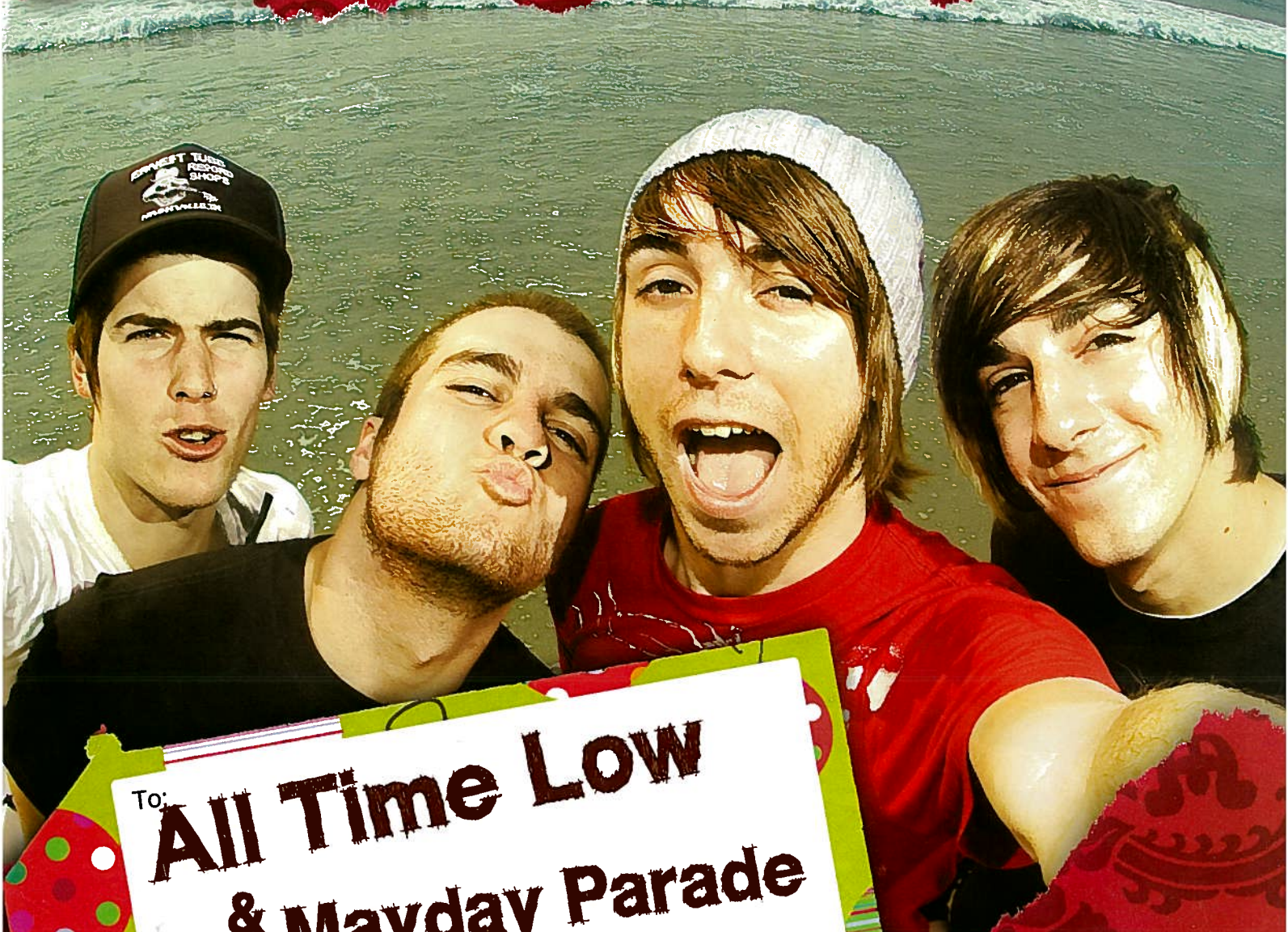


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**All Time Low
& Mayday Parade**

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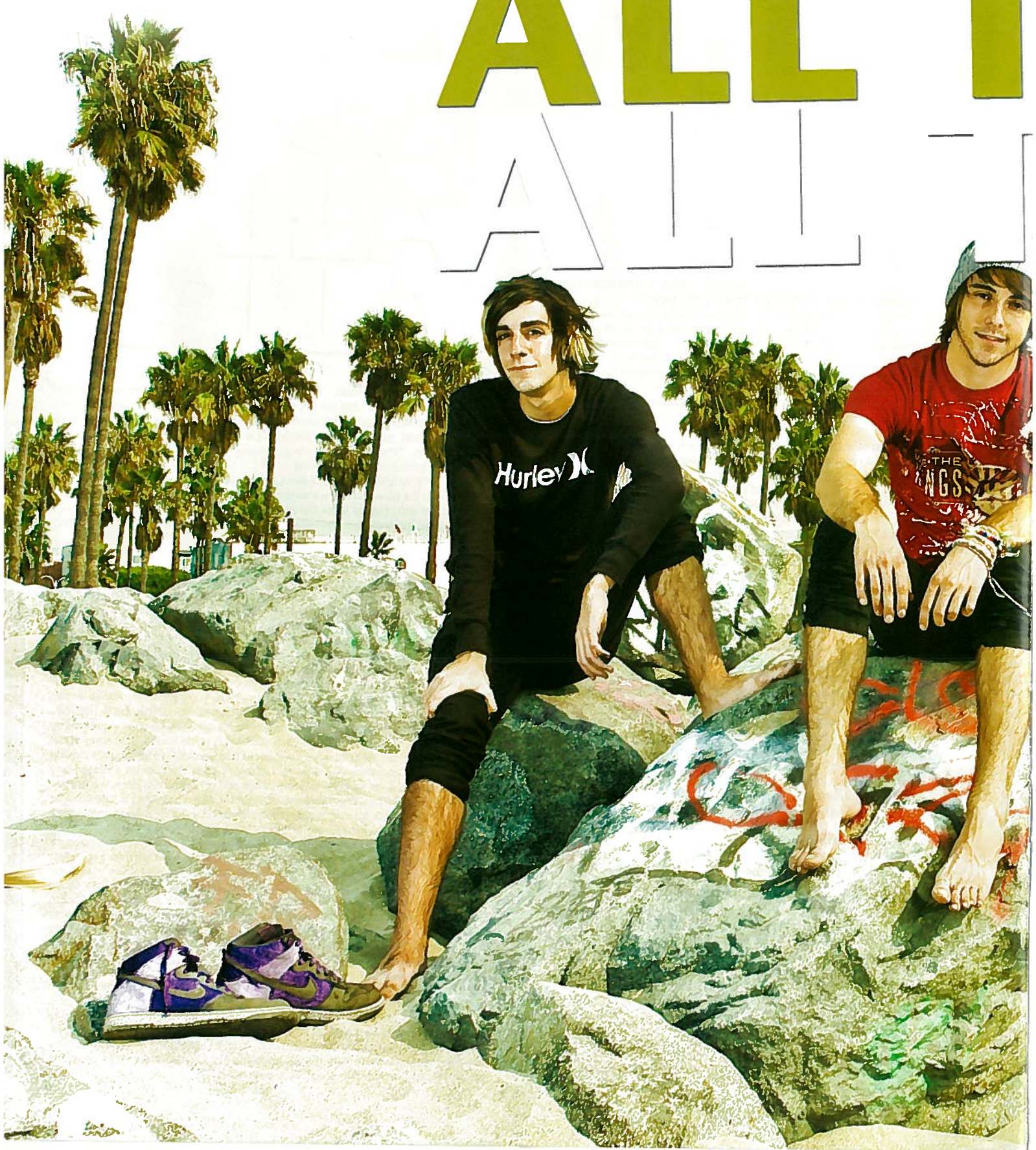
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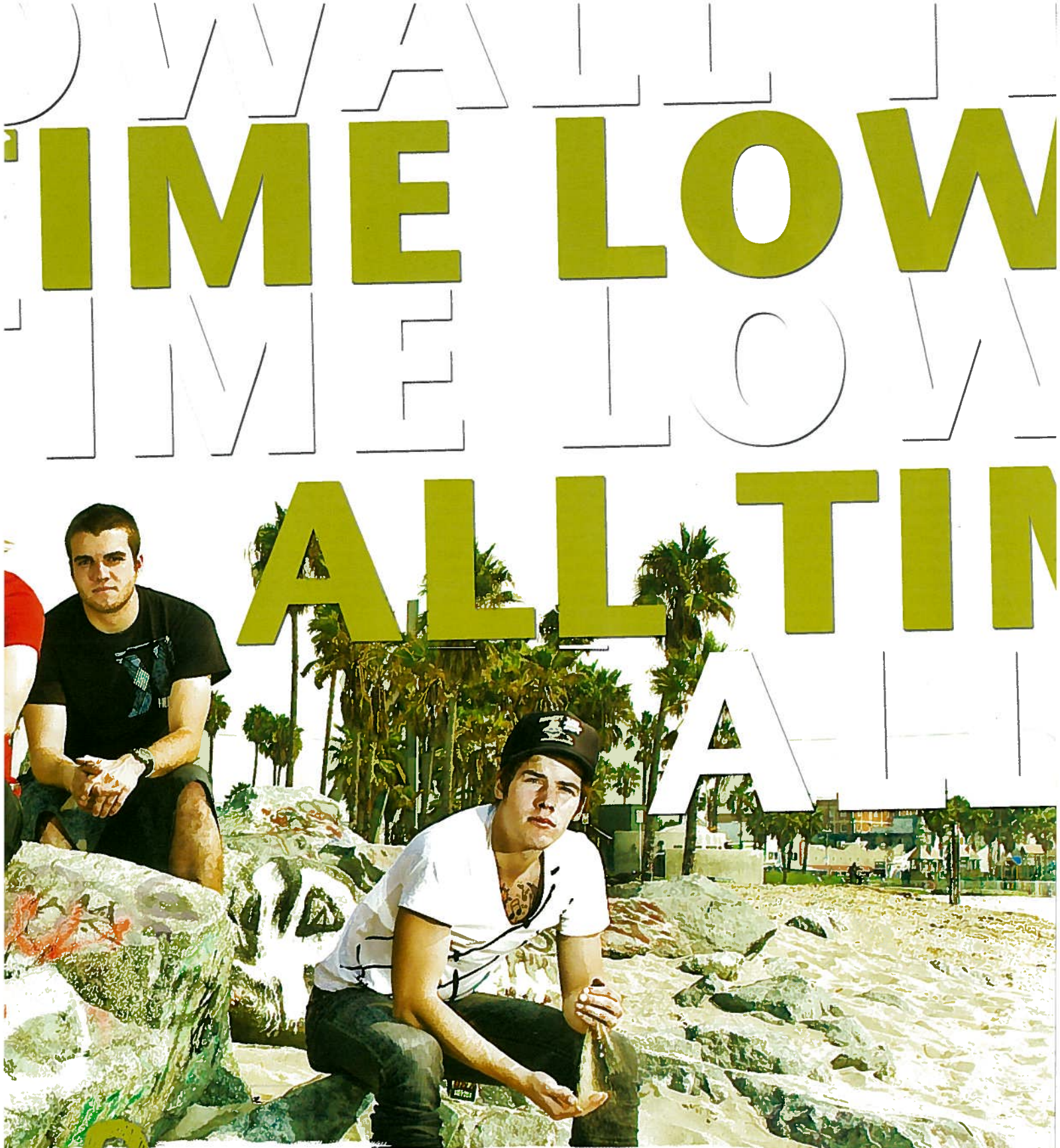
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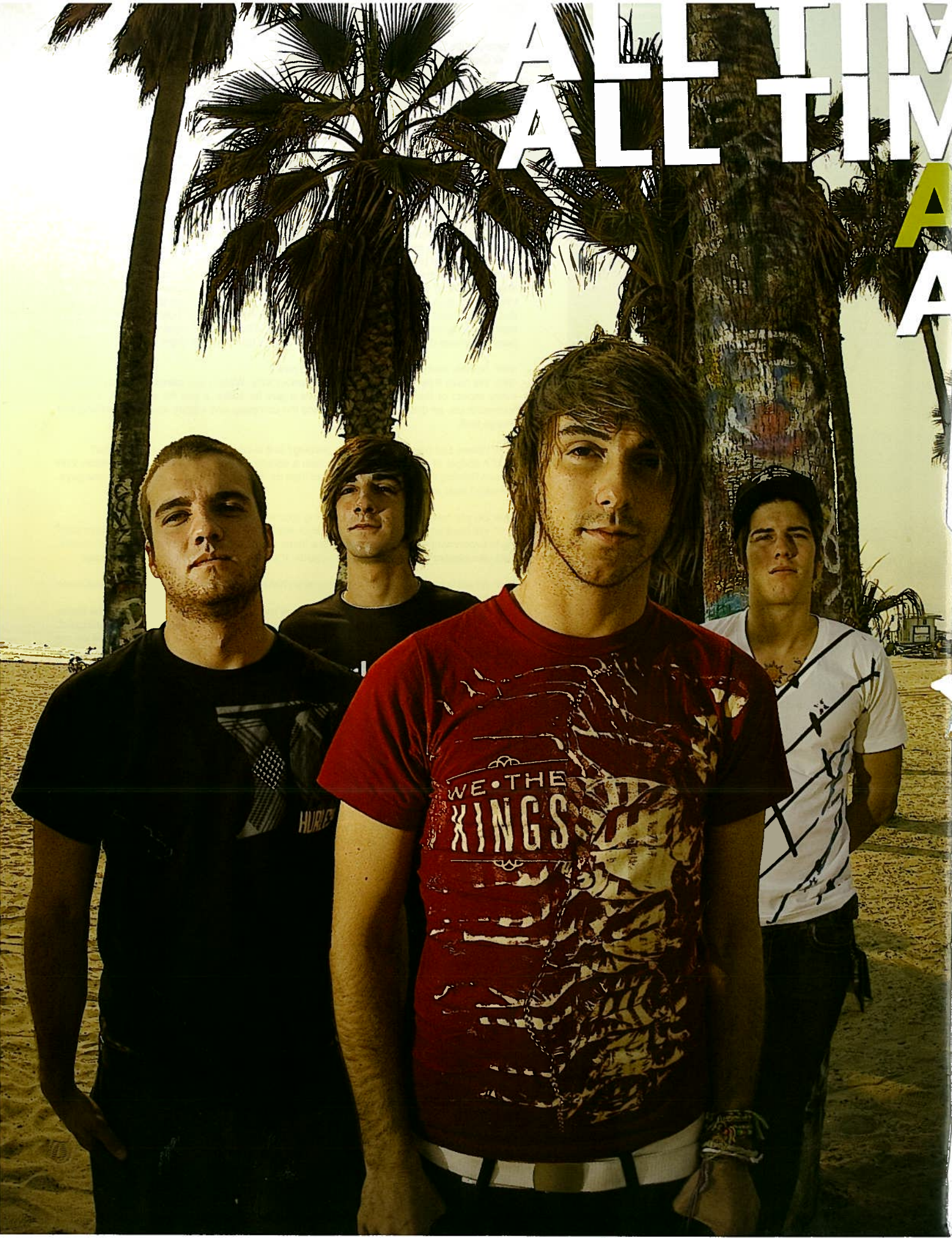




Of all the musical controversies of the past 20 years, this one could take the cake. Sure, those Miller Vanilla guys, or whatever they were called, got caught lip syncing. But, they were just so darn handsome that everyone went and did them a favor and forgot about them quickly. And yes, we all saw Britney's private parts on the internet (don't lie, you googled it). But even when she's shaved bald (and I mean her head people), she's still

reasonably attractive, so no one seemed to mind too much. But, none of these artists were involved in (gasp) pornography! But my favorite band ever to hail from Maryland, Hopeless Records all stars All Time Low, have been accused of the very heinous crime. A girl at a Maryland high school, who apparently was a big fan of the band, decided to sport a picture of the boys dressed to kill—in only their tighty whities. The picture is a popular one of the band, as it's used

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in many media outlets and to promote just about everything that has to do with All Time Low. Despite the popularity of the picture with fans of the quartet, the school's principal was not fond of it. In fact, he allowed the band to join an elite club: the club of porn stars. Upon seeing the picture, taped firmly to her locker, the girl was suspended for displaying, what the principal called, "pornography." "It was interesting," says Jack Barakat, guitar player for All Time Low. "I definitely didn't even think it could ever be a problem. **I don't understand how a school could consider that soft porn.**" "Dude, I still can't really fathom what happened there, said Alex Gaskarth, lead singer and guitar player for the band. "If they seriously suspended a girl for three days on the grounds that that picture was pornography, then, I don't know. That's fucking ridiculous." Several media outlets have picked up the story, calling it an issue of the blurred line between art and pornography, between freedom of speech and, well, having no freedom of speech. At least one thing's for sure. They've got a pretty sweet story to look forward to telling. "Yeah, now I can say 'your grandpa was in soft core porn kids.' Now who wouldn't want to be able to say that?"

On top of starring in one of the hottest soft core porn shots of all time, the guys like to make a little music too. After hopping on with Hopeless Records, the band released an EP called Put Up or Shut Up. The EP featured several old songs that they'd re-recorded for the new release. However, one of the only two new songs to make the EP, a beautiful little ditty by the name of "Jasey Rae", has the world buzzing. It's helped propel the EP into a huge number of sales for an EP; somewhere around the 50,000 mark now. Not bad for a debut release from four guys no one had ever heard of. Jasey Rae also became the feature song of the latest installment of Punk Goes Acoustic. "We love the Punk Goes compilations", said Gaskarth. "Having our song being the feature there is pretty crazy. We heard all the other bands that were going to be on it and we were like 'this can't be right.'" But it is so right. In fact, it's so wrong, it's right. If that isn't a sweet segue, then I don't know what is. It's sweet because the band's latest release, the album So Wrong, It's Right, is an instant success. At the time I scribe these words, the album has peaked at number 62 on the Billboard charts; an incredibly impressive number for an indie band. They've also peaked at the number 6 spot on the Independent album charts, and the number 12 spot on the Alternative album charts (as of 10/17). "We couldn't be more proud of this record," says Barakat. And for good reason. So Wrong, It's Right is, technically, not their first full length album, as they released one in 2005 on Emerald Moon Records. But, this is the one people are going to remember. This album has it all. Of course, it's got your songs about loss. It's got your songs about gain. **And, of course, your songs about killing a DJ** (couldn't make that up if I tried). When I asked Gaskarth what the inspiration was for the album, he said it was a balance of the road and home. "A lot of it was inspired by going back home, and seeing all the people I know. But we spend a lot of time on the road, too. So there's a lot that comes from there." If you want a song about what it's like to be on the road, doing what All Time Low does, let me recommend the album's opening track "This Is How We Do." The line, "We're the party, you're the people. This is how we do" really says all that needs to be said. It's a song about getting out there and having fun doing something that you love. It's a real party song; something that All Time Low really has perfected over the past few releases. If you're looking something with the flair of their Maryland home, let me suggest the stripper-inspired anthem "Dear Maria." When I asked Barakat about that song, his voice perked up. "We have the most fun playing that song. The bridge on that song is just sick." Sick indeed.

On top of the song telling a really cool story about a stripper the band knows from their hometown, the music in the song is so infectious, it'll make you want to take after Maria and just take all your clothes off. Swear. Like Put Up or Shut Up, the band features some amazing break downs and bridges, specifically in "Dear Maria." "It's funny that you bring that up, because now that you mention it, it's weird that we, like, always try to make the bridge the catchiest part of the song," says Barakat. I don't know whether it's because I've always been too big a fan of Brand New or what, but I've always been a

sucker for anything acoustic. While the tune isn't acoustic all the way through, "Remembering Sunday" has got to be the highlight of the album for me. And that's saying something, because this whole album rocks all the way through. **"I wrote most of that song on a plane ride home from seeing a girl,"** says Gaskarth. "The visit didn't quite go the way I thought it would, and these were just my thoughts stemming from that."

What follows is an unbelievable song that sings to you sweetly before it kills you with the powerful riffs we've come to expect from All Time Low. Again, the bridge of the song proves to be the most powerful part of the song, and maybe of the album, as every chorus and verse spends its time building to the bridge. Once that bridge hits you, I dare you not to sing along.

All Time Low aren't the sole creators of such an amazing section of song work however, as they had a guest vocalist do work on the bridge. Juliet Simms, the lead singer of Automatic Loveletter, provides an amazing vocal track in this song. "She's awesome", says Gaskarth. "It worked perfectly in the song. We sat down together and talked about it and she added a couple words. It just came together perfectly." But this album isn't just a three track album. The first single from the album, "Six Feet Under The Stars", has gotten a lot of exposure for the Maryland boys. "That song is actually a sequel to Coffee Shop Soundtrack," says Gaskarth. "The coffee shop in the old song is actually on Thames Street. Only thing is in this version we're drinking Jag, not coffee." The song is killer; continually upbeat and overwhelmingly clever lyrics. Plus, you can never criticize a man who indulges on Jagermeister. **Life's too short to drink bad liquor.** "The Beach" is an amazing summer anthem, that'll definitely serve to warm you up in the approaching winter. "Come One, Come All" is the band's only song about killing a DJ (maybe the only song ever about that actually). The album's closing track "Poppin' Champagne" is a perfect closer. It ends the note on a celebratory note, which is nice, as so many albums of late end on a downer. Here, we're lifted up even in the album's end. Brilliant. While the album does drag a little bit near the end of the album, it's completely overshadowed by the pure awesomeness of the rest of the album. These are all tracks you'll be cheering for to hear live just as loudly as you do for "Coffee Shop Soundtrack." Maybe even more important than their successful album, and maybe even more important than their impending stardom, these guys are just genuinely cool dudes. Go see their show, and if you want to meet the band, I guarantee you that you'll get to. They work their asses off on stage, and immediately after their set, they're back at their merch booth making new friend after new friend. If you can continue to be amazingly nice guys in an industry that keeps you continually at work, then something's got to be said for that, right? Are they a little crazy, too? Maybe. But it sure as hell provides for a good time. If you haven't purchased the album yet, then just go ahead and punch yourself in the face. I'd put it up there next to The Starting Line's Direction as my favorite album of the year thus far. It's got a little bit of everything, and you can't get that anywhere these days. The band is touring the country this fall and winter in support of Boys Like Girls, which should turn out to be one of the more successful tours this year. "So far, these are the biggest crowds we've ever played for. It's really crazy," says Barakat. With more touring sure to follow, and more singles likely to hit the radio later this year, there's no telling just how big these guys are going to get. Not bad for a bunch of soft core porn stars