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AFI PREVIEW NIGHT



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Weekend Preview

Hotwheels Jr! brings fun style to B-CS

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

It all started when four co-workers decided to form a band just for kicks.

A year-and-a-half and 30 or 40 performances later, Hotwheels Jr! is beginning to branch out from its Austin roots and explore other areas of the state and country.

Hotwheels Jr! will be exploring the Bryan-College Station area when it opens for Mudshow at the Dixie Theatre Friday night.

Chip Cramer, the band's drummer, said the idea of forming a band was completely whimsical but has turned out to be fun. "When we started, it was a joke," Cramer said. "We did not have a lot of experience, but we have worked hard. The first time we got together, we just made noise, and after an hour or two, we started sounding pretty good."

Joining Cramer in Hotwheels Jr! are Adam Purina, guitarist and vocalist; Kristina Recia, bass guitarist and vocalist, and Mark Bradley, guitarist.

Hotwheels Jr! has opened for Mudshow several times. Cramer said Mudshow has a following in

College Station and has heard that mosh pits have a tendency to form at the band's shows.

"Here (Austin) people just sit on their butts," Cramer said. "It is nice to see some butt shaking going on and people getting up. There is just too much music available here, and unless the band is really special, they won't get up."

Cramer said the band's music is similar to punk rock and is full of energy.

Over spring break, Hotwheels Jr! had an opportunity to play at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin.

"It was the first time our show was written up," Bradley said. "We had a lot of fun and learned a lot."

Cramer said through its performances, Hotwheels Jr! has increased its knowledge base.

"It has been a giant learning curve," Cramer said. "We went from nothing to what turns us on. The success is greater than what we expected."

The band released a demo album out of Austin, which features six original songs. Bradley said that in the lyrics, the band member's try to avoid clichés that are used in many other songs.

"Most of our songs have a social meaning," Bradley said. "We try to avoid what has been done. I love songs and songs with lyrics that use the word 'baby'."

For the future, Hotwheels Jr! still hopes to record an album and is planning on touring the east coast this summer.

"We got some calls after SXSW, but they have just asked us for material," Cramer said. "We haven't had enough interest to say we have a record deal."

Bradley said the band has about 30 songs it would like to use to record an album, but money is the only barrier right now.

"We only have a demo CD right now," Bradley said. "But we are working on getting it out to different independent record labels."

Although the band members have heard different things about the Bryan-College Station music scene, Cramer said they are excited to play in a new area and see what kind of reaction they will get.

"It will be different but exciting to go somewhere we have never been," Cramer said. "We always have a familiar crowd, so it will be different. Plus, it is a great reason for a road trip."

Thursday

Breedlove, a rock band from Austin, is playing at the Dixie Theatre.

Haydukes, a folk band, is playing at the Brazos Brewing Company.

Peeping Tom, a rock band, is playing at The Tap.

John Reyna and Tubie Pusheé, a classic rock duo, is playing at Fitzwilly's.

Friday

Crystal Sea, a jazz band, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

The Logan Brothers, a rock band, is playing at The Tap.

Mudshow, a rock band from Austin, is playing at

the Dixie Theatre. **Hotwheels Jr!**, a rock band from Austin, is opening (see related story).

Ruthie Foster, a rhythm and blues performer from Gause, is playing at the 3rd Floor Cantina.

Saturday

The Maps, a jazz/blues rock band, is playing at the Brazos Brewing Company.

Miss Molly and the Whips, a rhythm and blues performer from Houston, is playing at the 3rd Floor Cantina.

Mr. Friendly, a rock band, is playing at The Tap.

Brian Whittaker, a classic rock performer, is playing at Fitzwilly's.

The Wicks, a blues/rock band, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

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JUNE 10, 1996 EXAM			JUNE 10, 1996 EXAM		
Session #LSC603	DATE	TIME	Session #LSC602	DATE	TIME
Virtual Reality 1	Wed. April 10th	6 p.m.	Virtual Reality 1	Wed. April 24th	6 p.m.
Session 2	Sat. April 13th	10 a.m.	Session 2	Sun. April 28th	10 a.m.
Session 3	Sat. April 20th	10 a.m.	Session 3	Wed. May 1st	6 p.m.
Session 4	Sat. April 27th	10 a.m.	Session 4	Sun. May 12th	1 p.m.
Session 5	Sat. May 11th	10 a.m.	Session 5	Wed. May 22nd	6 p.m.
Session 6	Sat. May 18th	10 a.m.	Session 6	Sun. May 26th	1 p.m.
Session 7	Sat. May 25th	10 a.m.	Session 7	Wed. May 29th	6 p.m.
Virtual Reality 2	Wed. May 29th	6 p.m.	Virtual Reality 2	Sun. June 2nd	1 p.m.
Virtual Reality 2 Review	Sat. June 1st	6 p.m.	Virtual Reality 2 Review	Wed. June 5th	6 p.m.
Extra-help Workshops			Extra-help Workshops		
Logical Reasoning	Logic Games		Logical Games	Midterm Review	
TBA	TBA		Wed. May 15th @ 6 p.m.	Sun. May 19th @ 1 p.m.	
Additional Virtual Reality LSAT			Additional Virtual Reality LSAT		
Virtual Reality Midterm	Wed. April 24th	6 p.m.	Virtual Reality Midterm	Sat. May 18th	10 a.m.

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