



*Band's albums are finally selling themselves*

# It's new day for Mayday Parade

BY NATHALIE BARET  
FOR THE JOURNAL

It's been two years since Mayday Parade followed the Warped Tour around in its van.

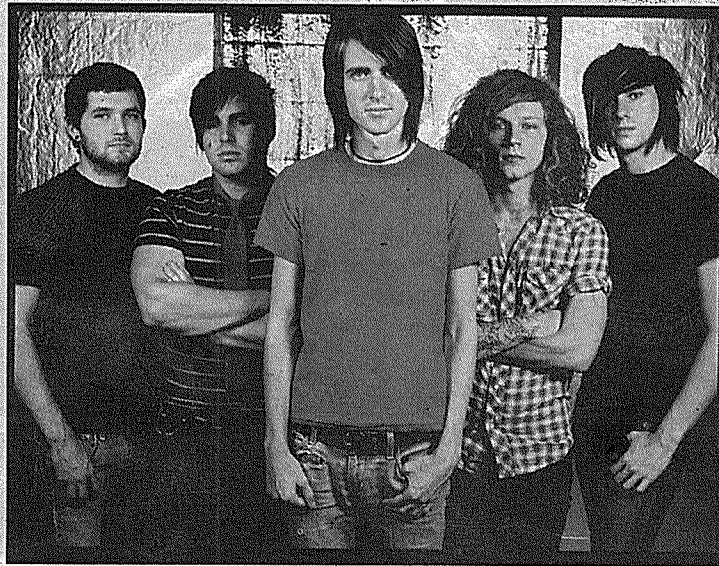
By day, the band would wake up bright and early to catch the long line of kids in the parking lot. With a backpack full of CDs and a portable CD player with headphones, the Tallahassee, Fla., quintet would split up, walk up and down the line and play 30-second snippets of songs from the EP "Tales Told by Dead Friends" in hopes of making a \$5 sale.

By night, the band would get back in the van to make the overnight drive to the next Warped Tour stop after having spent an exhausting 10-hour day hanging around the venue just to catch the exiting crowd.

It wasn't always easy. It bordered on stressful. But in the end, the group's tactics were fruitful.

"We sold a ton of CDs," lead guitarist Alex Garcia said. "It was hard because of the hot sun and all the long days, and then to turn around and have to drive during the night. But we sold 20,000 copies."

Now, the fivesome isn't running after a line of kids to make



**MAYDAY PARADE STRUGGLED TO MAKE THE JUMP FROM PLAYING THE PARKING LOT OF WARPED TOUR SHOWS.**

a sales pitch. Its latest record, "A Lesson in Romantics," which came out last summer, has already scanned more than 38,000 copies. It hit No. 10 on Billboard's Heatseekers chart during the first week of January when band also sold more than 18,000 downloads.

Out on the road in support of the album since last year, Mayday Parade, consisting of Garcia, vocalist Derek Sanders, bassist Jeremy Lenzo, rhythm

guitarist Brook Betts and drummer Jake Bundrick, is on a non-stop touring schedule that could take them into 2009.

"This is our second tour since leaving Tallahassee after a month's time break," Garcia said. "We teamed up with All Time Low and now we're on the Emery tour. Right now, we're playing five to seven shows straight before we get a day's break so it's kind of grueling, but it's awesome as well. We

## Mayday Parade

**WHEN:** 7 tonight

**WHERE:** Sunshine Theater, 120 Central SW

**HOW MUCH:** \$15 through [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or at 883-7800. All ages

recently spoke with our management and it looks like we'll be touring off this album until we sit down and write again, which won't be for another eight to 10 or more months."

Already one-third into its 25-date stretch with Emery that winds through North America and ends on March 22, Garcia said the band's enjoying the ride so far, but there also have been some growing pains involved with living life on the road.

"The hardest part is the compromise involved," he said. "You miss your family, your girlfriend, your friends, and you live in a van and hotels. It's like a 9-5 job but instead you're at work for two months straight, 24-7, with no weekends off. It's

scary, too. We've invested all we have in this band, with time and money. I dropped out of college for this but it's the best kind of job or work that we could be doing."

"And, being on tour really is the most direct way we can keep ourselves out there," he said.

The band has already weathered relationships that have been built, and broken, while away from home — first with the Warped Tour grass-roots hustle, and then when it was asked to play Warped Tour the following year — has documented its experiences of relational ups and downs on "A Lesson in Romantics."

Wrapping its lyrical head around the yin and the yang of maintaining relationships during long months on the road, the band churned out 13 tracks about happiness, sadness, jealousy and loneliness.

Guided in the studio by Zack Odom and Kenneth Mount of All Time Low and Collective Soul, Mayday Parade's power-pop/punk, squeaky-clean produced sound and sentimental lyrics are appealing to listeners who also dig bands like the All-American Rejects and Fall Out Boy, Garcia said.

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