, and was a general ass. The best audience was the monkey girl swinging from the light rigging...

**ROB:** I've been fortunate enough to not have any terrible roommates. The best audience is one that features naked women. Or at least partially naked.



Greg Gonzalez

**GREG G:** I lived with a stalker in college. He just loved the ladies, and lurking. The rugby crowd at the Bottom Line takes it up a notch.

**GREG Y:** Rob (bass) lived with me for three days one summer. I can't begin to describe the smell. We've been lucky to play for a lot of good crowds. We've been in Kirkpatrick's in Ashburn a couple of times and they really get going out there. Any time we can get people off their butts and onto the dance floor it's a good audience.

**CHRIS:** My percussionist friend at the [Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival](#) in Germany. He'd snore so much and so loudly that he'd wake up to hundreds of foreign objects I'd thrown at him through the night. Best audiences: (1) My senior recital at UMass Lowell. (2) Concertgebouw Hall in Amsterdam. (3) Drum Corps Semifinals in Foxboro Stadium in front of 12,000-plus people!

### name&fame

*Explain your band name and define your sound.*

**SUNNY:** Dr. Fu is a cousin of mine. We sound like too many bands to list here—WE'RE A COVER BAND!

**ROB:** All I know is that it has something to do with F and U. Our sound is the best, man. The BEST!

**GREG G:** Dr. Fu is a real person and a friend of my dad. To me, he is rock 'n' roll. Eventually, he will sue us. We are a cover band; we sound just like the CD, but played violently loud.

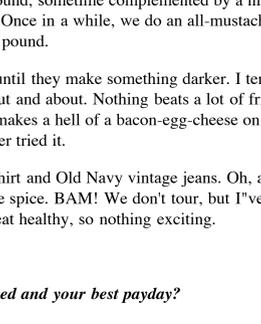
**GREG Y:** Well, Mr. Fu would be rude and insulting—what with the credentials and all. Our sound is definitely rock 'n' roll all the way. We're fortunate to have hooked up with Sunny, who can sing a wide range of stuff really well, from AC/DC to Stevie Wonder. It's unusual to have a female lead sing all the stuff we do, but it speaks to her versatility. Sunny's vocal work makes us stand out from the rest of the D.C. area cover bands that play a lot of the same material.

**CHRIS:** I'm Dr. Fu. We try and capture as much of the sound as the original band we're covering as possible with acoustic drums, two guitars, bass, and vocals.

### threads&breads

*What clothes do you like to wear onstage and what do you eat on the road?*

**SUNNY:** I like to wear my lucky authentic Motley Crie pin that Rob gave me. I eat salad and whatever Chris doesn't eat.



**ROB:** Onstage, it's pretty simple: black shirt and jeans. Offstage, I prefer a smoking jacket. I'm a big fan of the Sheetz breakfast sandwiches. That, or day-old doughnuts I dig out of the dumpster behind Krispy Kreme.

**GREG G:** Usually it's chaps all around, sometime complemented by a nice bandanna around the neck or wrist. Once in a while, we do an all-mustache show. I eat red Swedish fish by the pound.

**GREG Y:** I'll keep wearing black until they make something darker. I tend to eat a lot of garbage food when out and about. Nothing beats a lot of fried junk after a gig. I hear that Sheetz makes a hell of a bacon-egg-cheese on a whatever at 4 a.m., though I've never tried it.

**CHRIS:** So far, it's been black T-shirt and Old Navy vintage jeans. Oh, and my red converse sneakers for a little spice. BAM! We don't tour, but I've been "on the road" before. I try to eat healthy, so nothing exciting.

### slime&dime

*What's the worst stage you've played and your best payday?*

**SUNNY:** South Riding Inn—it's just so small. Live music is cool, but the space is just too tiny for our larger-than-life antics. The best payday was playing the Tsunami Relief fundraiser at Ned Devine's in Herndon. We raised \$8,175 for the place!

**ROB:** In another band, I played in Dayton, Ohio, in a warehouse that was near a dog food factory. The smell was so bad, I thought I was going to pass out the whole show. Absolutely the worst. Best payday? I get \$5 an hour from my bandmates. Pretty good cash if you ask me!

**GREG G:** I have to second the dog food factory gig from the hardcore days. It was like inhaling vomit mixed with burning hair. [Payday](#) is a great candy bar.

**GREG Y:** The worst stage was definitely a block party at Rob's (bass) place. We got stuff set up for the gig early—then the rains came. We played in the garage, everyone stood in their own garages up and down the street. Everything got soaked. It was terrible. Best payday was when we opened for Winger at the old Candlestick park in San Francisco. I think we got \$25 grand for that one.

**CHRIS:** Not with the Fu, but a rodeo (actually it was really fun). Best payday: tax-return day!

### muse&blues

*What are your influences and worst equipment experience?*

**SUNNY:** Vince Neil and Sarah McLachlan. I don't like it when I shock my lip on the mic.

**ROB:** In no particular order: [Robert DeLeo](#) (STP), [John Norwood Fisher](#) (Fishbone), Steve Harris (Iron Maiden), Cliff Burton (Dream Theater), Kirk Harrington (Metal Church), [Clayton Kopp](#) (James Brown), [Peter Erskine](#), [Buddy Rich](#), [Billy Cobham](#), [Ringo Starr](#), [Zoro](#), Russ Miller, Thomas Lang, Rod Morgenstein. Worst equipment experience: Either my snare wires coming off the drum (someone thought it sounded like an Alex Van Halen sound), or my china cymbal falling off the stage.

**GREG G:** Influences: I like to go to Guitar Center and listen to guys jam on really loud hot lixx and wyked riffz. Worst Equipment experience: the time my guitar flew off, my amp blew up, and we all cried.

**GREG Y:** At this time, I am unsure what I am under the influence of. We borrowed a beat-up PA system once from a bar that said they had a house PA. I think it was a Fisher-Price.

**CHRIS:** Lennon/McCartney as songwriters (not that I write songs). As a drummer, [Neil Pearl](#) (Rush), [Mike Portnoy](#) (Dream Theater), Kirk Harrington (Metal Church), [Clayton Kopp](#) (James Brown), [Peter Erskine](#), [Buddy Rich](#), [Billy Cobham](#), [Ringo Starr](#), [Zoro](#), Russ Miller, Thomas Lang, Rod Morgenstein. Worst equipment experience: Either my snare wires coming off the drum (someone thought it sounded like an Alex Van Halen sound), or my china cymbal falling off the stage.

### lyrics&spirits

*What are your songs about and what's your favorite drink?*

**SUNNY:** They are about other people's problems. Warm Guinness.

**ROB:** Our songs are covers. They're about whatever the people who wrote them wanted them to be about. My favorite drink right now is a delicious concoction of [Captain Morgan's](#) and ginger ale. Guaranteed to satisfy. Or make you vomit. It depends.

**GREG G:** The songs we cover can all be summed up my the hand signal known as "[the Horns of Satan](#)." My favorite drink is "Das Boot." My friend Gowda makes it. I do not know the ingredients. It may involve ether or power-steering fluid.

**GREG Y:** We're a cover band—no one really wants to hear about what we have to say, in general. Our songs are about lovin' and fightin' and drinkin' and partyin'—real rock 'n' roll stuff. It's an interesting mix we play. We've evolved into this heavy metal/R&B/'80s band lately. My favorite drink is a free one.

**CHRIS:** I have no idea—ask the bands we're covering. I have heard that three of the songs are about masturbation. Malibu and Coke or a protein shake!

### slights&fights

*What's your favorite tour memory and worst band squabble?*

**SUNNY:** Favorite tour memory would be when they played St. Stephen. When Rob threw the book at me.

**ROB:** Tour memory: see above for worst venue, or perhaps it was opening up for a band in Pennsylvania that was dressed as clowns. Our band made \$5 at that show. Worst band argument: probably getting into it with our last singer. She had a problem with harmony and I told her so. She walked out and that was the end of it.

**GREG G:** Tour memory: opening for the Bosstones in '93. Worst band argument: When Rob kicked Dave Mustaine out of our band in 1982, ruining his musical career.

**GREG Y:** Winning the South Riding battle of the bands this year was a significant achievement. That gave us all a real sense that we had a good group of committed musicians and were heading in the right direction as a band. I'm not sure what the squabble was about, but Sunny (singer) threw the lyrics book at Rob (bass). I suspect he deserved it.

**CHRIS:** We don't tour or squabble—at least I don't think so.

### vans&cans

*What's your transpo and what's the worst place you've ever dropped trou?*

**SUNNY:** The car that most self-made millionaires drive, the Ford Taurus. I carry around a self-catheterization kit so as to avoid the issue.

**ROB:** Transpo? Is that some word the kids are using these days? I have had the pleasure of dropping said pants in the middle of the woods in northern Ontario during mosquito season. That was fun.

**GREG G:** Greg Y's F-150 rocks, because that Bob Seger song is always playing near it. Can: Any local bar without a door on the bathroom stall. It's nice to be able to include other people in that process.

**GREG Y:** I end up hauling the equipment since I've got the big vehicle—a sweet '95 F-150. It needs a new transmission. As far as the other one goes, let's just say a bear isn't the only thing that will sh\*t in the woods now and again.

**CHRIS:** 2002 Nissan Altima 2.5S. Probably in the woods when I was little.

### now&Mao

*What are your current projects and political thoughts?*

**SUNNY:** I am working on a fundraising drive for a concert series—and I think we should swap leaders with another country for one week and document it on the Fox network.

**ROB:** I'm all about the Fu right now. No other projects, except for the Iron Maiden tribute band I have in the back of my mind. Political thoughts? You should know better than to ask that in Washington, D.C., if you want the article to be less than a page.

**GREG G:** Dr. Fu is working to play everywhere all the time. Vote Fu!

**GREG Y:** I'm trying to finish off that 6-foot turkey sub I bought 10 days ago. Would you like some? I am a free-thinking liberal who believes in a strong national defense. As such, I tend to vote democratic.

**CHRIS:** I try to keep busy on the "outside." I sub gigs for other bands, playing some concerts with the Harrisburg Symphony and a new chamber group in Rockville. We'd be in deep poo if we didn't have troops in Iraq and didn't take the action we did, but it's probably time to let many come home.

### brichin' & twitchin'

*What's the stupidest move your singer ever pulled?*

**SUNNY:** Worse than falling off the stage was probably falling back on it.

**ROB:** I'll answer that if you don't print it. Call me and we'll talk about it.

**GREG G:** Singing the lyrics to one Green Day song while we played another Green Day song. At least it was the same band; a better combo would have involved lyrics to "Green Manalishi" by Judas Priest.

**CHRIS:** In this band, giving the audience the finger or a drunk a tambourine. In an old band, the singer jumped into a mosh pit and came back onstage with a bleeding forehead.

**GREG Y:** A few years ago, Sunny did a split-toe touch jump thing off the stage at Sully's when she was about five months pregnant. She pulled it off but it about gave me a heart attack at the time. That, my friends, is rock 'n' roll!

**Rockin'? Heart attack? [Grade the quiz.](#)**

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