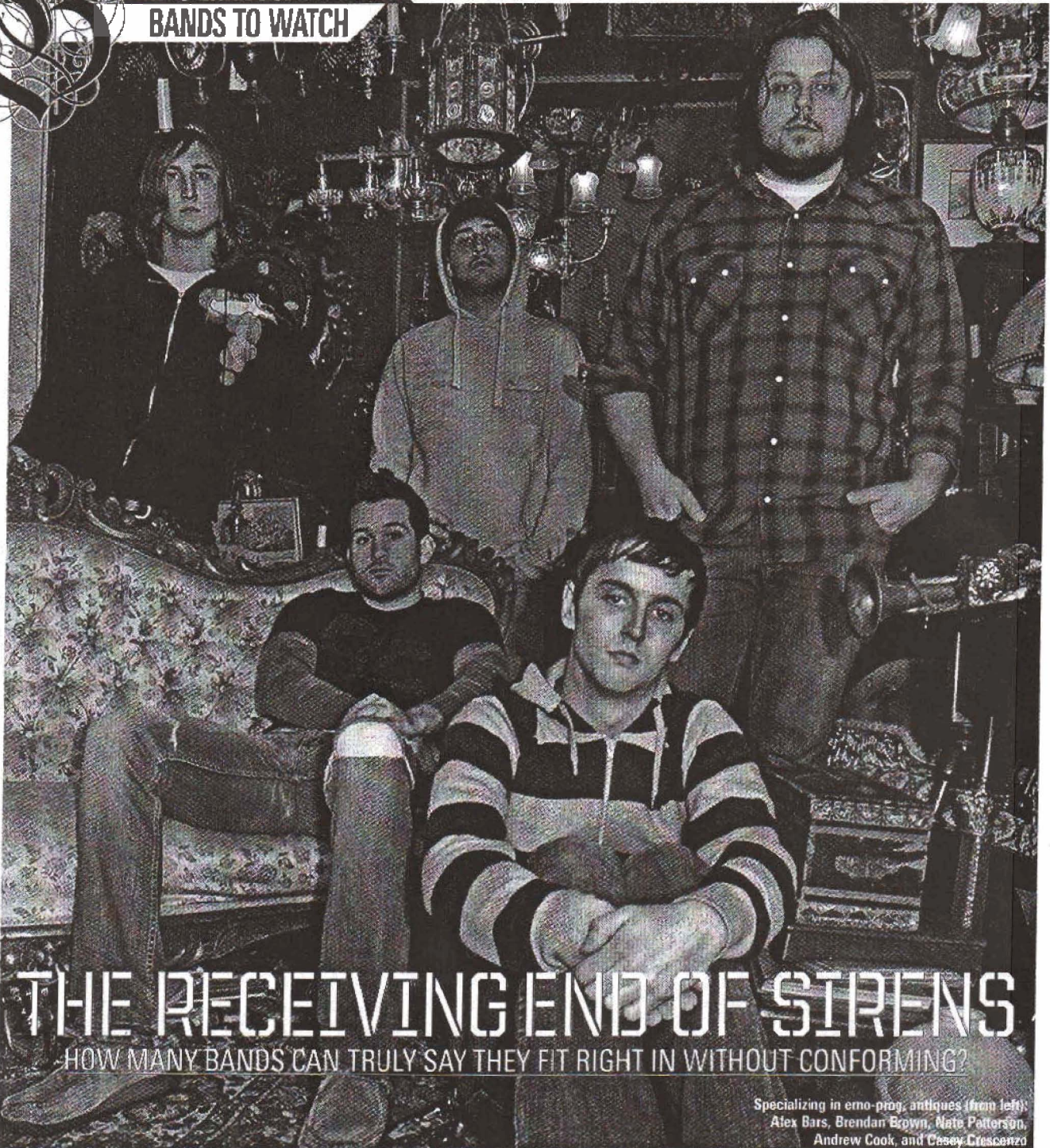



 BULLETIN
BANDS TO WATCH


THE RECEIVING END OF SIRENS

HOW MANY BANDS CAN TRULY SAY THEY FIT RIGHT IN WITHOUT CONFORMING?

Specializing in emo-prog, antiques (from left): Alex Bars, Brendan Brown, Nate Patterson, Andrew Cook, and Casey Crescenzo

WHO Boston's the Receiving End of Sirens, the latest entry in the growing "emo-prog" movement (see Philadelphia's Circa Survive and Seattle's the Fall of Troy), coalesced while vocalist-bassist Brendan Brown, vocalist-guitarist Alex Bars, and drummer Andrew Cook were attending Northeastern University. They later roped in guitarist Nate Patterson and California transplant Casey Crescenzo on guitars and keyboards (he also shares singing duties) and recorded *Between the Heart and the Synapse*, the band's heady 2006 debut.

▲ SOUND LIKE The nearly 70-minute-long *Synapse* finds Bars, Crescenzo, and Patterson alternating vocal duties over interlocking post-hardcore hooks, Yes-style guitar melodies, and seismic avant rock. "I'd like to believe that we didn't go overboard," Crescenzo says of the disc, a self-described concept album about "the struggle between the heart

and the mind." "I feel like when people are three or four albums down the line, that's when they're like, 'Let's do something ambitious.' We didn't see any real reason to wait that long."

▲ TASTER'S CHOICE Though you can catch the band on this year's Taste of Chaos tour, Crescenzo isn't a huge fan of the screamo set. His musical heroes tend more toward acts like Radiohead and jazz-rock pioneers Weather Report and the Mahavishnu Orchestra. "It does get a little weird [on tour] when we are into such different music," Crescenzo says.

▲ WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU... During their early days, money got so tight that the five bandmates, along with a roommate, shared a two-bedroom apartment in a particularly rough-and-tumble Boston neighborhood. Naturally, owning a car was out of the question. "We were walking a few miles in the snow to get to our rehearsal space for five months," recalls Crescenzo. But, he insists, the Sirens found strength in facing the adversity together. "We really bonded as a group." **TREVOR KELLEY**