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ALERO

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A Minor Forest

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## Oldsmobile Alero

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## INTERVIEW

A Minor Forest stopped by campus for a chat on their way to a show in Iowa City. This San Francisco Trio manages to be simultaneously melodic and chaotic, often improvising off of each other. Someone with a limited vocabulary might call them math rock.

Erik: We're missing John still, but I think he had some urgent business to attend to.

Angela: Do you wanna introduce your-

selves?

Erik: I'm Eric and I play guitar.

Andee: I'm Andee and I play drums.

Erik: And I'm John and I play bass.

Angela: How long are you guys on tour for?

Erik: We're on tour for a month, for all of October basically.

Angela: What would you say are the main differences between *Flemish Altruism* [their first album] and *Inindependance* [album number two]?

Erik: The main difference is just that the first record was kind of like a "greatest hits" from a big period of time, like over 3 years. This record wasn't. This record was written in a much smaller period of time, so it's maybe a little less piecemeal in that way. And we had more time to record it. Because we had more time, we did more experimenting. You know, there's like turntables and keyboards and other stuff that wasn't on the first record.

Angela: Are you happier with this record?

Erik: I think that as a cohesive piece of work, it's probably better. The other record's really a hard thing to get through 'cause its like 74 minutes long, and it's a lot of material. And so, (to Andee) I don't know what you think ...

Andee: Yes.

Angela: How do you come up with your song titles?

Erik: It's pretty much like they'll just be running jokes in the band, and eventually they'll just turn into song titles when we have to put out records. Like, early on we just call a song whatever is distinctive about it. So it'll be like "the guitar song" or "the song that sounds like Van Halen. But then eventually we'll have to come up with a title so we'll just use whatever jokes happen to be going on.

Andee: It's usually something that one of us has said.

Angela: On your new album, is the song title "Michael Anthony" a reference to the Van Halen bassist?

Andee: Yeah.

Angela: So have you had a lot of metal influence?

Andee: Two thirds of us have.

Erik: Those guys do.

Andee: I bet you can't guess which two thirds.

(Andee and John look like death-metal guys that might pick a fight with you in a bar. Erik looks like the sweet emo boy next door.)

Erik: It was pretty much because the bass playing in that song is kind of like Michael Anthony-esque, and that's how the song title actually came about.

Andee: There's one portion of it that's super-simple and super-dumb, which sounds the way all the Van Halen bass lines are.

Erik: It goes "boo boo boo boo boo boo boo."

Andee: And then we always say it's a song about our favorite member of Van Halen, and