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TEXT

## Stegosaurus Lips

From their first show at bassist Price Newell's high school pop's concert to their upcoming performance at the 2012 MR Fest at 9 p.m. April 26 at Tantra, Stegosaurus Lips is still keeping it fresh. Newell says when the band, which he describes as the lovechild of the Beatles and Cake, formed five years ago he had dreadlocks and the four other members: Judd Absher, Daniel Furman, Jason Rodriguez and Matt Ramos had long hair. Even though the band members may have cleaned up their looks, and Absher is getting married in summer 2012 (Newell says even though he received his online minister ordination to officiate friends' weddings, he will just be playing music at Absher's wedding), Stegosaurus Lips' sound is still young and rambunctious.

"It's like a big musical queso," says Newell.



Jordan Gass-Poore': Where did the name come from?

Price Newell: This is the first time I've given a straight answer on this question. It was supposed to be a temporary name. We had our first show and I was driving down the road, it was late at night, and I was on my way home and for some reason (I) thought of a stegosaurus with just bright, smackin' red lips. Stegosaurus's have beaks, you know, so to have bright red lips was quite the comedic thought to me, I just started laughing. I told all of them that and they thought, 'Ya, that's a good band for a show.' And the, lazy as we are, we just never thought of a new one. We've sat down and tried to think of a new one over the years and nothing else works I guess.

JGP: How did you become involved with MR Fest?

PN: Through some people that work here. I know last year, I guess 2011, (and) we played one of the First Thursdays y'all do over at Tantra and so, that happened to fall under one of our really big shows, The Michael Jordan Birthday Bash. I guess a couple of people from KTSW noticed us then and somebody got a hold of us for this year and there ya go.

JGP: History of the band?

PN: It's definitely hard to pin a genre. It's one of the hardest questions we ever get is: what kind of music do you play? We don't really know precisely. We've all been friends for a long time. I grew up in Canyon Lake, they all grew up kind of in the New Braunfels Area. I've known some of them for as far back as eight years. We're all buddies from a while ago and we all acted together in a kind of community theater troupe, I guess. And then everybody kind of started playing music and everybody was in different bands, but at some point we all kind of came together and made a band about five years ago. We've just been going ever since then.

JGP: How do the band members find time to practice?

PN: The rhythm guitar player, the UT graduate, actually just started teaching this semester, down in Marion at an elementary school, which is very interesting. We practice Thursday nights when we can, we usually pick one day out of the week,

Thursdays is the day for the rotation, and just try to stick to that and usually we can all make it in. We've been doing it for five years, so we're kind of used to at least one day a week needs to be band practice time.

-Jordan Gass-Poore

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