

# Music

# IT'S ALL IN FUN

## Mid-Life Crisis is a good thing indeed

By Katy Moore  
The Grand Rapids Press

**M**id-Life Crisis only has a few hard-and-fast band rules, among them being ...

- (a) Family comes first;
- (b) It's all about having fun.

"What we don't want to do is put pressure on people so that it isn't fun for them anymore or that they get pressure from other people about the band," said David Doran, bassist and trumpet player for the band.

"One of the things I think is unique is that we all have full-time jobs," said Doran, an attorney by day. And not just jobs, but careers. The other members of the Grand Rapids-based band are keyboardist Kevin Paul (a bank vice president), saxophone player, keyboardist and percussion player Dan Doran (a teacher), drummer Steve Bloom (a doctor), lead vocalist Tina Beveridge (an administrative assistant/paralegal), guitarist Greg Morris (an industrial salesman) and guitarist Steve Westphal (an advertising director).

"We've all played and/or sang for a number of years," Doran said. "Most of us played (in bands) full time or nearly full time in our teens and 20s." But now, he explained, it's all about the music and having a good time.

"This is a hobby for us. We have a great chemistry as a band

**WHO:** Mid-Life Crisis  
**WHEN:** 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
**WHERE:** Westwood Ranch, 5760 West River Drive NE  
**COVER:** \$6  
**CALL:** 363-5104  
**CONTACT US:** Know a local band or musician for an In Your Ear feature? Call The Press Entertainment Department at 222-5585, or send an e-mail to [weekend@grpress.com](mailto:weekend@grpress.com).

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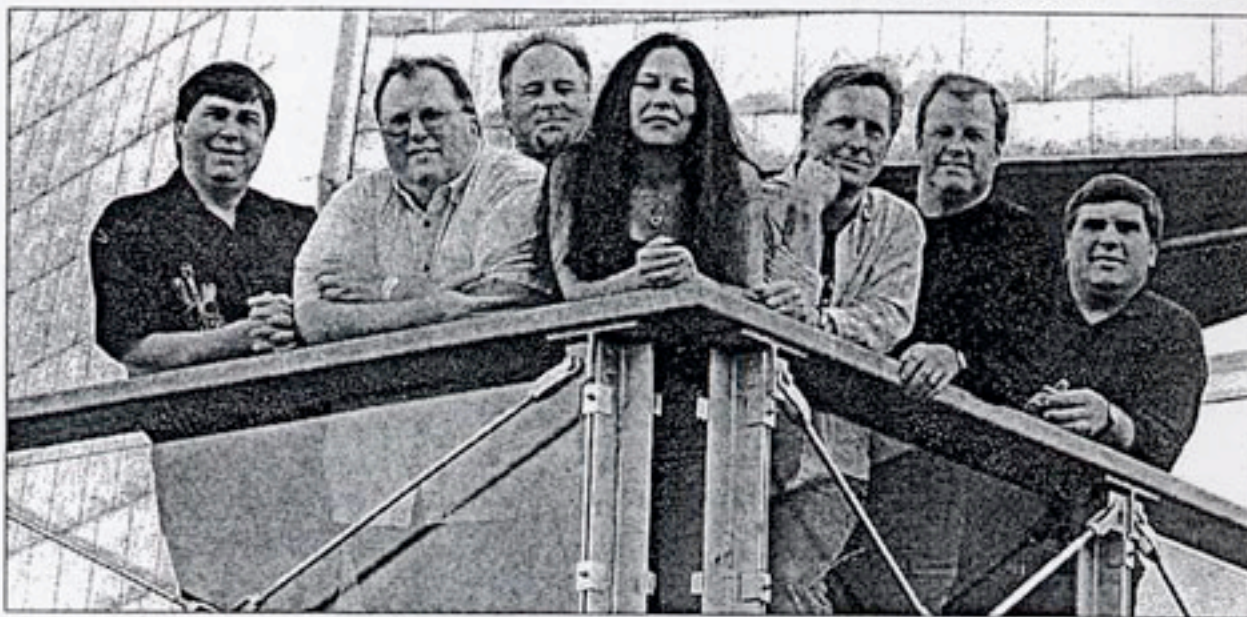
and really enjoy doing what we're doing."

The band's sound is what Doran calls Classic Top 40. "We do (songs from) the Eagles, Elton John, Chicago, the Doobie Brothers — you understand the genre. We have horns on the appropriate songs, and we work very hard on our vocals. Six of us sing, so it's not uncommon to have five or six of us on vocals at the same time."

For now, Mid-Life Crisis is focusing on cover songs, but a demo record is in the works.

"Right now, we're a cover band. This summer we'll start working on originals, though that will probably be more for our own enjoyment. We're putting together a promo CD now and will record the originals we work on this summer."

"We're trying to pick (cover) songs that haven't been overplayed but that people will recognize. The youngest of us is in their late 30s, the rest are in



In the West Michigan band Mid-Life Crisis are, from left: Steve Bloom, Dan Doran, Greg Morris, Tina Beveridge, Steve Westphal, Kevin Paul and David Doran.

their 40s. I don't think we'll ever appeal to the teen/20s group, so we don't even try. We play songs that we grew up with and our contemporaries will enjoy. A lot of those songs are from the '70s, early '80s."

Some of the band's most popular covers include "Take It Easy," by the Eagles; "Hip To Be Square," by Huey Lewis and the News; "Beginnings," by Chicago; and "Space Oddity," by David Bowie.

"It's almost undanceable, but people seem to enjoy hearing it," said Doran of the band's Bowie cover. "Playing music from the '70s and '80s, we have lots of contemporaries who love hearing the songs they grew up with. They're hearing songs live they haven't heard in quite a while."

### Covers with flair

"We try to understand what the original artist did with the song and then make it our own," he said.

"Sometimes our arrangements are similar, but sometimes they're not. We try to do what fits our band. We do lots of songs that were originally by male singers, but Tina sings them, and that changes them. We also may add harmonies that weren't in the original song. We tell people that we don't take ourselves very seriously, but we take our music pretty seriously."

In keeping with band rules, Mid-Life Crisis has limited its performance schedule.

"We try to be out performing no more than two to three times a month," Doran said. "But if opportunity came along, we'd probably have to break that rule."

