

Stoned Temple Pilot

When a wannabe rock 'n' roll singer named Jason Michael Hurley got arrested in Beverly Hills in July 2014 for shoplifting (razors from a pharmacy) and drug possession (meth), he told the cops that he was Scott Weiland. Hurley actually did look a lot like the 46-year-old former Stone Temple Pilots frontman. The Beverly Hills cops, excited they had a big star in custody, didn't even try to verify Hurley's story. They tossed him in jail and sent a "Celebrity Arrest" press release to TMZ. The gossip site ran the story, and it spread around the globe.

Meanwhile, back at the station, Hurley didn't have enough money to post bail, so he stayed in jail. A few days later, the real Scott Weiland got wind of the story and posted a video from a Los Angeles recording studio: "I just got done reading something quite interesting, a nice piece of fiction from TMZ." He went on to say that he was not in jail, he was recording an album—and that TMZ would be "hearing from my attorneys." So the folks at TMZ alerted the BHPD, but the cops, for some reason, were still insisting they had Weiland. This is after a fingerprint analysis had come back identifying the man as Jason Michael Hurley. It was only after a second fingerprint check also came back as Hurley that the cops realized they'd made a colossal screw-up. As for Hurley, he had another charge added: furnishing false information to the police. To his credit, he managed to fool the police for an entire month.