

THE LIMIT

www.thelimitmusic.com

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MUSIC

'The most important ingredient is soul...'

When decades collide

The Limit mixes '70s and '90s rock at Drifters in Nashua

By Seth Hoy
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You'd have to be a pretty big badass to be rockin' leather pants and a pimped-out fur coat—either that, or an all-male version of the 80's cartoon band *Jem* and the Holograms.

Luckily for The Limit, a three-piece rock band out of Connecticut, they're the former. The leather pants make lead guitarish Mark Daniel feel "like a rocker." The Limit will appear at Drifters on Factory Street in Nashua on Saturday, Dec. 11.

But it's not all hair-rock and ostentation that drive The Limit from concert to concert, state to state and album to album. Any VH1 special can tell you that it's not *all* about the music, fast cars and fast women; it's also about the fans.

"We love the music, the bands and the fans too," Daniel said. "I was once in a music store and some guy told me he just bought our album. I was flattered. I see a sticker on someone's car and I feel like asking them to go to a bar so I can buy them a drink. The fans don't know how much it means to us. I can't even put into words."

Starting off small

The Limit was formed in 2000 when drummer Bob Chmiel, bassist Todd Grosberg and guitarist/vocalist Mark Daniel wanted to start a rock band. Like most new bands, they started off small, playing the local bar circuit around Connecticut until they found the right venue for their music.

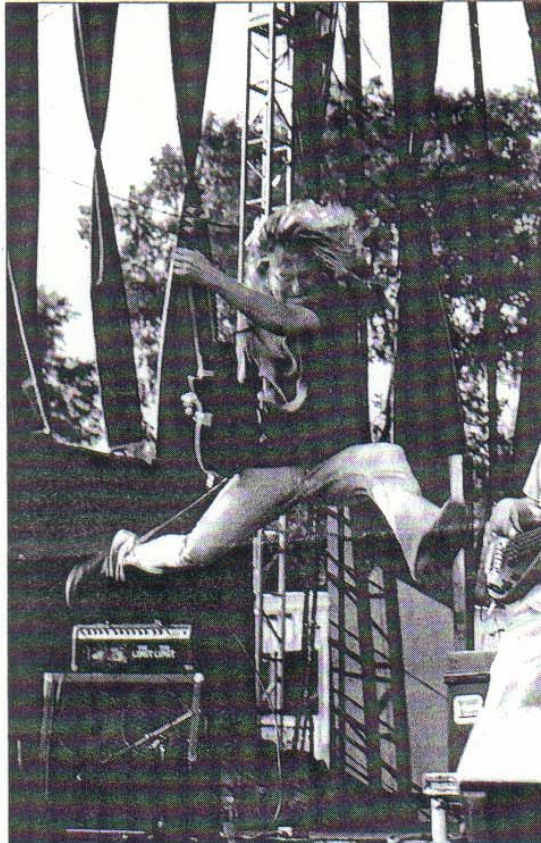
The Limit signed to the Horizon Music Group label (HMG) a month before their first self-titled album, *The Limit*, was released in 2003 and they've now played nearly 200 venues across the United States. They've shared the stage with such greats as Fuel, Tantric, Crossfade, Living Colour, Steve Vai, members of Pearl Jam and Blind Melon.

Daniel, who attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, has been playing the guitar ever since he can remember. As a child, he was inspired by Eddie Van Halen's guitar solos.

"Van Halen changed my life when I was 15," Daniel said. "I've never heard someone play guitar like that—ever."

With influences such as Led Zeppelin, Pearl Jam and Van Halen, The Limit's music is lined with rock-tastic guitar solos and heavy lyrics. But The Limit takes more than just musical content, style and presence away from these bands. They take something that you can't put on paper—soul.

"The most important ingredient we pull from them is soul," Daniel said. "It's something that we can't describe, it moves your soul and it's all about how you communicate it to make it your own. We take the energy in their



The Limit's Mark Daniel makes the most of the wide open spaces.

songs and make it our own. The most important thing is capturing the essence, the spirit. We're not so much taking their style or musical genre. When I play the guitar and sing, I study the way Van Halen plays, not the way he sounds because, you know, there's only one Eddie. It's Eddie, man!"

Seven glasses of wine

Described as "straight-up '70s meets early '90s rock," The Limit's music has classic rock appeal but with way better lyrics. When writing a song, The Limit has a policy of not hampering each other's style by spotlighting one member. Bob Chmiel's drumming comes through just as evenly as Grosberg's bass and Daniel's guitar—uniting them as a band instead of a one-man show.

Daniel writes most the lyrics, which spill out of his life experiences.

"The lyrics comes from so many different directions," Daniel said. "Sometimes a song will come to me at three in the morning after seven glasses of wine. It touches you at the right time and you have to write about it then.

"A lot of the songs are based on my emotional experiences. Like with any of us, when something happens in your life that you don't understand, you absorb it and communicate it afterwards."

Even though The Limit is on a small record label and sponsored by Jagermeister, they manage their own finances, bookings and album production. Controlling their own finances allows the freedom to explore and experiment with the market.

When The Limit went to Ozzfest last summer to promote their new album, they were afraid they were talking to the wrong crowd, the non-rock crowd.

"I know it sounds counterintuitive to say," Daniel said, "but I wish there were more bands that sound like us. When we first started touring three years ago, we were playing with bands that sounded like Blink 182 and Limp Bizkit. We didn't sound like that and we would get a look from people in the audience like we had an arm growing out of our heads."

But the more they played, the more people listened. The Limit eventually found themselves playing in places like CBGB's in New York, The Mars Theater in Wilmington, N.C. and other stages across the country.

Simplify, simplify

The Limit is currently working on an extended EP of their first album to be released in February 2005. They're musically simplifying some of the songs for a more direct effect as well as adding in some new material.

"It sounds a bit different than what we have on the original CD," Daniel said. "It's more stripped down than what we've been doing. It's stripped down to the groove, down to the basic song so we can't overplay them. We just want to let the groove play out."

If you don't normally dig the rock scene, you may be pleasantly surprised after listening to The Limit when they play at Drifter's. The combination of the rock attitude coupled with long hair and sweat makes for quite a convincing performance—as powerful as it can get without biting the head off a

bat. "We make it positive as possible," Daniel said. "It's a good time. We're not working if we're not sweating. Expect a high energy power rock show."

For more information on The Limit, check out their Web site at www.thelimitmusic.com or browse for their music at www.amazon.com, FYE, Newbury Comics, Strawberries or Barnes & Noble.

Who?

Bob Chmiel - drums
Mark Daniel - vocal, guitar
Todd Grosberg - bass

What?

A three-piece rock powerhouse

Where?

Club Drifters
33 Factory St.
Nashua

When?

Saturday, Dec. 11

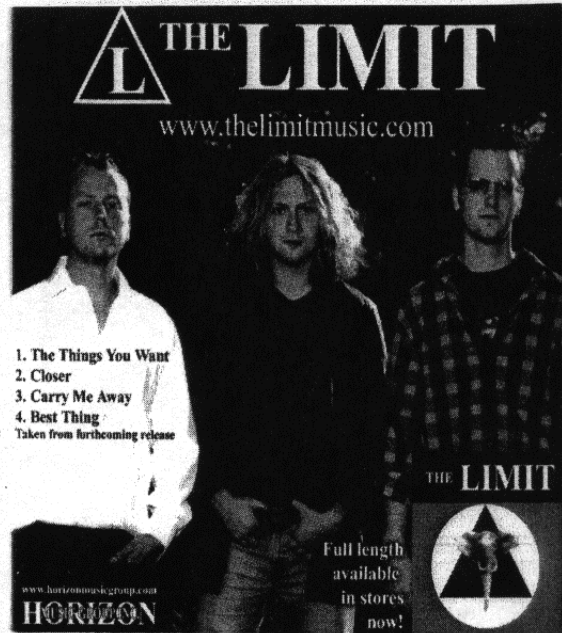
Why?

Why put a limit on your musical boundaries?

THE LIMIT

THE LIMIT combines 70's and early 90's rock to create a sound all its own with songs that urge you to turn the volume up. Crashing beats, thunderous bass, screaming guitars and emotive vocals, THE LIMIT explodes on to the national music scene with the E.P release follow up to the Full length CD in stores everywhere now.

Taking pages from Van Halen, Rush, Led Zeppelin and Pearl Jam THE LIMIT is writing its own chapter in rock. Pure rock, this is the return of the power rock trio.



Available Tuesday, May 3rd

On Tour Now and on Radio 2005

Tour sponsored by Jagermeister



"Winning audiences where they go, the only way to truly understand their atomic rock sound is to hear then yourself."

Wes Soriano for The Aquarian, New York, NY

"THE LIMIT has been making a name for themselves as a return to plain and simple rock... Giving audiences something they have been looking for."

Dewitt Brinson for ENCORE Magazine, Wilmington, NC

"They're the new sound of alternative music."

Lindsey Keen for NowOnTour.com

"Enough momentum to rock your world. THE LIMIT's dedication to the stage allows them to win over diverse audiences."

Leslie Benson for The Guardian, Dayton, OH

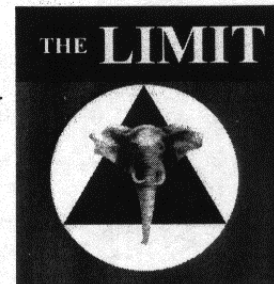
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AFTER DARK

WHEN

ROCK

RULED THE AIRWAVES



Courtesy photo

Leather pants and wild hair — The Limit brings its old-school rock to The Brickhouse Lounge.

BY ZACH HANNER
For *The Sun News*

Remember what a rock star used to look like? No Prada. No Burberry. No bling-bling. Just some leather pants and wild hair and a voice seasoned with cigarettes and hard liquor.

The members of The Limit — who perform tonight at the Brickhouse Lounge — remember the era when rock ruled, and it shows in the way they carry themselves, it's in their sound, and it informs their attitude.

The New Haven, Conn., trio signed to independent label HMG Recordings a little more than a year ago, and its self-titled debut disc was released in November.

Determined to make rock 'n' roll a lifestyle and career, the band set about learning the business aspect of the music world.

"Before we were even signed, we had set up our own chain of distribution," said lead singer and guitarist Mark Daniel.

The Limit hit the road and hit it hard. "We've been touring constantly for the last few years," Daniel said. "We did over 200 dates last year."

Part of what brings new fans to The Limit's music and what keeps this band on the road is its wide-open, classic rock-inspired sound. Tempered with a few contemporary touches, The Limit evokes classic rock from the 1970s, full

IF YOU GO

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with Once
Broken and
Prasad**

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today

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Surfside Beach

How much | Free
for ages 21 and
older, and \$5 ages
younger than 21

☎ 839-2000

LIMIT

From Page 4

of squealing guitars and thumping bass lines and pounding rhythms. "I'm always impressed with trios that can produce the sound of a full band," said Brian Dukes, arts editor for Fayetteville, N.C.'s *Up & Coming* magazine.

Daniel admits that writing songs isn't easy, particularly when the little intangible things aren't just right. "When writing songs, the most important ingredient is having passion for the song, the soul of the music," Daniel said. "The energy has to be there. It's sort of like an X factor, something you can't explain but you have to feel inside."

Dukes understands this idea and feels that *The Limit's* record has an X factor. "As an editor, I get a lot of CDs that come across my desk looking for a review; and a large percentage of them are just a rehash of what's being done by other, more talented people," Dukes said. "The *Limit* really

grabbed my interest and that's a big deal. If you're able to catch someone's attention with something that sounds unique, you've won half the battle."

The other half of the battle is looking good while you rock, and Daniel credits the band's brutal road schedule with making them physically fit. "We do really energetic shows, and we love it. You almost become like an athlete out there."

So as the band racks up experience on tour, it hopes popular tastes will shift toward its brand of rock, which has drawn comparisons to Van Halen, Led Zeppelin and Pearl Jam.

"This is a period where we have to work really hard and spend a lot of time in the van," Daniel said. "From what I've seen, rock is like everything else in that it goes in cycles. Every once and while there's a lull in what's happening, like with today's pop phenomenon. But sooner or later, tastes will change. We'll be ready."

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The Limit hasn't found one yet

Power trio to perform at Monkey Bar Saturday

By LEE WARD
The Independent

ASHLAND From the success The Limit has seen, it's about time for the power trio to set new limits.

The New Haven, Conn.-based band, which will perform Saturday at the Monkey Bar in Huntington, has already built a promising career on four and a half years of experience together performing self-booked gigs and selling their self-produced CDs during that time.

The group, consisting of Mark Daniel, guitarist and vocals, Bob Chmiel, drummer, and Todd Grosberg on bass, also won a coveted honor: The Limit was named The Nation's Top Unsigned Band by the national committee of Midwest Music and Entertainment Conference. They're also proud of the fact that one of their songs beat a Metallica song in a "cage match" on a Knoxville, Tenn., radio station. The group has opened for Living Colour, Unified Theory, Steve Vai, Echo 7 and Hill Hannah.

That doesn't mean the work is done; it's just begun.

The Limit began a fall tour Aug. 27 in its home of New Haven, with dates in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee to follow.

Daniel said this won't be their first stop in the area.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Limit members are, from left, Bob Chmiel, drums; Mark Daniel, vocals and guitar; and Todd Grosberg, bass.

"We played Huntington before and it was a great time," he said.

"There was a lot of college students and the college radio station gave us a lot of support."

The Limit's sound, Daniel said, is "straight-ahead rock and roll," and has been influenced by the group mem-

The Limit will perform at the Monkey Bar on Third Avenue in Huntington Saturday.

bers' love of groups such as Led Zeppelin, Pearl Jam, Van Halen and Rush, making their sound a mix of classic rock and early 1990 grunge.

"Our music derives from all these different areas and

it's basically pure power rock," Daniel said.

The next obvious step is for The Limit to sign to a major record label. Meanwhile, Daniel said he and the rest of the band are satisfied.

"Even on great dates, it's tough sometimes," he said, but all in all, he added: "We're happy and in a cool place."

LEE WARD can be reached at ward or (606) 326-2661.

"We're happy and in a cool place."

Mark Daniel
The Limit

Approach the Limit

By Roger Straub

Special to Courier

In a musical world filled with boy bands and singing Barbie dolls, it's nice to see a group that has a genuine thrust for hard rock and how it should be played, as well as performed. Connecticut-based rockers The Limit is a power trio poised to break into the big time.

With a nationally released album already under its belt, self-titled *The Limit*, the band's popularity is quickly growing, not only throughout Connecticut and New England, but across the entire country.

The group consists of three talented musicians and songwriters. Front man/lead guitarist Mark Daniel is a musical, as well as vocal dynamo. Supporting him on bass guitar is Todd Grosberg, and on drums is Bob Chmiel.

Five years ago The Limit was not much more than a thought. Growing up in Milford and all graduates of Foran High School, each member of the band was hoping to pursue a musical career. Daniel and Chmiel are brothers, so part of this musical puzzle was already in place. Grosberg was a high school friend, who played bass, and occasionally would get together with Daniel and Chmiel and jam.

With their teen years behind them, as well as high school, Daniel went off to Boston to study at the Berkeley College of Music. Upon his return, Mark and brother Bob began to set the foundation of a band. Recalling their teen years

NOTE WORTHY

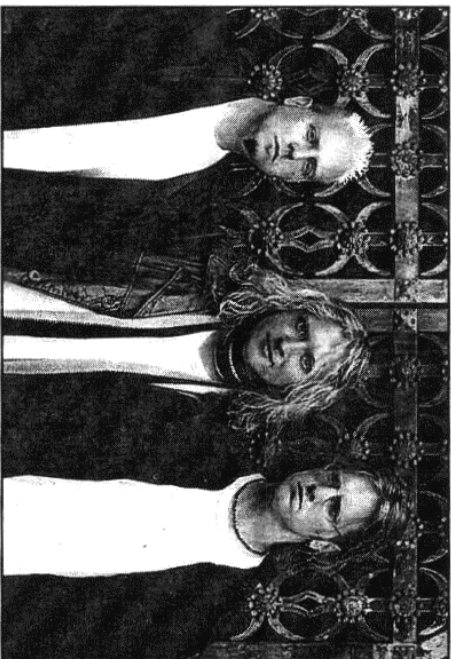
and the good times they had playing with Grosberg, it was a natural fit for this once garage/jam band to begin to get serious.

In the world of rock & roll bands there is basically a choice of two paths to follow: to be an original group or a cover band. After about a year of rehearsals and learning how to play as a unit, The Limit emerged as one of the leading original bands in Connecticut.

However, there were bigger fish to fry, and the group was restless for a larger fan base and territory. With a relentless work ethic, The Limit began to claw and scratch their way across New England, often appearing in somewhat undesirable venues. With some taste of success and 190 gigs behind them, they played on, wrote new material, and began pushing their rock boundaries to the south and west. As they say, "Persistence is the key to success."

Unknowingly to the band, at one of the venues they played, there was a music representative from Jagermeister Music—yes, the same Jagermeister as in the beverage company.

Upon returning home from a mini-tour through New England, a message appeared on Daniel's e-mail: "Please contact us...we would like to sponsor The Limit... Jagermeister Music."



Members of The Limit: Mark Daniel, Todd Grosberg, and Bob Chmiel.

With backing from a sponsor, the group has garnered a broader fan base, as well as national attention.

Currently The Limit is working on their second release set for 2005. It has broken through the FM radio barriers and is getting airplay on many radio formats nationally. The band's first release, *The Limit*, on HMG records, is doing well throughout the U.S. The recording is a hard-hitting variety of cleverly crafted music, including a few potential hit-makers in "Real," "Don't Look Back," "Borderline," and "Mountain." The CD is a throw back to the '70s style of music, not a lot of gimmicks and flash, but a true and honest approach to the group's writing and performance abilities. Acoustic guitar, as well as nice back-up vocals, are also notable in the mix.

"A good song will stand up as a

good song, no matter what the format," says Daniel.

The band is currently recording new material, then off on tour. It is planning a southern and Midwest leg of performances, ending on the West Coast for a video stop at MTV 2.

The Limit is a must-see concert experience geared for the listening audience. Of the many groups I've reviewed and interviewed over the past years, The Limit has true star power. It is an asset to the hard rock movement in America.

The Limit can be contacted at www.TheLimitMusic.com. The band will appear at Todd's Place in New Haven on Nov. 12.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions of performers to be featured in *Noteworthy*? Contact Roger Straub at mccornodas@yahoo.com.