

Dan Marek



“My career in journalism came pretty unexpectedly. I walked into the offices of the *State Press Magazine* to start writing about music, because they obviously didn’t know what they were talking about. Sticking to my roots, I told them exactly what I thought about their coverage of the local and national music markets. Later I found out from the editor that she was inches away from jumping over her desk and giving me an earful, but I was right so she gave me a chance.

“Weeks later, I was writing 80 percent of the magazine and working my ass off just to keep ahead of the game. I began freelancing for any publication that would put me in print and started working for some of the ‘big name’ magazines— all within a year and a half of my first article.

“I’ve had a lot of embarrassing moments, from being pegged by a wave of shoes by angry concertgoers after the Violent Femmes walked off the stage at That Damn Show (there’s something really odd about sharing an experience like that with a band), to playing soccer with Eagle Eye Cherry while waiting for a ‘formal’ interview with him, only to have his manager whisk him away to do a series of phoners.

“There have been many ups and downs, but one thing that stays around after the shows, deadlines, meet and greets— the music. After coming home from hanging out with some of music’s biggest and brightest, I can only think of one thing— sitting back, taking off my shoes, lighting some candles, and putting in a great album.”