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Pallet Re-Stacks Its Lineup

(Alter) Bridging the gap between cultures; free Fourth festivities in Enfield.

by [Gary Carra](#) - June 29, 2006

Nightcrawler You can't pick your family but you can certainly pick your bandmates. But when two family members are in the same band and decide one must go, just who gets to stay? "That's a good question," laughs **Jay Tarrant**, who will take the reins and continue the band **Pallet** as brother/bassist **Mark Tarrant** exits after 10-plus years. "But our situation really didn't go down like that. True, we weren't seeing eye to eye, but I think Mark was really ready to leave. I just helped him see that."

Coming off a banner year that includes a performance at an official *Star Wars* convention and having tunes from their disc *Life Under A Rock* on satellite radio, the Western Mass rockers were finally garnering some of the praise and national exposure they craved and deserved. Beneath the surface, however, this Pallet had more than its share of stress cracks.

"My brother and I just had totally different visions of which direction we should go," he recalls. "He wanted to keep it all loose and fun, I thought it was time to really get to work."

After deciding that a parting of the ways was the only solution, Mark says he went to work on another passion--writing. Having traded his bass for the prospect of a book series, he says he has already inked a horror/Western series called *Blood and Spurs* and is currently trying to shop it. He concludes that the career re-focus--particularly when coupled with his purchase of a new house and the impending arrival of a baby--is both "refreshing" and "makes the most sense." To keep up with *Spurs* and Mark's other projects, check out:

www.thesmilingviking.com.

IMAGE COURTESY OF
MARK TARRANT



No longer in the band Pallet with his blood brother Jay, Mark Tarrant has traded his bass for the book publishing world and a new horror/Western series he calls *Blood and Spurs*.

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As for Jay, he says Pallet is already up to four members, but he'd be willing to add a couple more if the chemistry was right. Interested? E-mail: palletrocks468@yahoo.com.

In other news, credit rockers **Alter Bridge** with patriotism--and some on-stage fireworks--at a Swiss engagement. According to AB's Web site, www.alterbridge.net, an act they refer to as "The Opening Band" (Nightcrawler says **Living Things**) allegedly launched into anti-U.S. sentiments. Stuff like "Fuck America" and "America can suck my..." well, you get the point. While Alter Bridge was in the dressing room, a roadie for the group took the occasion to point to guitarist **Mark Tremonti**'s guitar rig, which, per custom, was draped with an American flag that evening. Exactly how things got physical from that point depends on who you ask.

"We do find humor and irony in the fact that 'The Opening Band' chose Switzerland, the most neutral country on Earth, to spout international political rhetoric as a segue into starting a fist-fight," the Alter Bridge post concludes. Good point. Which reminds me, those Swiss sure whip up some mean chocolate, and speaking of edibles and combustibles the Taste of Enfield--July 7-9 on the Town Green--has 'em in spades. It's the best place to see big acts without paying one red, white or blue cent.

Among the highlights are Jimmy Buffet tribute **Changes In Latitudes** (Friday, 6 p.m.), Billy Joel mimics **Big Shot** (Friday, 9 p.m.), regional heroes **The Savage Brothers** (Saturday, 3 p.m.) and the sheer Allman-joy of **Mr. Dickey Betts** (Saturday, 9 p.m.). For the scoop: www.enfieldcelebration.org.

Listen to the Nightcrawler's weekly music report with Quinn & Cantara on 99.3 f.m. each Wednesday at 7:35 a.m. Send correspondence to: Nightcrawler, P.O. Box 427, Somers, CT 06071; e-mail: garycarra@aol.com or fax to: (860) 698-9328.

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