



Photo by Scott D. Weaver

Eric Flaherty and Nancy Louise Pratt of White Bread perform an enthusiastic set at the Flying Tomato over the weekend.

White Bread works toward new format

By JOHN RIGHTER

Local bands are becoming fewer and fewer in Bryan-College Station. Original local bands are even rarer, which is why White Bread is committed to its own material.

"We do three or four obscure covers," guitarist and singer Eric Flaherty explains. "But our emphasis is to play original music. The whole core of this group is to be as original and creative as possible, which we feel is a format not explored enough by other local groups."

Flaherty and drummer James Hammit resurrected White Bread last spring after a six-month layoff. The band originally was formed in the fall of '88 with guitarist John Gary and bassist Steve Harrington joining them under the name of Shallow White Bread Society.

Flaherty describes Shallow White Bread Society as having been "four upper-middle class white guys trying to play black revolutionary music."

The group's name was shortened to White Bread for simplicity, and at the same time the band broadened its musical direction to allow for a more progressive and blues influence in its reggae sound.

After the spring of '89, Gary graduated and left, causing the band to separate for several months. The following spring White Bread reformed with Harrington moving to guitar and the band adding bassist Kenny McAllister and singer Nancy Pratt.

Several weeks later Harrington left, and the remaining quintet

worked to refine their sound, placing a greater emphasis on McAllister's bass and Pratt's vocals.

Being female and the band's focal point has been difficult, Pratt says.

"It stresses me out sometimes," Pratt says. "But I go to a psychologist so it's OK. No, really it's all right, though I'm still nervous. I'm slowly getting used to the attention."

"Nancy is really our catalyst," McAllister says. "We finally came together when she joined us. Her arrival flushed out the sound we were looking for."

With Pratt and Flaherty sharing vocals, Flaherty, the group's main songwriter, has focused on what he terms "the tension between the sexes."

"One song we do called 'Kiss,'" Flaherty explains, "is about this guy drinking in a bar who has his eye on this girl, but is afraid to approach her. The girl realizes this and says, 'If you got the balls then come talk to me.' But the guy gives up and leaves."

The group disagrees with the negative attitude local bands have toward B-CS.

"The people are really nice and the crowds are getting bigger and bigger," Flaherty says. "I've heard a lot of bad things from other bands about the fans, but I think that's more their fault. There are good music fans here, but it's our job to get their attention."

White Bread is scheduled to play next at Kay's Cabaret at Post Oak Mall on Saturday, Sept. 29.

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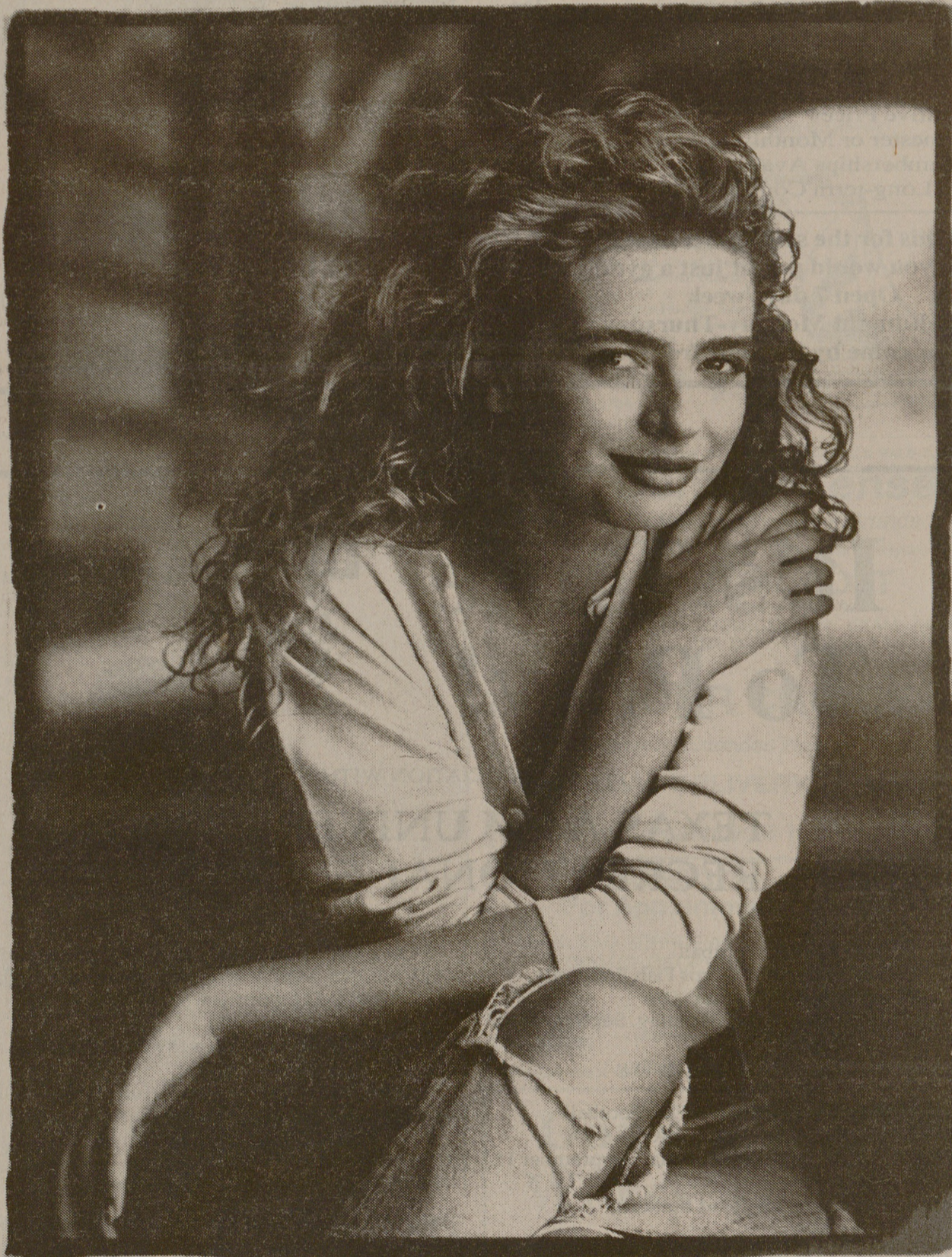
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THE POWER IS ON

Video Spotlight

By CAROL GLENN

If you thought Rob Lowe's dapping with sex videotaping was just a passing fancy, think again. In the recent video release "Bad Influence" Lowe implements the videotaping skills that he acquired about a year ago in a scandal with a 16 year-old girl.

"Bad Influence," written by David Koepp and directed by Curtis Hanson, is based on mind manipulation and head games.

Lowe ("About Last Night") portrays the character Alex, and James Spader ("Less Than Zero" and "Sex, Lies and Videotapes") portrays the character Michael.

The movie opens with a nude woman in bed and Alex packing a suitcase of clothes. It appears Alex has found his relationship with the woman mundane and longs for the wild and crazy escapades of his bachelor days.

After finding a place to stay, Alex goes out for a drink at a local bar. Entering the bar, he sees Michael (who is a stranger to him) engaged in a fight, and Michael is obviously losing.

Either feeling like a good samaritan or marking his prey, Alex defends Michael and then leaves before giving Michael an opportunity to say "Thanks."

Later that evening, Michael runs into Alex again while he is jogging. Alex is apparently borrowing money from a female friend. After the woman leaves, Michael approaches Alex and says "Thank you." Later they go to a bar. Little does Michael know, that at this point he has just doomed his fate.

After a few nights of wild partying at private clubs where Alex knows the pass words to be admitted, Alex asks Michael what he really wants out of life.

Michael replies that he wants the senior analyst's job at his firm that he and another man are up for and that he doesn't want to marry his fiancé.

Alex makes a gesture that it will be taken care of, but subliminally he wants Michael to understand that Alex will always be in control. The question posed here is, "How far will Michael go to get what he wants?"

After several acts of vengeance against Michael, Alex makes Michael's life a living hell. Michael grows irritated with Alex and tells Alex to leave him alone. But Alex cannot stop until he receives satisfaction for Michael's ingratitude, and knows that he is again in complete power.

This film is fascinating. The thought of one person having so much control over another person's mind is baffling and in the same sense scary.

Lowe does a fantastic job of creating the ultimate mind manipulation character.

This is clearly an 'R' rated flick. There are several sexually explicit scenes, profanity and some violence.

It takes a mature viewing audience that can look beyond the nudity and explore the deranged elements of this fascinating and thrilling plot to be able to enjoy this movie.

Video release courtesy of 2 Day Video