

# the Arts

## Running on Empty

Blasting across Europe with mercurial star Alan Sparhawk and his band of Duluth rockers  
BY CHRIS GODSEY

*Eastbound from London on the M20 highway, toward the English Channel, an ominous sign along the road reads, "Tiredness can kill. Take a rest."*

SOME TIME AFTER 3:30 on an April morning, Duluth rock star Alan Sparhawk shot past the warning sign doing 85 in a white Mercedes rental van. There were six of us in the van with him, and we were beyond tired—we'd been traveling since the morning before—but there would be no rest until Dover, still 25 miles away. ¶ Alan and one of his two bands, the Black-Eyed

Alan Sparhawk (center) with his most famous band, Low: Zak Sally (left) and Mimi Parker (right).



KARL BASCHKE