Driving in the Fresh Lane

AGGIELIFE

he Refreshments ride the ommercial music highway in earch of a roaring good time.

By JOHN LEBAS THE BATTALION

udden success for a rock band can bring bout a refreshing change of pace.

P.H. Naffah, drummer for the Refreshs, said he and his bandmates played for in various Tempe, Ariz., bars. They never ght much about making it big, he said, I fellow Tempe artists the Gin Blossoms

nce we saw the Gin Blossoms on David rman, we thought, 'Maybe we can do Naffah said.

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he Refreshments, which formed in signed with Mercury Records after a pany executive saw them play at the h by Southwest music showcase in n. But success caught the band by sur-Naffah said.

We pretty much just got together, and happened to be drums and guitars lying nd," Naffah said. "We didn't have any exations, we were just having fun." Fun" soon turned into a full-time job. The

eshments has toured for about the last , Naffah said, taking its "drunken dehery" throughout the country in support izzy Fuzzy Big and Buzzy, the band's first lease. Naffah said constant touring has arred the last year, but playing music makes band's hectic schedule worth the effort.

It's tiring, but you know after you've traved 1,000 miles, you get to play," he said. hat's the fruit of the labor.'

And though the Refreshments works hard entertain, Naffa said its main priority is

We're there just to have fun and play some od music," he said. "When you go to a show d see a band having a blast, you can't help the infected by that. That's what we aim for very night.

So fans can expect to have fun at a Refreshents show, but what do these guys really und like?



'It's not quite breakfast, it's not quite lunch, but it comes with a fruit cup," Naffah said. He said he does not want to put a label

W^2 When & Where

Dishwalla, Chalk FarM and the Refreshments will be playing at Rudder Auditorium Sunday, starting at 6 p.m. The location was changed from Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater due to bad weather reports. For information call MSC Town Hall at 845-1515.

on the Refreshments' sound because the band's influences are so diverse.

"We take a lot of influence from our surroundings and the experiences we've had," he said. "We're influenced by the past couple of vears, if not our whole life.

Living in Arizona, close to Mexico, he said, melds a southwestern flavor in the music, but doesn't dominate it.

"If I could wear a sombrero every night, I would," Naffah said. "But everybody in the band grew up in different places.

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Naffah said he also listened to Thin Lizzy, Rush, AC/DC and other rock bands while growing up.

On the other hand, he said, singer Roger Clyne draws from bands like Camper Van Beethoven, Cracker and They Might be Giants.

The Refreshments' formula has been working commercially. The band has released two singles from Fizzy Fuzzy, "Banditos" and "Down Together," which have been played over the radio and on MTV

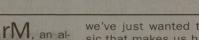
"The first time I saw myself on MTV, it was the coolest thing," Naffah said. "It's exciting seeing something you've worked that hard on come to fruition.

But success can be a little tough to get used to, he said. He said people react strangely when they recognize him on the street.

"It's hard to explain — they look at you all weird," he said. "I think it's mostly because we're as nervous to meet them as they are to meet us. It's the whole stranger thing.'

Despite the weirdness, he said, success has its perks.

"What I like most about it is, I'm doing what I've always been doing, but now I'm making money doing it," he said. "And we get to ride in a tour bus. It's like a dream come true.



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and ith a socially-conscious edge, is playing Sunday at Rudder Auditorium at 6 p.m. The show was moved from its originally scheduled venue of Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater due to predictions of bad weather.

Formed in 1992, Dishwalla has attained success melding its music around social commentary.

"As a band, our first obligation is to make good music," Dishwalla wrote for Swing magazine. "But we understand the influence popular musicians can have today, and Friends. The album spawned originality.



political band, drummer George Pendergrass said.

"There's a serious angle to the whole thing we do, but we don't want people to get overly dramatic," he said. "It's just music."

Dishwalla is touring in support of its debut album, Pet Your we feel a responsibility to go be- "Counting Blue Cars," which was

Chalk FarM, an alternative band from Los Angeles, is playing Sunday at Rudder Auditorium at 6 p.m. According to a press release, the band's debut album, Notwithstanding, urges the listener to rise above the current trend of apathy in the world.

"The biggest difference between them and other bands is that their dreams came to fruition intact, without having been compromised, lobotomized or convoluted," the release said. Singer and guitarist Michael

Duff said Chalk FarM aims for

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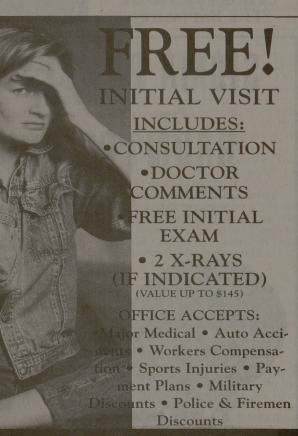
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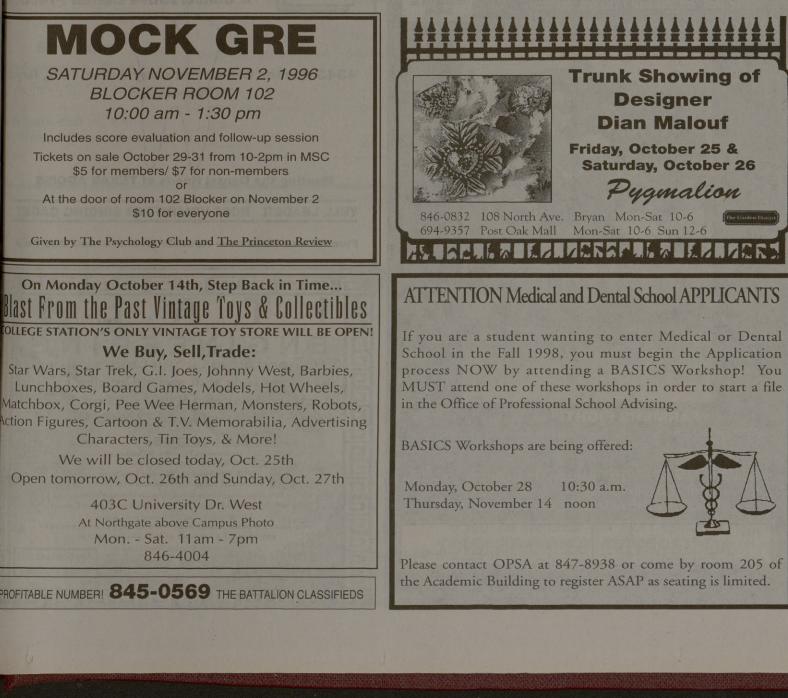
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nd 'do me' lyrics and irresponsie lifestyles.' But Dishwalla is not strictly a number one for four weeks on Billboard's modern rock chart earlier this year.

make a song of our own, so that a couple of chords you know it's Chalk FarM," he said. "All along,

'We're always looking to

Chalk FarM





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