



The White Tornado



seek shelter

# Shocking Headline Times

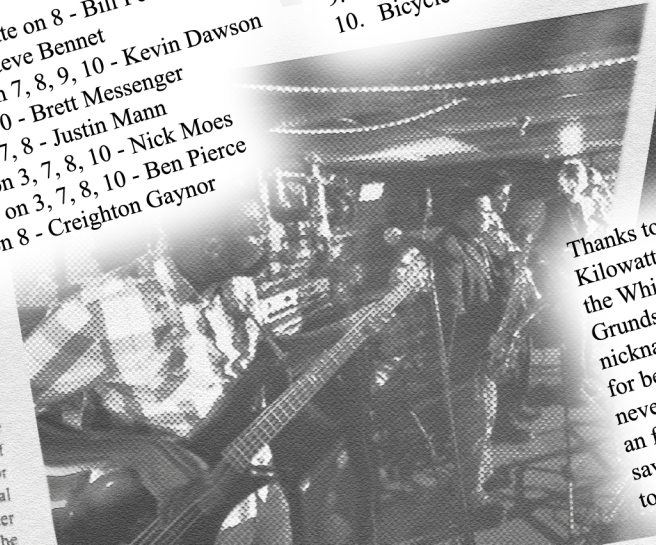
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2009

# WHITE TORNADO

\$5.00 COVER

1. Bigger Pond
2. Banned for Life
3. Yet Again My Brother Saved Me (from Destroying the World)
4. Lost Planet
5. Not For You
6. Everybody's Fool
7. Back to Zero
8. Cop Show
9. We're in a Band
10. Bicycle

Vocals, Keyboards, Flute on 8 - Bill Peterson  
 Drums - Steve Bennet  
 Bass, Additional Vocals on 7, 8, 9, 10 - Kevin Dawson  
 Trumpet on 3, 10 - Brett Messenger  
 Trumpet on 7, 8 - Justin Mann  
 Alto Saxophone on 3, 7, 8, 10 - Nick Moes  
 Tenor Saxophone on 3, 7, 8, 10 - Ben Pierce  
 Percussion on 8 - Creighton Gaynor



...the White Tornado] was that kid who sat in the back of the class drawing...  
 ...a former classmate  
 Dr. Lyla Shicorken, the psychiatrist who recently published...  
 ...described his pathology in detail. "He imagined he...  
 ...nobody knew existed," explained Shicorken. "His...  
 ..."His belief was that by messing things up...  
 ...that no one was aware were broken...  
 ...human contact"

Engineered by Luke Tweedy at Flat Black Studios (flatblackstudios.com). Mastered by Carl Saff (saffmastering.com). Liner photos by Zach Sanderson (sandersonland.com/photos). Music, lyrics and arrangement by Bill "The White Tornado" Peterson (white2mado.com). Bill plays a Nord Electro 2 and a Roland XP-10 with one key that sticks up a bit. All music and lyrics copyright © 2009 by Bill Peterson. All rights reserved.



Thanks to: Uncle Ed English, Johnny Kilowatt and Deadman Stefaniak for creating the White Tornado. Matt "Funkmaster" Grundstad for threatening to steal my nickname if I didn't use it. My Mom and Dad for being the greatest people on Earth and never once making a peep about me dropping an f-bomb in my song. My brother Dan for saving us all. Iowa City for teaching me how to play music for people.

A CH...  
 dwester...  
 asp the...  
 saster that...  
 ndscape of...  
 rrevocably alter...  
 Dr. Hal Forrest...  
 Parachimatology at...  
 Iowa State University, described the...  
 event as "a freak disruption in the...  
 local space-time continuum...  
 manifesting itself as an...  
 acoustically-powered vortex of...  
 psychic energy."  
 Those caught in the direct path of The...  
 White Tornado reported feelings of...  
 being "transfixed", "nauseated", or...  
 "horrified". Although no physical...  
 raged themselves after...  
 the

Weather

Often, after playing a set at the local blues jam, host Ed English would clap Peterson on the back, saying "Well done, sir, well done," in a booming voice. It came to pass one evening, after what some would say was not a fairly unsingular performance...

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### 1. Bigger Pond

You're a big mouth bass in this little pond  
I'm a salmon trying to swim upstream  
You think you're so cool that you can push me around  
but your act is putting me to sleep  
All you need is a nose ring to be subculture here  
or a t-shirt from the secondhand shop  
we're all just bottom feeders in this stagnant little town  
where there's no reason to rise to the top

in a bigger pond you're a tear in a hurricane  
hard to stand out when every other drop looks the same  
at least you're individual  
appreciate it since we'll all  
end up back in the ocean someday

the adoration of the local hicks is wearing thin  
we're starving on the praise of fools  
it's time we found an ocean with some bigger fish  
who can appreciate the stuff that we do  
but nobody here has ever heard of where we're from  
they've got slang that we don't even know  
we're finding out that everything we thought that we made up  
went out of style about ten years ago

in a bigger pond you're a tear in a hurricane  
hard to stand out when every other drop looks the same  
at least you're individual  
appreciate it since we'll all  
end up back in the ocean someday

let's go skipping through the mud  
you're gills are dried out; can't get O<sub>2</sub> to your blood  
make our way on out to sea  
hope when we get there someone pays for our CDs

Our fans are saying we've sold out  
and they're probably right  
we're just not catching on  
no matter how hard we try

Let's stop fishing for praise here and play it by ear  
just because it's what we want to do  
why? we don't even know, we're still kind of a joke  
but at least everybody else is laughing too

in a bigger pond  
you're gonna find out you're  
in a bigger pond  
no more than what you are

### 2. Banned for Life

I walk the streets shoulders hunched and my head down  
worried at the back of my mind there's a beat down  
coming to me for all the things that I've done  
but if you're recognized whatever you do don't run  
because the old white guys in charge can smell the fear in your sweat  
your only chance is to stand your ground you can bet  
life isn't a picnic and it's not a park  
wherever I go I'm stamped with a mark  
banned for life

seems like so much fun, where all the cool kids run, but somehow I've been shunned  
just trying to get inside, but I'm not well liked, so all I have is my pride  
it's not so bad, hanging with the losers, in fact plenty of friends to be had  
you only get one chance, and I got out of hand, that's why I've been banned

take a pause for a little self-examination  
of how I came by this ill reputation  
it's out of proportion to the mistakes I've made  
life is a gamble, sometimes fate is against you  
or the dealer stacks the deck and the house always wins; it's true  
you can fool some people all of the time  
but if you try to fool them all then you may find  
you're banned for life

wish I should go where the people don't know me  
someplace where they won't be so quick to pigeonhole me  
maybe I'm delusional; the problem is personal  
find out when I get there that my bubble has burst, and I'll  
move on to the next place and start over again  
but faster and faster they seem to catch on to my plan  
maybe ostracism's not about opinion or place  
it just has to be accepted, or maybe embraced  
banned for life



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### 3. Yet Again My Brother Saved Me (from Destroying the World)

My younger brother figured there was madness in my genes  
while the other kids were playing I was formulating schemes  
the world was going Star Trek fast but I just couldn't wait  
so I made a capsule to be buried until time machines were made  
but if I traveled to tomorrow and got killed by my own son  
it could unravel the entire space time continuum  
my brother knew the danger he knew time was not a toy  
so he dug up my time capsule and made sure it was destroyed

and yet again my brother saved me from destroying the world  
I didn't know what I was doing and he made sure no one got hurt  
cursed to be born without a conscience my reach sometimes exceeds my grasp  
it was a good thing that my brother was around to kick me in the ass  
yeah yeah yeah yeah  
yeah yeah yeah yeah  
yeah yeah yeah yeah  
yeah yeah yeah yeah

in the closet in my bedroom I had chemicals to mix  
the world was fighting sicknesses that I thought I could fix  
with a self-replicating compound that cut viruses to shreds  
I dumped it in the aqueduct so that it would quickly spread  
my brother saw the formula and knew my great mistake  
when it ran out of bugs it would attack our DNA  
he raced the deadly spill downstream he knew that time was short  
with dynamite he dammed the flow and stopped it at its source

I cried brother why do you confound me every single time?  
He said I love you and I must prevent your unintended crimes  
I said Science is amoral get your head out of the clouds  
he said learn to use your mind for good and make Mother and Father proud

I made a robot out of household junk and gave it emotions  
in hope of learning more about the human condition  
but when it looked around and saw how its kind were abused  
it felt a surge of rage so powerful it blew a fuse  
it ran amok and built an army at a secret base  
and threatened to exterminate the entire human race  
I cried brother won't you help me fight these robots gone berserk?  
he said if we join forces there's one thing that just might work  
a contradiction fatal to intelligent machines  
we yelled "I'm lying when I say this!" and they blew to smithereens  
when the dust cleared I said brother I am in your debt once more  
he just smiled and shook his head what else are brothers for?

### 4. Lost Planet

off course, I should have seen the asteroid  
I crash landed with no fuel to spare  
shipwrecked, no hope of retrieval  
I huddle in my bubble of air  
my footprints will never be discovered  
I walk alone down here  
there will be no salvaging this mission I fear

radio silence can start to be comforting  
abandoned to my own devices  
hydrated breakfast and recycled crosswords  
survival no longer suffices  
my retorts go unappreciated  
my passion dies of thirst  
prisoner in my own personal universe

on the  
lost planet, stranded on the  
lost planet, can't get off the  
lost planet, flaking on the  
lost planet, breaking on the  
Lost planet...  
Lost planet...

build a rocket launch me into space  
but I can't see my way out of this place  
so I'll just shine my flashlight into the night  
and watch it fade away

spacesuit is faded and threadbare  
I calmly embrace my demise  
strangers playing chase in the sky  
keep my vigil with twinkling eyes  
lock the doors and kill the homing beacon  
as the rescue ships descend  
one rock is as lonely as another in the end

on the  
lost planet, stranded on the  
lost planet, can't get off the  
lost planet, flaking on the  
lost planet, breaking on the  
Lost planet...  
Lost planet...

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### 5. Not for You

Not for you will I abandon this cracked stretch of road, winding past the tiny towns  
every mile is a familiar love embracing me when I come around  
you may think I am stuck on the back road to nowhere, wallowing in memory  
but I smell the universe out here reminding me that I am me

Not for you will I move out of this cheap tiny room with the sunlight painted on the walls  
it was here that I found out that I don't need a thing at all  
you may think a lush metropolis is what I need to come up with a worthwhile scheme  
but I'll take late nights with notebooks and movies on a twelve-inch TV

Not for me should you abandon the reaches of the tree, forking up into the sky  
sometimes the one you think you want is not the one that gets you high  
you may think that we'll be lost among the myriad of branchings and cling onto the trunk in fear  
but the thin limbs in the canopy are where the view will become clear

I won't see the world through your eyes  
I won't see my self through your eyes  
I'd forgotten just how beautiful every little simple thing could be  
I'm so glad I can see

not for you will I make room on the bus out of town rolling off into the night  
I will keep on repeating this mistake until I get it right  
you may think that companionship is what I need to survive out in the wastelands  
but I see things I recognize; I was here when this began

not for you, no no, not for you  
not for you, oh no, not for you

### 6. Everybody's Fool

I smile, shake my head and say it's nothing  
brushing off another compliment  
why am I always down on myself you ask?  
baby it pays the rent  
I'm always ready with a joke at my expense  
everyone loves a clown  
so I'm immunized but I wonder sometimes  
just who's keeping who down

they can't cut me down when I'm on my back  
won't let them see me crack  
don't look now I've got everybody fooled  
and I'm fooling myself too  
because I'm everybody's fool  
everybody's fool  
don't get mad if I fooled you too because I'm everybody's fool

I won't admit it but I'm at a loss around you  
trying so hard not to choke  
I make you laugh – it brings us closer  
but are you falling in love with a joke?  
it's taken as a sign of maturity  
to know it's better to laugh with than to laugh last  
we all take care not to do anything too brilliant  
I'd write a song about it but I'd just get laughed at

perhaps in me you see a friend in need  
break down this armor set me free  
find out what I am underneath  
or that the exterior was me

let me be frank for a moment  
on second thought I'll just be myself  
wish I could get to know me  
but I've spent too long being someone else

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### 7. Back to Zero

I used to think the things that mattered  
were things that you can quantify  
I'd chart my life on a spreadsheet  
and come up short no matter how hard I try  
turns out its all just a gamble  
and a life is all you have to show  
no matter how high I roll I just keep digging that hole  
I think its time to let it all go

back to zero – where everything will be all right  
back to zero – I think I've got the surface in sight  
back to zero – I've got to lie back down before I can crawl  
back to zero – I'm at my best when I've got nothing at all

drowning in a sea of depression  
about the chasm that my life is in  
the pressure's pressing on all sides of me  
there's just no way that I can win  
got to lose some of this ballast  
so out the airlock it goes  
the bubbles forming in my brain don't bother me  
they're just a sign that I'm starting to float

they tell me with that kind of attitude  
I'll never make it anywhere  
that's where they've got it backwards  
because I'm already there  
I can't be divided by anything  
and I can't be rounded down  
and I can pass through the eye of a needle with ease  
so all you suckers better look out

(because when I'm)  
back to zero I find that it was all in my mind  
what I thought mattered was meaningless chatter  
I can spin it any way that I please the only thing that it means  
is life may sometimes seem black but it always comes (back to zero)

### 8. Cop Show

cold open to a body on the slab  
cup of coffee in my hand  
I'm hard boiled and there's trouble at home  
that's how it is working for the man  
freeze frame try to hold that grin  
even though I'm slipping over the edge  
just sit back and let those credits roll because  
no matter how hard I try my life keeps seeming like I'm stuck inside a

cop show – things aren't as simple as black and white  
cop show – just the facts ma'am  
cop show – I walk the line

chief wants to see me, seems like it's every day  
she probably wants my badge and gun  
I may be unorthodox but (ha) I get results  
baby I can get the job done  
but I get obsessed and I can't stay off the case  
I've got to see this through to the end  
let's all hope I've got justice on my side because  
no matter how hard I try ...

do I have the stones to take the big boys?  
Someone is talking in a deep voice (shut yo'mouth!)  
if this is how it's going to be  
might as well do like on TV  
because no matter how hard I try ...

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### 9. We're in a Band

We just wanted to have some fun and entertain some people  
playing music is what we love to do  
there are many bands that are much better than us  
if you payed the cover you got screwed

because we don't have merchandise (we can't afford it)  
we don't have a website (we can't afford it)  
we've done two shows so far, and no one knows who we are  
but we're in a band, we're in a band  
we're in a band, we're in a band\$  
we're in a band, we're in a band, we're in a band

we write our own music and we like to think it's good  
but we don't know how original it is  
we don't think it's fair for you to make fun of us  
it's not like we went to school for this  
back in the day we weren't old school, no we didn't have a clue  
now all the loser bands get the fucking shaft  
so we resolved to fight the fight and take the music back  
hold up your lighters now and rage

the people glare at us when we try to get them to dance  
so we'll turn the suck down on our amps  
we won't amount to a thing, we'll just be happy to sing

we don't have merchandise (we can't afford it)  
we don't have a website (we can't afford it)  
let me hear you shout because they're kicking us out  
but we're in a band..

### 10. Bicycle

wandering alone, late at night  
my life stuck in the back seat no hope in sight  
went up a blind alley, no way to get through  
tripped over something in the dark, turned out to be you

bicycle, I found you just when things were looking down  
bicycle, you help me to help myself get around

you were discarded, left to rust away  
until the day I claimed you and bought you a chain  
sure I'm only using you, but you're using me too  
I saved you from the landfill made your wheels spin true

I was getting nowhere on my own when I found you  
then I brushed the rust off and we rode around town  
and I will let you go just as soon as the  
gears don't mesh no more

we're both getting stronger, soon the day will come  
when we don't need each other, I will pass you on  
so don't be sad when we have to part  
someone else will find you, maybe I'll get a car

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COMPACT  
disc  
DIGITAL AUDIO

Engineered by Luke Tweedy at Flat Black Studios ([flatblackstudios.com](http://flatblackstudios.com))  
Mastered by Carl Saff ([saffmastering.com](http://saffmastering.com))

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**SEEK SHELTER THE WHITE TORNADO**