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Head of the class - Panurge

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We asked Panurge's Jon Schubert about the city's hippest haunts and hottest hotties:

Panurge's latest album finds the band pushing its blend of '60s-style pop and modern electronica to new heights of infectiousness and whimsy. Led by singer-bassist Jon Schubert, the quartet is getting attention across the country for *Walking in the Fog*, its first release for the über-hot Last Gang Records.

Best local release other than yours

"Savile Row, Evolution of Truth. They are a group located in the Tri-Cities area that play classic British-style pop and rock. My brother plays drums for them. Oh, and I produced it, too, so I should probably say that."

Most mind-blowing gig of the past year

"The Super Furry Animals/Caribou show last November 24 at Richard's on Richards. I thought Caribou were very good, but Super Furry Animals live are one of the great modern wonders, and on this occasion I thought they burned particularly bright—literally. They were wearing suits made of [fibre-optic] lights. It looked like the light was woven into the fibre of the suits."

What Vancouver band is overdue for a reunion gig?

"Poppy Family. I don't imagine it would be possible to get Terry and Susan Jacks together, but they made great music together, so if you could erase memories and personal lives, it would probably be a really great show."

Who would you love to see on your Myspace friend list?

"John Lennon. It's a pretty common choice, but I would be lying if I said that there was anyone who had greater influence on what I decided to do with my life, musically."

John Q. Musicbiz just flew in from L.A. and he's waving his gold card around. Where are you gonna take him?

"The place I generally push people to go is the Afghan Horsemen [445 West Broadway]. It's not the most expensive place, although you could make good use of a gold card. They've got good wines and that sort of thing. It's just got a really cozy, classic hippie atmosphere. I think food digests better when you're relaxed and sitting down and laughing with your friends than when you're in a stark, cold, expensive environment."

What local musician makes you wish you were a little more promiscuous?

"Definitely the local musician that makes the thermometer peak for me would be the keyboard player from the Monitors. I've heard her play on many occasions, and it never fails to ignite me. Can we just call her V.L.?"

Which Vancouver venue would you be saddest to see go?

"The Railway Club. It's not perfect in every way—it doesn't have the biggest sound system and all that—but it's definitely home for us. There would be a gaping hole in the space where the Vancouver music community's heart once was if the Railway Club disappeared."