

The Franklin Kite drops in

By **Chiceni**
Contributor

The Franklin Kite ("TFK" or the "Kite") will play on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at the Abbey Lounge. The Franklin who? That's right – Kite. Possibly from outer space. Or at least with some sort of special connection to it, as the bonus track on their self-titled 2006 album might suggest...

The original sound of the Kite captured me from the first time I heard "So Alone (the Alien Song)" performed by lead singer and guitar player, Ryan Hickox, at The Squealin' Pig on Mission Hill. The band includes Hickox, an astrophysicist, and two software maven, Daniel Curtis (bass, vocals) and John Mileham (piano, organ, live drum programming on an Apple PowerBook G4).

At times, the music of the Kite is reminiscent of the recently popular Irish band, Keane. However, the clever, edgy scientific lyrics and the dynamic blend of rock/pop electric, TFK renders a presentation all its own. Indeed, TFK actually has a group mission statement: "to create powerful, dynamic rock that harnesses the

expressive potential of a laptop-integrated live performance."

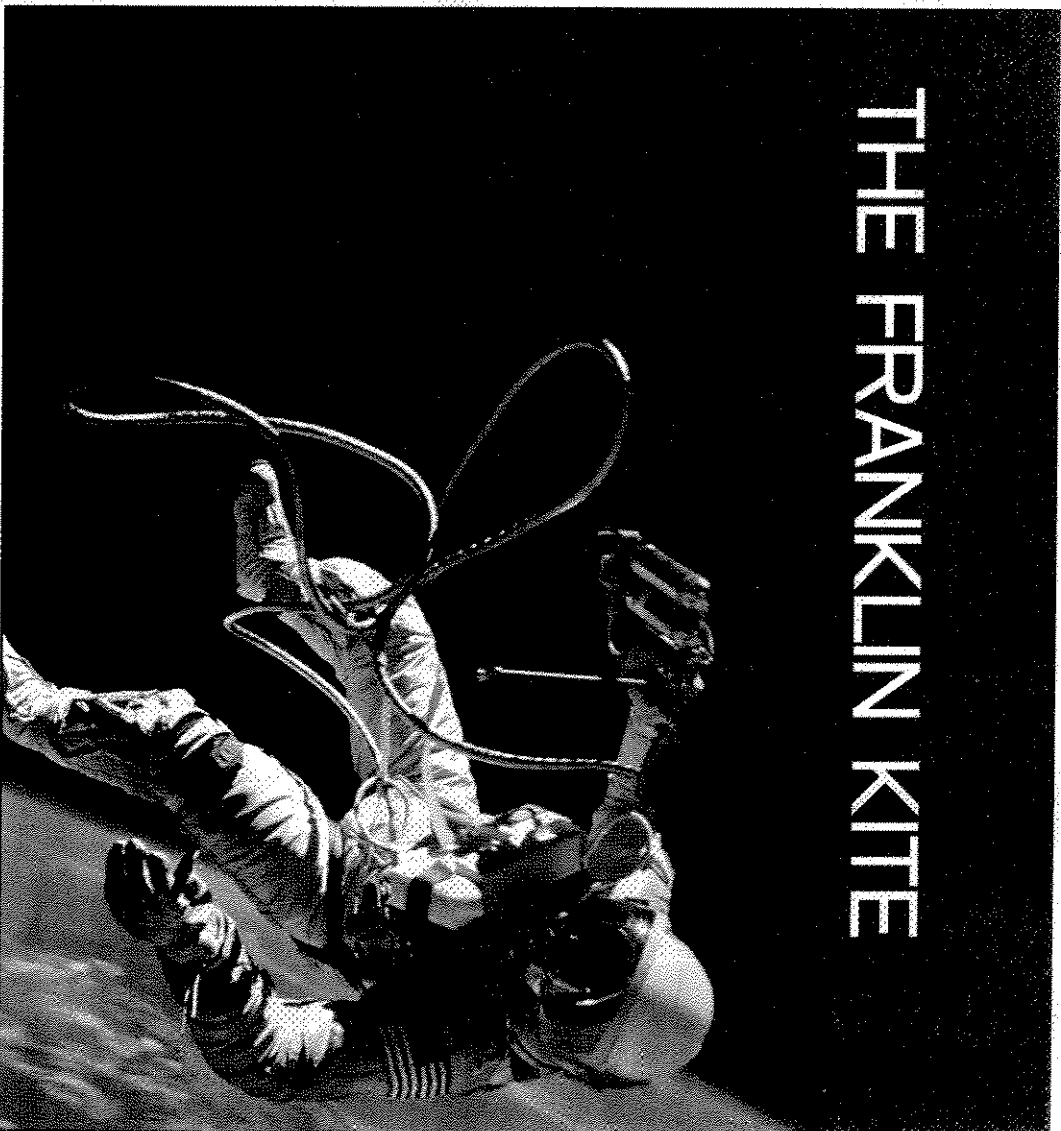
Since the Boston-based band achieved "liftoff" in the spring of 2005, the Kite has engaged and amused various audiences in this state as well as Connecticut.

TFK's 2006 release tips in with "Rocket Girl," followed by the funky jazz chords of "Miraculous" which grooves on the wide-open range of Hickox's vocals. The clever and quirky lyrics don't hurt either.

The Kite vibe cruises on with the "The Bling," this listener's favorite. The beat rocks in this number, coupling Curtis's punctuated bass with Mileham's masterful accentuation of jingling and crashing coins. "Nectar" has a sweet – but

not sticky – feel. Hickox's high notes are clean and surprising against the carefully meshed layers provided by Mileham, Curtis and Hickox's own sultry guitar. "The Innovator" closes the numbered tracks in fine style. As with every Kite song, the lyrics are artful and one should pay careful attention to their detail.

The bonus track, "So Alone," recorded live last October at Ralph's Diner Worcester,



THE FRANKLIN KITE

Mass., ends the experience with a hilarious and strange story about an inmate talking to creatures from outer space while in a federal prison with a computer made up of a Game Boy, an

fm/am clock radio and dominos for a keyboard; only those who listen to the song can find out what happens when the inmate's work is discovered by a Harvard astrophysicist.

The Abbey Lounge is located in Inman Square. The show begins at 9 p.m. and is 21+ with a \$7 cover. Check out www.franklinkite.com for more information.