

## They Stole My ZZ Top and Left Me The Rock

*A true story by Kevin Silvia*

*April 21, 2005*

I'd hoped Mike would have been there last night. He was planning to go and then ultimately couldn't make it.

So Kristi Martel and myself took a bunch of stuff to The Narrows in Fall River to attend what might have been their last open mic. She brought her recording stuff which was fun, and I took my guitar and my Volkswagen. Kristi noted early on that my car was like ... what'd she say ... more real. I think, or she may have said 'more realistic' than hers. She's got one of them new Elements. Mine's an old car and you can hear the street and the engine's sorta loud in the car. And besides, we had the windows and the roof open.

Open mics are fun, but the circumstances always make a huge difference it seems. Whenever I've played an open mic I've felt that each little detail of the room and the audience and my own mindset – each has an unusual weight to them.

Last night's was fun because all the performers were talented and interesting, and because we recorded it. The sound guy had the vocal mics up good and loud, so it took a minute or two to get accustomed to that. They were pretty hot, really, and the instruments were on the quiet side. That, and whatever other weighty open mic circumstances led to lots of mistakes in the short sets we played, but that wasn't all so bad.

Otherwise we almost had a fabulous night of it all ... the weather was great. Kind of a hazy warm spring evening after a rather warm day, and we decided to pass on dinner since we'd each had a late lunch. So we took our time getting there, and once we were in had plenty of time to scope everything out and get a good spot.

We even ran through a song at one end of the room. The Narrows is this huge gallery studio hall room with three or four pianos and church pews for seating, and a good size stage. Kristi recorded about an hour and a half of music, including our sets.

### Kevin:

Why Drive A Tank  
The Joke Is On  
Crème Brule

### Kristi:

Rise  
Photophobia  
Silver

### Mike:

0  
(:-P)

The next couple performers were fun, and then we left to find food & make the trip home. Once outside, we found the rock that had made its way into my car via the long arm of the thief that

stole my car stereo and my CD wallet. There's broken glass all over the floor of the car, and we had to stand there cleaning the glass off the front seats in order to sit down. I was afraid I might get tiny shaahdz of glaayss in my aaayss.

Missing discs! Check out what I lost. The got all my friggin ZZ Top CDs. Most of this stuff I bought in the last six months or so.

*Yes:*

- Relayer
- Yesshows
- Going For The One
- Tormato
- Drama

*Rush Remasters:*

- Rush
- Fly By Night
- Caress of Steel
- 2112
- A Farewell to Kings

Led Zeppelin BBC Sessions (both)

Three disc Joni Mitchell mix I made (Thankfully replaceable. Pretty sweet mix.)

*ZZ Top:*

- Antenna
- Rhythmeen
- XXX
- Mescalero

The ride from Narrows toward food was really real without that window. Windy too.

Spike's Junkyard Dogs was the joint of choice, and man was it sweet. It had a walk-up window, which was perfect since now we had the guitar and our money and CDs in the car, and I have no driver's side window. At 11pm in Providence you need your car windows to lock the car up good. So we just parked near the Spike's walk-up window and waited for food by the car as it started to rain.

Positive experience overall. Just outside of it not happening at all, it really couldn't have happened any better. We weren't hurt. I still have my car. Each detail of our circumstances is very easy to view as a good thing. Except maybe for the ZZ Top CDs. That just sucks.