

Weekend Preview

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Thursday

Electric Gypsy, a rock band, is playing at The Tap.

Ruthie Foster, a blues musician from Gause, is playing at Brazos Brewing Company.

Killer Bees, a reggae band from Austin, is playing at the Dixie Theatre.



Killer Bees

Musician's Night Out, a weekly jam session, is taking place at Lonesome Dove.

Billy Pitchard, a country and western performer, is playing at Chelsea Street Pub.

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

Friday

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

Diamond Blue is playing at Fitzwilly's.

Pit Bull, a hard rock band, is playing at The Tap.

Spot with Atticus Fitch, both rock performers, are playing at the Dixie Theatre.

Saturday

Big Otis, a motown soul performer, is playing at the 3rd Floor Cantina.

Sneaky Pete, a sing-along rock performer, is playing at the Brazos Brewing Company.

Brad Thompson, a rock soloist, is playing at The Tap.

The Woodies, an acoustic band, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

Toadies

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Umberger said the band attributes its success more to radio than videos, which she described as a "necessary evil."

"We don't really enjoy doing videos, but it's getting better," she said. "They (MTV) haven't really helped us as much as other bands."

Umberger said that even though "Possum Kingdom" has been overplayed, she is still feels thrilled every time she hears the Toadies on the radio.

"I still turn the radio up and listen every time I hear us on the radio," she said. "I think when you stop getting excited, that's when it's time to quit."

The Toadies were rumored to be among the bands considered for this year's Lollapalooza line-up. Umberger said an offer from the notorious road show would not have tempted her away from the band's current tour.

"I wouldn't pass up touring with the Butthole Surfers and Reverend Horton Heat," she said. "They're my favorite

all-time bands."

Jimbo, who plays upright bass for Reverend Horton Heat, expressed similar excitement over the growing Texas music scene in a recent phone interview.

Jimbo and the other two members of Horton Heat — lead singer The Reverend and drummer Scott "Taz" Churilla — are all native Texans, and hold a strong loyalty to their native stomping ground.

"I've been everywhere in the world, and I don't think I could live anywhere but Texas," he said. "I think it's something in the water."

The band has been around for 11 years. Jimbo joined the band nine years ago, after seeing Reverend Horton Heat in Houston. He approached The Reverend after the show and told him he could play upright bass. A few days later, the band's upright bassist quit, and Jimbo was asked to join.

Reverend Horton Heat has since gained a loyal following of both fans and fellow musicians. The band has been invited to tour with Soundgarden, White Zombie, Social Distortion and The Cramps in the past.

"We had no idea these bands even liked us," he said.

Two of the band's albums were also

produced by Al Jorgensen of Ministry and Gibby Haynes of the Butthole Surfers, both of whom approached the band and asked to work with them.

"Al (Jorgensen) came out when we were in Chicago," he said. "He got down on his knees and kissed our feet and said he wanted to produce our album. We didn't know who this guy was, and he asked us if we had heard of Al Jorgensen. We said yes and he said, 'that's me.'"

Despite the band's success in Texas and abroad, it has received limited airplay and videoplay on MTV. Jimbo said the band does not frown on MTV's power.

"It (MTV) could have a positive effect, mainly because a lot of people can see you," he said. "It's a quicker way to the top. We have a bigger fan base, but we would like to get more airplay."

Nevertheless, the band's loyalty to grass-roots "psychobilly" (a cross between punk and rockabilly) music is equally as strong as its loyalty to Texas. Jimbo said Reverend Horton Heat's philosophy on music is simple: "Don't try to save the world — just have a good time."

"I think that's what rock started out as," he said. "We don't have any political messages in our music."

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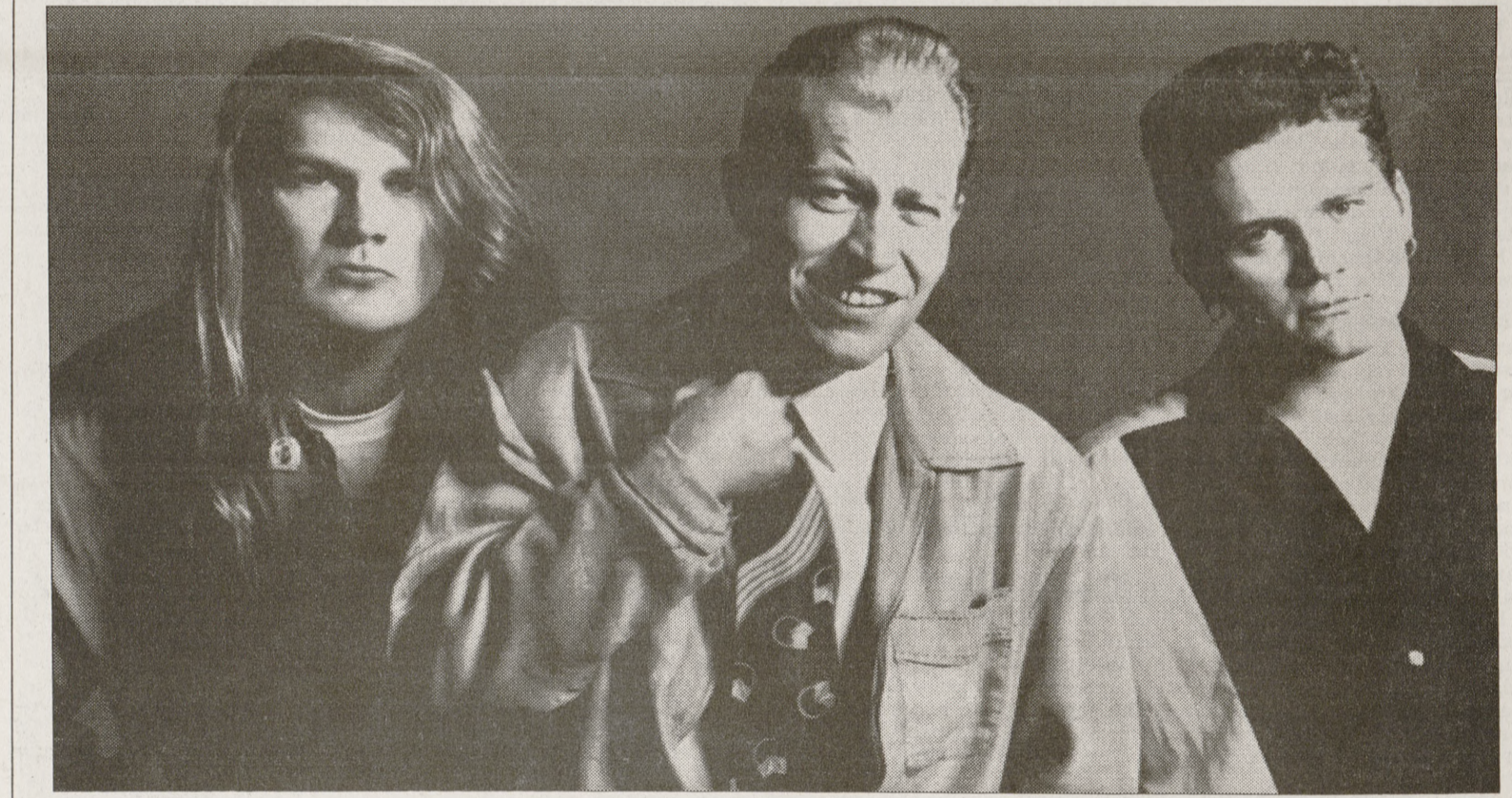
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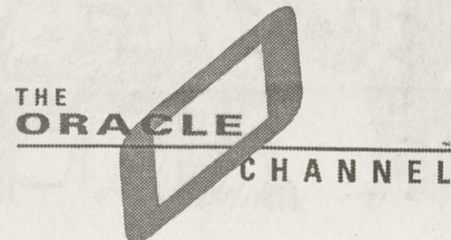
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