ELP conjures up smart, fun music from MIT

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The Electric Laser People is not your typical Boston band. Actually, forget Boston. It's just not your typical band. ELP is made up of an MIT Ph.D. drop-out bassist, an MIT mechanical engineering grad guitarist, a doctor of artificial intelligence drummer, and a trained opera singer who also rocks on the keyboard. This musical ensemble has more smarts than the Geek Squad.

The band has been together since fall 2004 and will release its debut album today. While the Six Million Dollar Man, the bassist, has worked as a radio DJ as well as a robot maker, Grant Kristofink plays his guitar in the Boston blues scene. Clark Kemp's drums are originally from Texas and will soon teach at Georgia Tech. Jescica Riley, the keyboard player, hails from Maryland and takes classes at the New England Conservatory.

Each member works vocals as well as an instrument. A group's MySpace page lists several influences that have no real connection to one another: OutKast, James Brown, and The Police. ELP's album, appropriately named "Smart Talk," has some synthetic sound mixed with Beagle Boys-esque rapping, a techno flair and innovative lyrics that look like the lines of two.

Steve AlmIGHTY
Steve AlmIGHTY arrives at the premiere of his new movie "Ryan's Angels." Camel will be there for a fundraising screening of the movie as part of the Entertainment/movies/2007/08/03/almighitty_for_more_info.

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