

# [Verve]

ART • ENTERTAINMENT • LIFE • STYLE

Vol. 4, Issue 22 | Thursday, March 12, 2009

## Paper Bird



## Denver hipsters bring shenanigans to old-time style

By ELYSE JARVIS  
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

On a cross-country tour last summer, the members of Paper Bird say their time was divided between playing a show a week, skinny dipping and answering to cops who were worried the seven were cooking methamphetamines.

The group of free spirits — comprised of vocalists Genny and Esmé Patterson, vocalist/trumpeter Sarah Anderson, guitarist Paul DeHaven, banjo/harmonica-man Caleb Summeril, trombonist Tyler Archuletta and upright-bassist Macon Terry — was actually burning the vegetable oil necessary to make their eco-friendly tour bus run.

The vegged-out vehicle is just one example of the band's off-kilter existence, full of their music — which their manager Brian Schwartz deems “timeless” with its Americana/folk roots and simple but blended harmonies — their camaraderie and their “intentional community” lifestyle.

The band of 20-somethings took shape in 2006 after a random post-high school trip to Breckenridge for four of the members and, after taking on all but Macon, who joined a year ago, the group moved into a Denver house they named the Sarlacc Pit, paying homage to Tyler's Star Wars obsession.

The troupe opened their home to the community around them, sharing food and music and taking in up to 12 random stragglers at a time, says their former roommate and close friend Allison Shelley, a Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design graduate.

Paper Bird's underground fan base sprouted its roots from the collection of wanderers who'd fall into the easy, classic sounds that came to embody the house on Emerson Street. Since then, the assembly of Colorado natives who first played street corners for dinner and beer money has become the band to see live, with critics such as the Denver Post deeming them number three among Denver's top 10 acts.

Long gone are the days that the ensemble could only play on their porch stoop. Now, they've scored gigs with the Flobots at the Gothic Theater and, last month, forced Fort Collins' Road 34 to shut its doors to the lines that stretched out into the street to see the quirky septet of often barefoot hippies, whose vocalists' twirling sundresses match the sway of their light choruses and

COVER DESIGN JAMIE WAUGH | COLLEGIAN  
PHOTOGRAPHER MIKE KALUSH | COLLEGIAN

See **TROUPE** on Page 6

Members of Paper Bird, from top: Sarah Anderson, Esmé Patterson, Paul DeHaven, Tyler Archuletta, Genny, Caleb Summeril and Macon Terry. The seven say they're living without a plan and don't need a label.