

Local band Canis Major jams at album release party

By M. TURNER HARRISON

Feature Writer for THE BATTALION

Bands come and go in college towns, and few manage to stay together long enough to release a recording.

Local band Canis Major has taken that step and will celebrate its first effort with a tape release party this weekend at Stafford Opera House. The band recorded and produced the self-titled cassette tape in Bryan. The tape contains seven songs.

Canis Major is a part of the growing music scene in Bryan-College Station. Guitarist David Gayler said although the number of local bands is increasing, area music fans continue to look elsewhere for entertainment.

"There are a lot of bad bands here, but the other side of the coin is there are also a lot of good bands," he said "There are as many bad bands in Austin as there are here. It's kind of odd that people won't support anything out of this town."

A veteran of the local music scene, Gayler has played in a number of bands and at several clubs, including now-defunct Eastgate Live. He started playing the guitar in the seventh grade after taking lessons from an unconventional instructor.

"My first guitar teacher was a nun," he said.

Gayler said he finds inspiration from across the musical spectrum, but he refuses to pigeonhole his band.

"I don't like to put a tag on our music," Gayler said. "People have told me we sound somewhere in between the Sundays, Edie Brickell and Eric Johnson."

Gayler had been playing in a three-man band with bassist Mike Giffin and drummer David Feagan before they found a vocalist.

Lead singer Danna Hull was singing country songs at a local bar when guitarist David Gayler first heard her.



Canis major (L-R: bassist Mike Giffin, vocalist Danna Hull, drummer David Feagan and guitarist David Gayler) performs at Stafford Opera House Saturday Night

"A friend told me I this person had a great voice and I had to see her," Gayler said. "I said, 'Yeah, sure,' but when I heard her I asked her to record a song with the band."

Hull takes her inspiration from female vocalists such as Amy Grant and Bonnie Raitt. Hull provided the vocals for "I Wonder Why," the first song she recorded with the band.

She said the songwriting is a joint effort between her and the rest of the band, although she works more on the lyrics.

"I tend more toward vocals, although it's a joint effort," Hull said. "The other guys are real smart and easy to work with. We first worked together on "I Wonder Why," and everything just clicked."

Hull has been performing her entire life. She received her first guitar when she was three and has performed in singing groups, musicals and plays every since. She says she prefers singing to any other on-stage work.

"I like acting, but I enjoy the musicals more," she said.

Bass player Giffin said his musical influences also go way back.

"My mother used to listen to Pink Floyd while I was in the womb," Giffin said.

The show starts Saturday evening at 10 with opening act the Levis. Canis Major will take the stage about an hour later. Tickets are \$7 and ticketholders also get a free copy of the cassette.

Around Town

Information is provided by the individual nightclubs and is subject to change.

Music

Gallery Bar

In the College Station Hilton at 801 E. University Dr. Only ages 21 and older admitted. Call 693-7500 for more information.
Friday, Saturday - Big Apple Trio. Jazz. Starts at 8 p.m. No cover.

Kay's Cabaret

At Post Oak Mall. Ages 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served. For more information, call 696-9191.

Thursday - Writers and Performers Showcase with Kyle Hutton. Open mic. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$1 cover.

Friday - Rif Raf. Rock and roll. Starts at 9:30. \$3 cover.

Saturday - Two bands Coked and Bone Orchard. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

Two Pesos

Located at 303 University Dr. in College Station. Alcohol served. For more information, call 846-4135.

Wednesday - Sneaky Pete. Sing-along. Starts at 8 p.m. \$2 cover.

Friday - Mirror Image. Starts at 10 p.m.

Stafford Opera House

Located at 106 S. Main in Bryan. Alcohol served. For more information, call 775-4082.

Thursday - Retarded Elf. Texas Funk. Tickets \$5. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Friday - Cindy Lee Berryhill. Folk. Kyle Hutton will open. Tickets \$5. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Saturday - Canis Major. Rock and roll. The Levis will open. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Love Shack

Located at 318 N. Main in Bryan. Alcohol served. For more information, call 775-1578.

Wednesday - Billy Boy - Comedian/Country Singer. \$1 cover. Starts at 8 p.m.

Friday - Crystal Creek. Country music. \$2 cover. Starts at 8 p.m.

Comedy

Sundance Club

Located in the College Station Hilton. 801 E. University Dr. Call 693-7500 for more information. Alcohol served.

Thursday - Comedy night- Featuring Peter Hefty and David Lamont. Tickets \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door.

Special Events

Messina Hof Wine Cellars

Located off Highway 6, just east of B-CS. For more information call 778-wine.

Winery Tours

Weekday - tours at 1:00 p.m.
Saturday - 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.
Sunday - 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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The Jordan Institute is open to all students interested in increasing their international awareness. Applications are available in the Jordan cubicle, located in rm. 223 MSC, in the student programs office.

Applications are due: September 16 by 5 p.m. in the Jordan cubicle.

Informational meeting: TONIGHT
Thursday, September 10th
7:00 pm 401 Rudder



MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness
For more information contact 845-8770.

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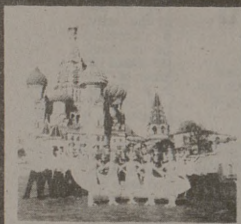
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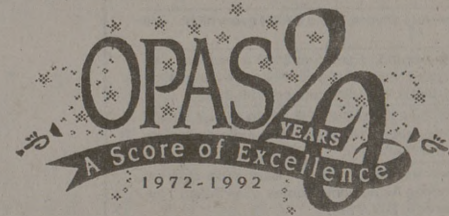
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