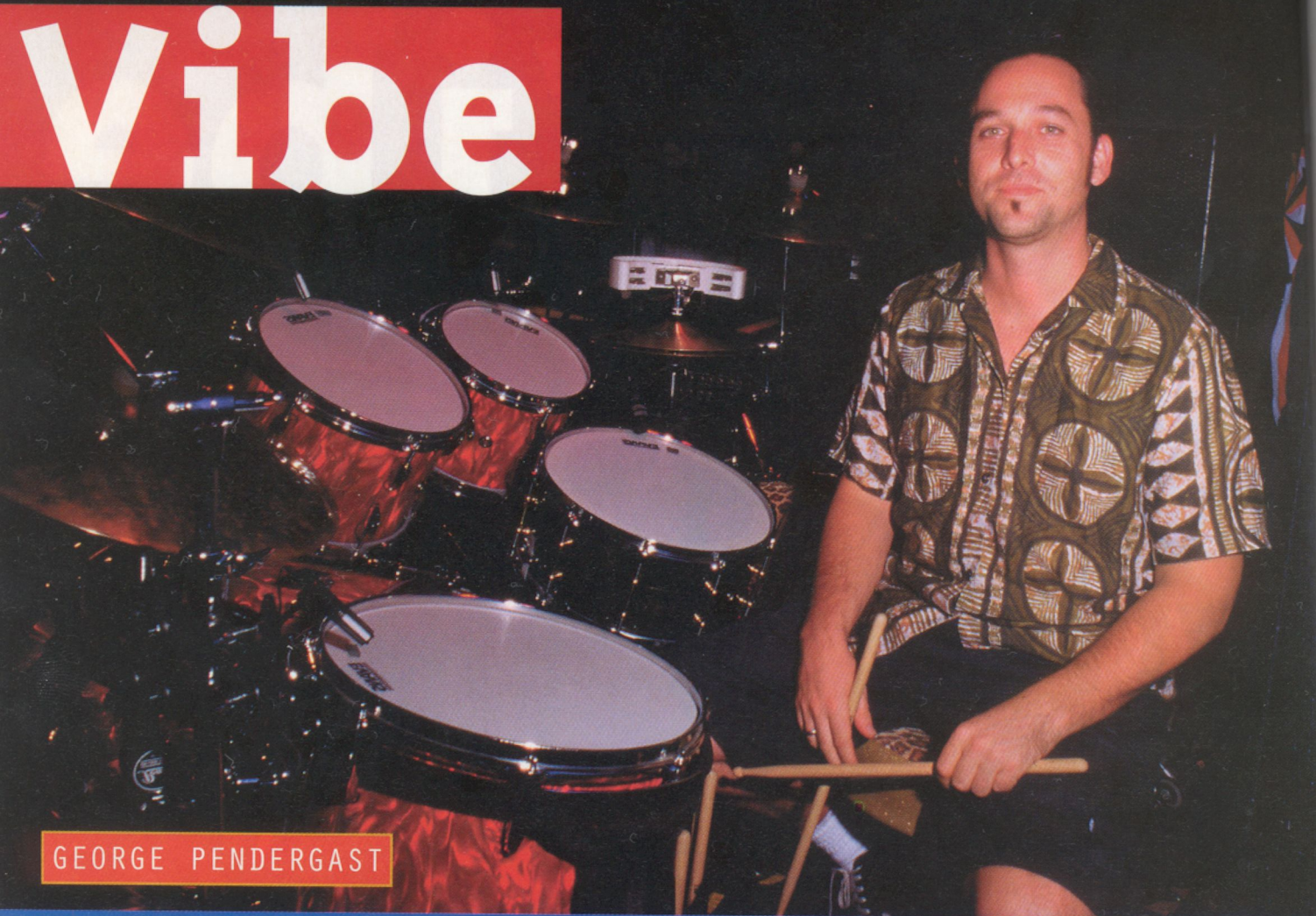


Vibe



GEORGE PENDERGAST

Going Electro

While the Hindu translation for “Dishwalla” is “dish seller,” the band of the same name doesn’t actually hawk dishware. Instead these five guys from Santa Barbara, California, are selling their latest release *And You Think You Know What Life’s About*, featuring songs that rock harder and riskier than those on their 1995 breakthrough *Pet Your Friends*, which contained the massive single “Counting Blue Cars.”

Give *And You Think* a spin, and you might surmise that the band resorted to using drum machines on the new album — a distinct departure from the acoustically pure percussion of *Pet Your Friends*. Not exactly so, explains drummer George Pendergast, who chose to drastically process his acoustic kit this time around.

“I kind of looked at the whole recording/drumming thing almost as a guitarist would,” he says. “Guitarists can put down eight tracks and I wanted to do the same. I wasn’t a drum purist as I was on the last album, where I only wanted my drums to sound like drums, which resulted in a super-organic, natural sound. On this record, we were like, ‘Oh, screw it. Let’s put some distortion on the kick drum and let’s make a loop for the verses that I’ll play over and then we’ll drop in some electronic 808 kicks.”

Songwriting is a collaborative effort with Dishwalla, and most of the tunes begin as loose jams that are slowly refined into cohesive melodic gems. “This is the only way for a drummer to work,” Pendergast says. “I would advise any drummer to only be involved in a situation that requires everyone to contribute songwriting ideas, melodies, and lyrics. Anyone can write, if they’re willing to put in the time and effort.”

Pendergast lives at the old stagecoach stop for the Pony Express in the historic district of Santa Barbara (his property is adjacent to the original country store, 18th century saloon, graveyard and town brothel). If all that weren’t enough to make us seethe with envy, his door is only minutes from the beach. “I’m not being an egotist about Santa Barbara, but after being across the country and around the world, this place rules.”

—Teri Saccone