



## Don't trust anyone over 30 ... unless it's NIL8

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**The State Journal-Register**  
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Jeff Williams was a student at Lanphier High School when he formed the band, NIL8 in 1982. Over the next 30 years, the band became Springfield's No. 1 export to the national music scene, touring from coast to coast.

Today, the former student feels more like a teacher when on stage and says that helps him keep connecting with an audience.

"Maybe I remind people of their favorite school teacher, having a conniption fit, right in front of them. I get agitated and let the crowd have it. The next thing you know, they give it right back to me. It's like family and I love it!" Williams wrote in an email.

NIL8 celebrates 30 years of rock music Friday with Hobgoblinspookadelic, an all-ages show also featuring other local bands, at the Black Sheep Café, 1320 S. 11th St. (see details below). NIL8 performs an age 21-and-up show Oct. 27 at Donnie's Homespun Pizza at the Vinegar Hill Mall.

"Mad professor" might be a more precise metaphor for Williams' on-stage antics. He responded to this interview through email, and used a lot of exclamation points and even profanity. "Those who can't keep up with the exuberance in which he performs are forming live, and living in general."

Williams and his brother, Bruce, have been NIL8's two main songwriters for decades (the current lineup includes Jeff on vocals and guitar, Bruce on guitar and Wes Selinger on drums.).

The band toured extensively in its early years and earned a reputation in the country.

NIL8 also caught the interest of big city record labels who provided that they relocate to a place with a more thriving scene.

"They told us it would help from a credibility aspect, telling us where from central Illinois we would be fine, but sounding like Wilco and moving to a coast," Williams said.

Throughout the years, however, the band kept its home base in Springfield. The cheap band members a more laid back approach to creating music and allowed them to create and into the South.

NIL8 also avoided signing away the publication rights to their music, which they retained.

NIL8 doesn't tour nationally any longer, playing a few local shows each year and occasionally has used that extra time at home to become an accomplished artist and an avid bicyclist.

When the band does take the stage, it plays to a crowd made up of longtime fans, but also looking for something different that they can relate to.

"Granted I know, I am as old as dirt! But it's nice to know that one can still be appreciated! AND that we can still entertain. Ha, ha, sort of like an old blues singer! They were once young squirts who wrote."

### NIL8 30th anniversary show (rock)

With Tiger Tank, the Timmys and Say Something

- When: 7 p.m. Friday
- Where: Black Sheep Cafe, 1320 S. 11th St.
- Admission: \$5
- Note: All ages show.

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