

# Drunk as Chloe

## Local band finds making music in B-CS intoxicating

By Jennifer Gressett  
The Battalion



*Have you ever had one of those days  
Where the reflection in the milk is slightly  
skewed  
Giving wrinkles and bending the once  
smooth face  
And the spoon is scratched and the teeth  
are dull  
All the cereal's sogged and drifting  
around in its own liquid island*

*-Jigsaw Radio Song,  
Drunk as Chloe*

No, this is not what happens during finals week. It's what happens when you're Drunk as Chloe — the band, that is.

Composed of one sober sophomore, a junior, a chemist and three graduate students, the band seems to have better things to do than get drunk. In fact, at only nine months old, the band is

about to release its first tape, "few-songs."

What kind of music does a band like Drunk as Chloe produce, you ask?

Some say it's a cross between 10,000 Maniacs and The Sundays, which are both folk bands. But only the band can describe it best.

Chemist and bass player Mark Florence says it's "a '70s throwback, with a lot of little grooves. It's folk and funk, thrown together with a lot of other influences."

Drummer Jimmy Franklin said the music keeps changing, though.

"I would call it college music," Franklin said. "I'm into a funk sound, but with six different tastes, we're always trying to adjust to different opinions."

The six or seven songs featured on "few-songs" will combine that funk with rock and a little samba. That means there's more to this band than just guitars and drums. If you listen close, you may even hear a trumpet.

Ask graduate psychology student Missi Wilkenfeld, and she'll tell you she plays "a fish." Actually, it's a guiro, a percussion instrument shaped like a fish, and can be heard in "Fiesta de Las Locas."

But she's better known as the band's lead singer. In the past, Wilkenfeld said she tried to model her voice after other singers she admired. Two of her favorites are Natalie Merchant (10,000

Maniacs) and Harriet Wheelers (The Sundays). However, since she joined Drunk as Chloe, Wilkenfeld said she tries to avoid falling into the trap of someone else's voice.

"For the first time, we're writing original songs," she said. "So I can't copy someone else because I don't know how they would sound to original music."

What makes a person want to join a band like Drunk as Chloe?

It was the cheesy flier that caught Wilkenfeld's eye, she said. The name came much later.

After weeks of practicing under different names, senior computer science major Justin Patterson said the band finally got desperate. It was when they finally got booked to perform that they had to have a name.

"We got out everything from children's Bibles to dictionaries," Florence said. "Then we looked under terms for drunkenness in Justin's thesaurus and found 'drunk as Chloe.'"

In case you were wondering, Patterson said Chloe was actually a prospector's mule; it has nothing to do with the band's concept.

"It was completely random," Patterson said.

And random is what they were in the beginning. Although junior psychology major Joe Leih and sophomore environmental design major Anthony Martinez played together in high school, it

wasn't until Martinez and Patterson collaborated that the band was formed.

Since then, it has been a constant effort for the band to juggle school and band practice.

"We practice for about two hours twice a week," Florence said. "Anthony makes the fliers and the rest of us hassle each other by telephone to get things going."

As an undergraduate music and psychology major, Wilkenfeld said she gave up a career in veterinary medicine because she couldn't imagine school without music. She said music actually helps with school.

"After a long day of research and classes it's actually a break," she said. "It's very time consuming, but everyone understands that school is a priority. I mean, we're definitely not Nirvana."

Drunk as Chloe will be performing this Friday at Stafford Opera House where they hope to release their new tape. As for the future, Florence said they are planning to take a break this summer and return in the fall. He added that they are planning to get performances booked outside of College Station, possibly in the Austin area.

As for a professional career in the music industry, the band is undecided.

"It's hard to say," Patterson said. "Some dream of getting a label, but I'm just doing it for fun. I love being in a band and I love playing drums."

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