

DA's 50th Issue!

# BACKFIRE

Three decades of  
**BLAINE!!!**

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Kurt Bloch  
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The Fallouts  
and  
Pearl Jam

*Making white guys scream since 1983*



## THE NOW TIME DELEGATION

### Watch for Today

(In the Red)

This record couldn't have come at a better time. But to be honest, the Now Time Delegation shouldn't have had to convene just to make such an album.

Let me explain. Way back when, there used to be this genre of pop music called soul. It was a simple and apt word used to describe artists—from Memphis to Motown—who truly seemed to express the inexpressible from the depths of their hearts and souls, be it love, pain, sadness, disgust, regret, longing or hope. We've all been moved and influenced by these records. But somewhere along the way we either forgot how, or decided not to feel. Just take a look at what passes muster for soul music these days: Lauryn Hill—are you kidding? She should forfeit her riches to the women she's plagiarized—Roberta Flack, the I-Threes, etc. How 'bout Macy Gray? Get out of here; she mortgaged her soul for a Gap ad and a million-dollar contract. Today's so-called soul is soulless. Hardly any contempo pop singer has ever felt true pain, or if they have, they've been coached not to show it. And where are all the musicians—the players who can dig down into the depths of their aching inner selves and give a singer's voice lift with a sympathetic accompaniment? Who needs them when you have the synthetic accompaniment of a drum machine and a sequencer—they can be programmed to feel. If that doesn't work, there's always a sample or two lying around.

You get the point. The difference between the Now Time Delegation and vintage soul is merely age. This band—composed of Bellrays singer Lisa Kekaula, Lord High Fixers guitarist Tim Kerr, bassist Alex Cuervo, Hammond Organist Kari Luna and drummer Steve Adkins—are students of rock 'n' roll, of soul music, but more importantly they understand the things that cannot be taught—such as conveying true human emotions. On "Watch for Today," the five delegates dust off a handful of chestnuts (Curtis Mayfield's "Keep on Pushin'," King Floyd's "Handle Me With Care") and offer up several classics of their own ("Hangin' Tree," "Stand and Deliver") in a manner that is gritty, life-affirming, evocative, convincing, pure.

We should be glad that today's soul music dropped the ball.

*(In the Red, 2627 E. Strong Pl., Anaheim, CA 92806)*

**Joe Ehrbar**