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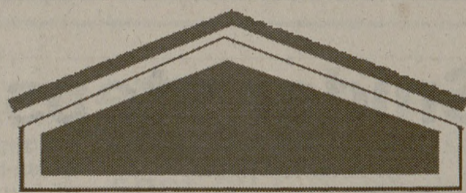


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Snider: Up-and-coming musician to play B-CS

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track has a modern rock sound, then another seems like a song that should only be heard at the Dixie Chicken. Snider's musical influences can be compared to a shoplifter's loot after a binge at a record store. Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Rolling Stones, the Doors and Jerry Jeff Walker play into Snider's style.

The country music influence on Snider's music is best demonstrated on the album's ghost track titled "Moon Dawg Tavern." The song is based on an actual bar opened by a man named Moon Dawg.

Snider said he used to visit the tavern in Kentucky and eventually became the house musician. The bar was an old tool shed that sold illegal liquor to its "regular customers." Snider revisited the bar after releasing his first album and said it wasn't the same place to him anymore.

Snider recently returned from

touring with Jack Ingram.

Bennett said that each singer has a strong following in certain regions of the country, but when they toured together, they were successes in every region of the country. In California and the Eastern Seaboard, Snider would headline the performance, but in areas such as the South, Ingram would be the headliner with Snider opening for him.

Snider and his band, the Nervous Wrecks, will be performing tonight at the Dixie Theatre. Willie Bennett, partner and general manager of the Dixie Theatre, said he was excited to have an artist of Snider's caliber play in Bryan.

"Todd Snider is on cutting edge of music," Bennett said. "In many parts of the country, he is a huge act."

"This is the first chance for us to see him before he hits it big." A press release said that Snider's newest album makes a listener think that he might be Bob Dylan's and Janis Joplin's

abandoned love child. His music possesses the simplicity of protest music of the 60's and Southern Rock's raw edges.

Snider attributes his

"This is the first chance for us to see him before he hits it big."

Willie Bennett
general manager, Dixie Theatre

success to legendary musician Jimmy Buffett.

Buffett watched Snider perform and signed a contract with fledgling rocker.

Snider also appreciates Buffett in other ways.

"Well, he signs my paycheck which I appreciate a whole lot," Snider said.

Smashing Pumpkins snatch MTV Video Music Awards

MTV Video Music Awards attract throngs of people to Radio City Music Hall for the grand performance.

NEW YORK (AP) — Where do legions of annoyed, day-weary suits breast-stroke through a rush-hour thicket of washboard bare midriffs, eyebrow rings and hair gelled to withstand cyclones unscathed?

Where can MTV take over a chunk of one of the world's busiest cities for 48 hours and paint a giant logo on the street? Where is the televised version of an event more important than the event itself?

Gotta be New York — midtown Manhattan, to be exact, where the MTV Video Music Awards, the Grammys' frenzied grandchild, convened Wednesday night. And once again, the "TV" in MTV was just as important as the "M."

"This is modern spectacle," said Eduardo Braniff, MTV's manager of international program sales. He escorted Sharon Stone to the awards, held at Radio City Music Hall.

All the block became a stage for MTV's program, and all the screaming, thronging men and women outside merely players — and unpaid ones at that, essential though they were to the show.

"I'm here — that's all I care about," one teen-age girl yelled across a police barricade pressing hard against her waist.

Oh — the awards.

Alanis Morissette, up for best video for "Ironic," vied against Foo Fighters ("Big Me"), Bone Thugs-N-Harmony ("The Crossroads") and Smashing Pumpkins ("Tonight, Tonight"), who won on that song for best breakthrough video.

Other winners included Coolio for best rap video ("Gangsta's Paradise") and best dance video ("1, 2, 3, 4 (Sumpin' New)"), Fugees for best R&B video ("Killing Me Softly") and Foo Fighters for best group video ("Big Me").

Smashing Pumpkins, with the most nominations, made their first TV appearance since the heroin-overdose death of keyboardist Jonathan Melvoin in July — an event followed by the firing of drummer Jimmy Chamberlain, reportedly also involved with drugs.

Inanities surfaced throughout: We learned comedian Chris Rock had a turkeyburger for breakfast. We learned Rosie O'Donnell does a hilarious "Ironic" imitation. And we learned that, no matter how famous you are, genital jokes and profanities remain the shortest route to a cheap laugh.

Outside, hundreds of fans lined a street renamed

MTV Plaza for the week as they watched for a behind police barricades. They stalked their prey no avail.

"They should be more accessible to the people. We are who made them who they are," Camella Philpott of Queens, standing behind police sawhorse.

Some of the more scintillating dialogue: —A fashion evaluation by an MTV reporter: "Her prints are good. Anything synthetic goes."

—Host



Smashing Pumpkins made their first TV appearance since the death of their keyboardist, Jonathan Melvoin.

Miller: "I thought today would never end. I've been sitting for 40 Macarenas that are as stale as a condom in a Thurmond's walled."

—An awed City Music Hall as Aerosmith's Tyler walked by: "A job, huh? What?"

When MTV really arrives — mingling up the midtown Manhattan days. Side streets around Radio City restricted more than hours beforehand barricades and officers, snarling.

Even performers seemed more toward the show the awards. Members of Foo Fighters when asked if they thought they'd Darius "Hootie" shrugged and expected to lose.

And isn't this Morissette, who best new artist doesn't like and though she allowed

the possibility that MTV's are OK. "It's less formal, there's less pressure here," she said. But "it still doesn't change the concept of art being judged."

What should have been the line of the night from ambigenderous hoopmaster Dennis Rodman, decked out in a conservative — yeah, right — velveteen brown shirt and sunglasses: "I didn't want to be too decadent tonight."

He couldn't top Miller, cutting to an unprecedented remote shot that showed, rather farcically, a changed world: "Let's go live right now to the Russian Mir Space Station."

He found two smiling cosmonauts wearing shirts and hats. Then, unable to understand he swore at them.



Morissette



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