

Editor's note:

Excerpt from unpublished notes by Lester Bangs, probably dated late '76. The notes were found in an abandoned medicine cabinet in the *Creem* offices some months after Lester's passing.

Where they were intended to be published is unclear (no one at *Creem* can recall assigning Lester this task), as is the whereabouts of the obscure European group being the subject of this review, if that is what it is.

"They're pale! They're Russian! Except they're not! 'Cause they are Swedish! Swedish! The Pale Russians are the best Swedish band ever! Even better than ABBA! The new eponymous record is the first in English!

We lesser mortals can actually understand what they're all about

now! They're angry! They loathe all the right things! Like bigots and fakers! And the Pale Russians are in love! With girls who live underwater! Mermaids share their feelings! The Pale Russians have more feelings than a busload of sensitive motherfuckers! This group has made two records, the first one filed under Z for Zoo, and the latest one is so good I had to eat my own two feet upon hearing it! I wish I had more feet to gnaw 'cause, man, I love this record! It's even better than Lou Reed

would be if he played in REO Speedwagon! The Pale Russians will jump in the air and shit in your hair – without breaking sweat or rhythm! That's how good they are!"

Footnote

Leslie Conway
"Lester" Bangs
(December 13, 1948–April 30, 1982) was an American music journalist, author and musician. Most famous for his work at *Creem* and *Rolling Stone magazines*, Bangs was and still is regarded as an extremely influential voice in rock criticism.