

# Impostor Still Touring As Ex-Eagles Guitarist

'Slick' operator has run scam for 8 years

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If former Eagles bass player Randy Meisner had one thing to say to the man who apparently has been impersonating him, it would probably be: "Desperado, why don't you come to your senses?"

With everything from false identification in Meisner's name to personalized guitar picks, 52-year-old Lewis Morgan of Atlanta has passed himself off as original band member Meisner at casinos, hotels and guitar shops around the country, police said.

"God, I want to get this guy," said Meisner, who lives in Studio City. "It's been eight years of this."

Morgan's identity was a mystery until earlier this year when San Francisco police got a tip about a stolen guitar in a local pawnshop. Two years ago, that guitar and another were ordered by a man using Meisner's name. Police

found Morgan's name and fingerprints on the pawn ticket, and they are now seeking Morgan for fraud, grand theft and impersonation.

Meisner said the last he heard, Morgan was in Nashville, handing out guitar strings in some promotional scheme. He said that one woman came to one of his concerts armed with an ice pick, she was so angry.

The former Eagle has a stack of police reports of victims, mostly women, stretching across the country.

"This guy is really slick," Meisner said. "He must have read all the little articles because he has all the details down on my personal life."

Morgan is about the right age to be Meisner, a 51-year old native of Scottsbluff, Neb., but the similarity ends there.

"I consider myself ugly," Meisner said. "But this guy is pretty darn ugly."



Meisner



Morgan

Meisner said the man has been so active that he wonders whether it has given him a bad name with his former band members.

"Some of the guys are so mad at me, I wonder whether this has anything to do with it," he said.

Authorities don't know how Morgan devised the scheme, but they say he is well versed in the music industry. They say Morgan's impostor act started in 1988, when he posed as band leader Don Henley in a fraud scheme.

Morgan was arrested by Las Vegas police but jumped bail. Soon after, police said, he began impersonating Meisner, who is best known for the hit single "Take It to the Limit."

"He's been at it for years," said Inspector Curtis Cashen of the San Francisco police. "The guy must be very convincing. It seems he is

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very knowledgeable about the industry. He's a con artist and he learned to play the guitar. He also has a passport and business cards with Randy Meisner's name.

In one case in October 1990, Morgan met a Los Angeles woman and they traveled to San Diego and then to Las Vegas, where he seemed to be known by bartenders, dealers and hoteliers as a rock star.

He claimed to have lost his wallet and the woman used her credit to buy meals, rent cars and even pay for an airline ticket to New York. They became romantically involved, but it soon ended.

"She last saw him at the Delta terminal at LAX, where he left for New York, for a promotional tour," Cashen said. "She discovered by looking at a record jacket that he was not Randy Meisner."

She was stuck with a \$2,700 tab.