

# Sixth Skynyrd album final free-wheeling statement



'Street Survivors' proved to be the prophetic title for the recent album of the ill-fated hard-rockin' band Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Lynyrd Skynyrd's sixth album, *Street Survivors*, hit the stores last month. Before the week was out, three members of the band — lead singer and lyricist Ronnie Van Zant, guitarist Steve Gaines and Steve's sister, back-up singer Cassie Gaines — were dead, victims of a fiery airplane crash in southwest Mississippi. Curiously, the plane crashed within 100 miles of two previous air crashes which took the lives of blues singer Otis Redding and singer Jim Croce.

What does *Street Survivors* leave us? It leaves us the same good ol' time boogie, blues and rock 'n' roll which has characterized the band. Like past albums, the emphasis is on their own free-wheelin' life. "What's Your Name?" opens the album. It's a bouncy, lively cut about being on the road, makin' it with one-night ladies and havin' a good ol' time. Previewing the rest of the album, the tune shows shining guitars, solid keyboards and features Ronnie's strong vocals. "What's Your Name?" should prove to be a successful single.

"That Smell," which follows it, is based on guitarist Gary Rossington's car wreck and describes the odor of rotting, burning flesh. The screaming guitars and the haunting back-up vocals give the song an eerie feeling.

But what the song does most is remind you that the members of Lynyrd Skynyrd died the way they lived. Ronnie Van Zant was just not the type destined for a natural death. Nearly every band member has been in at least one serious car or motorcycle wreck. Their reputation as hotel-destroyers and brawlers was well known. As noted earlier in *Cream*, "This is what the Eagles meant by life in the fast lane." A self-awareness of the situation is what the song is all about.

You say you'll be alright come tomorrow  
But tomorrow might not be here for you.

Yeah, you!  
... Oh, you fool you  
... One hell of a price to pay for your kicks.

They were fools, but that was why they were appealing. They were rowdy, uninhibited shit-kickers. The central part was that they were free spirits. Musically, they didn't give a damn what the critics said. And they sure as hell weren't going to sell out and make commercial music like Barry Manilow or Fleetwood Mac. They played their own brand of Southern blues and rock 'n' roll and to hell with the rest of them.

## records

By DOUG STONE

*Street Survivors*  
Lynyrd Skynyrd

The band is (was) as sharp as on *One More From the Road*. They're missing only the excitement, rush and challenge of a live performance. Surely that was their strength. Over the past few years Lynyrd Skynyrd toured nearly 250 days out of the year. They did good work in the studio, but the songs always crystallized on the road. Few were able to hear the new songs live.

"One More Time" is a re-make of a 1969 Lynyrd Skynyrd tape. Ed King returns to replace Steve Gaines and is joined by Rick Medlock on drums and Greg Walker on bass. The tune is a little more laid-back.

3rd Great Week!  
3:00  
5:00  
7:00  
9:00  
Buck Rogers Style  
3:15  
5:15  
7:15  
9:15  
From WDBS  
3:30  
5:30  
7:30  
9:30  
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Most of the songs were based on their own lives, and you can hear Ronnie's life flow out to you on this one. It rambles a little, but the song sounds a lot like the early days and could well pop up as a single.

Steve Gaines is the only other member of the band besides Ronnie Van Zant to write on the album. "I Know a Little" finishes side one and "Ain't No Good Life" closes side two. Gaines' presence is felt in many ways. Besides his writing and guitar work, he backs Ronnie on "What's Your Name?" "I Know a Little" is a riffs, well-paced cut. The music is a little weak, you may have heard it before, but there's no faulting Ronnie's vocal or Billy Powell's fine work on keyboards.

Through many of the songs it's Ronnie's vocals that guides the tunes. On "You Got That Right," his brutally tough singing gives the song its punch. It's a strange shift to "I Never Dreamed," a bluesy ballad of lost love. There are nice backing guitars here and a good variance in pace. Could be a sleeper single.

The one non-Skynyrd penned tune is authored by one of Van Zant's early favorites, Merle Haggard. "Honky Tonk Night Time Man" features a good bouncy Billy Powell keyboard solo. Ronnie's really getting into what he says. You get the feeling they're not pale words. Steve Gaines' best song is "Ain't No Good Life." The hard riffs and good bass sing the blues.

*Street Survivors* is an all-around sharp performance. There is a good blend of keyboards and guitars. But Ronnie Van Zant's emotion-filled vocals are the heart of the album. The album shows that Lynyrd Skynyrd did not crash musically; they had come up with something new — a more laid-back, yet still powerful style. If you liked *One More From the Road*, you'll like this.

The cover seems an ominous prophecy of the tragic air crash. Enshrouded in flames is Steve Gaines in the center. On the left is Ronnie Van Zant. Both are now dead. On the right is Leon Wilkeson, the only member admitted to the hospital in critical condition. A further grim note is that the tour schedule ("Tour of the Survivors") is enclosed in the album. After opening Oct. 15 in Miami, Fla., the band survived to play only three more dates of a scheduled three and one half-month nationwide tour.



The Kathryn Posin Dance Company comes to Memorial Hall at 8 p.m. tonight. Hailed as one of America's major young dance troupes, the energetic members soar, float and spin through a variety of complex moves. Tickets are on sale at the Union desk.

## Kathryn Posin troupe to bring grace and agility to Memorial

Chapel Hill is a city in which dance is an ever-growing popular indoor sport for the spectator as well as for the participant. Tonight the New York-based Kathryn Posin Dance Company comes to Memorial Hall, promising to provide ample interest for all types of dance buffs.

Since its inception in 1970, the seven-member Kathryn Posin Dance Company has attracted steadily increasing recognition as a major young dance company with its national tours and its invitations to the American Dance Festival, the Dance Umbrella and other major events. Posin's choreography is performed by such major dance companies as the Eliot Feld Ballet and the 5 by 2 Dance Company, and she has on-going collaborations with several of America's most prominent young composers.

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Continued from page 1.

proposals to COSC for consideration. These include consideration of mechanisms whereby:

- A faculty member may be present in a classroom during an exam if he or students in the class feel his presence is necessary.
- Student Government could designate students to be present in a classroom during an exam if requested or necessary.
- A "rapping" system would be employed.
- Students found guilty of an Honor Code violation would receive something other than an F in the course.

EPC also recommends that COSC consider a mechanism whereby "students can warn other students and the class during an examination if they suspect that cheating may be going on," such as the "rapping" system proposed by Professor Harvey E. Lehman, chairperson of the zoology department.

Under the rapping system, when a student sees another student cheating, he would rap on his desk with a pencil, thus alerting everyone present that someone was cheating. The system, employed at Stanford University, includes five levels of censure, which eventually would lead to the reporting of the cheating student by the students who observed him to the Honor Court if he continued cheating.

In a letter to EPC, Lehman outlined the rapping procedure and stressed the need for faculty and student education on the Honor Code. "I think it is exceedingly important to reinstate a meaningful explanation of the honor system at Carolina as part of freshman and transfer student orientation," Lehman stated in the letter.

"Students deserve a better shake at the honor system than they've been getting at the present time," Lehman said after the EPC meeting. "Students don't know what the honor system is and what it should be doing for them and what they will be missing if it is taken away."

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