

State and Local

About Nine Times offers array of musical elements in concert

Dallas band combines styles for local show

By Tom Reinarts
Music Reviewer

About Nine Times brought its brand of music — which combines elements of jazz, pop music and the avant-garde — to Brazos Landing, a local club and restaurant, and found a receptive audience Friday night.

The Dallas-area band played several songs from its albums "There is No . . ." and "Play Jax," both released on the group's own Dancing Mannequin label.

The vocals are done by Wendy Broadstone, who also plays the flute during selected songs. Her brother, Chris Broadstone, is the drummer and percussionist.

Jim Cocke plays the keyboards and supplies some backup vocals. The group started about three years ago after the breakup of the five-piece band that the Broadstones and Cocke were in.

The three felt going to college was not their destiny and decided to form About Nine Times, which gets its name from Chris Broadstone's affinity for the number nine.

The band's major influences do not come from any group or performer in particular, but rather from the musical genres of pop and jazz.

Chris Broadstone writes most of the lyrics. Cocke writes the music and Wendy Broadstone develops the flute contributions. The band played three sets of



Photo by Jay Janner

Flutist Wendy Broadstone plays for About Nine Times, which appeared Friday at the Brazos Landing.

about 45 minutes each during the concert.

The music incorporated a wide variety of percussion instruments and several synthesizers interwoven with the vocals. The resulting sound was enjoyable.

The vocals of Wendy Broadstone complemented the music well. On the avant-garde songs, she sounded like a cross between Martha Davis and Lene Lovich, while on other songs she showed influences from a wide variety of jazz singers. The additions made by the flute on songs such as "Oil and Sweat" and "Human Thing" were magnificent.

It was disappointing that the flute and vocals could not be heard at the same time.

Diverse and talented percussion work by Chris Broadstone developed some nice rhythms. He displayed a lot of energy and intensity that usually added to the music, but was excessive and distracting on "Oil and Sweat" and "I Love You, Goodbye."

Cocke used the keyboards effectively to create layers of sound that provided the continuity in the songs. It was largely due to his efforts that the guitar, which the band does not use, was not missed.

"Some is So" was the best song of the evening.

It displayed strong vocals and percussion work that seemed to be influenced by Oingo Boingo.

The three recently recorded songs, "Big Game," "Human Touch" and "Rainbow Martian" also were good.

The band currently is looking to sign a contract with a major label or a major independent company.

Based on the band's performance Friday, the members should be successful in their quest if talent means anything in the recording industry.

Expert says chemical could combat effects of other carcinogens

By Tere Thompson
Reporter

Although it is usually thought of as a cancer-causing agent, the chemical group called polychlorinated biphenyl, or PCB, may be used to fight the harmful effects of more potent carcinogens.

Ongoing experiments and experiments conducted within the past year have produced evidence that PCBs may be used to protect humans against the harms caused by cancer-causing impurities called dioxins that are found in some herbicides.

A Texas A&M professor of toxicology, Dr. Stephen Safe, said although PCBs are the worst type of pollutant for the environment, they can be used to combat the harmful effects of dioxins on the human body.

PCBs act as antagonists to the dioxins at the receptor sites of nerves. If the PCBs already occupy the receptor sites, there isn't any space for the dioxins and they cannot attach themselves.

"PCBs and dioxins cause the same toxic effects," Safe said. "The only difference is the potency."

Dioxins are thousands of times more potent than PCBs, he said.

The effectiveness of PCB protection of the body from dioxins depends on the ratio of PCBs to dioxins and the absolute amounts of each.

Too large a dose of PCBs will act with the dioxin instead of blocking it.

"Too high a dose is rare in a practical situation," Safe said.

PCBs are administered in a low, non-toxic dose. When a larger, more toxic dose of dioxins is administered, the receptor sites are occupied and the dioxins are unable to inhabit the site.

For the process to be effective, PCB products similar to the dioxins are used.

PCBs are a group of synthetic organic compounds once widely used

by the electrical equipment industry.

When released into the environment, they become harmful pollutants because they are so difficult to break down.

High concentrations of the toxin have been found in fish and other animals.

"PCBs and dioxins cause the same toxic effects. The only difference is the potency."

— Dr. Stephen Safe, A&M professor of toxicology

Human bodies absorb and store the chemicals from foods consumed. This buildup can cause cancer and birth defects.

Dioxins also have been found to cause cancer and birth defects.

Additionally, they have been found to alter enzymes and cause skin problems, liver damage, immunity problems, endocrine problems and problems with the reproductive system.

Dioxins are a byproduct of the manufacture of some weedkillers, and have contaminated soil and water.

The most effective way to dispose of these harmful substances is to disintegrate them at high temperatures.

Not recognized as a major health hazard until the middle of the 1970s, dioxins are now considered by some scientists to be the most toxic synthetically-produced chemical.

If the process of using PCBs as protection against dioxin contamination proves successful, some day PCBs may be administered any time a person thinks he may have come in contact with any source of dioxin.

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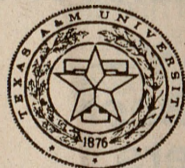
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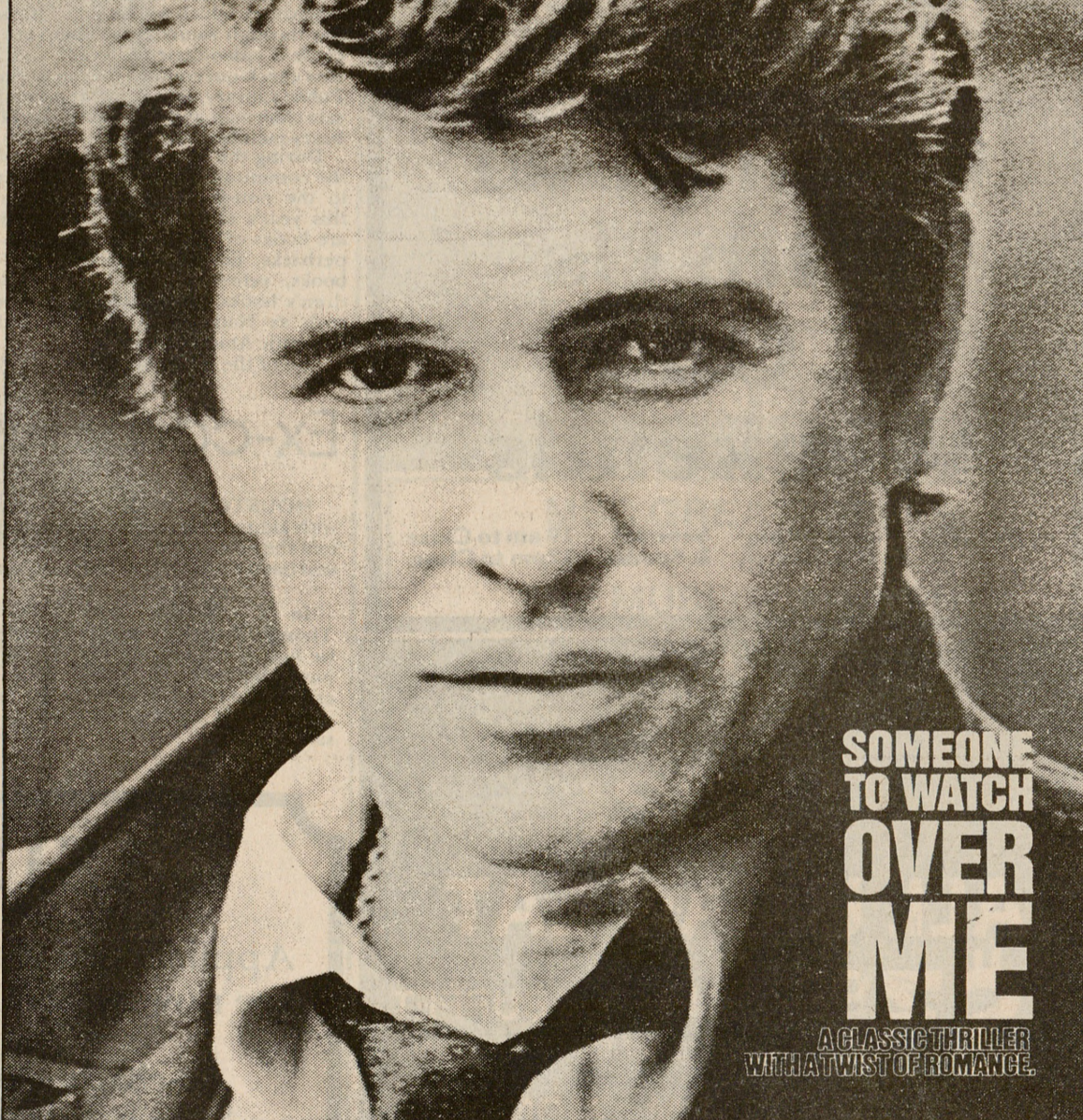
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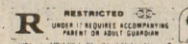
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