

## The Boo Radleys imitate Brit punk

BY BRANDON TRUITT  
THE BATTALION

Sometimes it is difficult to say what things influence an album as it is recorded, but the inspiration for The Boo Radleys' *C'mon Kids* is strikingly clear.

In the simplest words, the group is just another British pop band.

The few saving graces on the album come only when the band creates an ambience and sound reminiscent of Radiohead. The album's painful sections come when the band creates an irritating noise with instruments that sounds like Oasis.

It seemed Oasis had disappeared from the music scene for good, but The Boo Radleys unfortunately have decided to recreate Oasis' incredible knack for purely annoying music. The worst thing about the album is that the band thought they could imitate Radiohead, because it just can't be done.

The problem with imitating another band is that The Boo Radleys can never be better than who they are imitating.

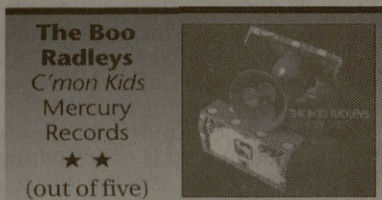
This statement almost proves itself when one considers the fact that the members of awful Oasis and awesome Radiohead are millionaires now, while The Boo Radleys are lurking somewhere behind both bands with less money, less fame and a lot less talent.

There is not even one original-sounding song on the album. There are licks from Elton John here, Soul Asylum there and Guided By Voices in between, but nothing that uniquely stands out as "The Boo Radleys."

Of course imitation can lead to creative genius when it is used correctly.

The only thing that justifies giving this album two stars is the sampled sound effects that show up in some of the songs.

"Meltin' Worm" and "Melodies for the Deaf (Colours for the Blind)" have quirky haunted house noises echoing in the background. The only reason these noises are worth noticing, or worth any respect at all, is because they sound like samples from



The Boo Radleys  
*C'mon Kids*  
Mercury Records  
★★  
(out of five)

old *Scooby Doo* cartoons. To imitate the sounds of ghosts off a childhood cartoon and then lay psychedelic guitar melodies over them seems like a fail-proof method of song making. It is a mystery how any band could begin with samples of *Scooby Doo* and end making an album this bad.

Even though The Boo Radleys send out the call *C'mon Kids*, the kids aren't listening because watching the real *Scooby Doo* is better than hearing some cheap imitation of it, listening to Radiohead is better than listening to a band that sounds like it, and listening to Oasis is better than listening to a band who is trying to be just as bad as it.

Perhaps The Boo Radleys deserve something for being worse than Oasis. I can't imagine what sort of respect that deserves — certainly not another star, but maybe a Scooby Snack.



The Boo Radleys

# Out of the Shadows

Gay & lesbian Aggies share tales, troubles of hidden sexuality

BY MELISSA PRICE  
THE BATTALION

"She left me for another woman — next, on *Jerry Springer*." Although outrageous stories concerning homosexuals and bisexuals run rampant on daytime talk shows, such as *Jerry Springer* and *Jenny Jones*, some gays and lesbians on the Texas A&M campus say these shows do not paint an accurate picture of a homosexual lifestyle. But the struggles and triumphs of some homosexuals searching for a haven from the harsh realities of life are real.

Caryl, a lesbian and a senior psychology major, came out to her friends less than a month ago. Caryl said she did not admit to herself or others that she was a lesbian until her boyfriend of nine months accused her of being attracted to women.

Although she had always been attracted to females, Caryl said she led a heterosexual lifestyle for 22 years because it was the socially acceptable thing to do.

"I was always missing something, so I kept on moving from guy to guy, thinking I'd find 'that something' in the next guy," Caryl said. "After many failed heterosexual relationships, I realized I had to deal with this. I am not embarrassed to be a lesbian — it is who I am."

Caryl said some heterosexuals mistakenly believe that homosexuality revolves around sex. She said it really has nothing to do with sex, but rather the emotional and mental bond two people share. She said it is important to realize homosexuals are normal human beings who are no different from anyone else — except for their sexual preference.

Jacob Sterling (not his real name), a bisexual and a sophomore finance major, prefers to keep his bisexuality a secret. Sterling, who said gays are often treated as a sub-culture in our society, is cautious when disclosing his sexual orientation.

"I first came out to my old roommate because I thought he was my best friend and I thought I could trust him," Sterling said. "He sold me out and proceeded to tell my parents I was gay. He later told me he had secretly loved me the whole time we had lived together."

Dax Smith (not his real name), a senior marketing major, said he has known he was bisexual since the second grade. Smith said he was physically attracted to other boys, and always felt he was different from his classmates.

"It makes you feel like there is something wrong with you," Smith said. "I felt guilty and ashamed and, even though you're not, you feel like you're an outcast."

Smith, who first disclosed his sexuality to a close friend in January 1995, said there is a plethora of misconceptions about homosexuality. He said although many people characterize homosexuals as promiscuous individuals who act feminine and come from broken homes, this is not necessarily true.

Smith said he does not fit this gay stereotype — he is athletic, has a deep voice and is in a well-known fraternity. He hides his sexual orientation because he is afraid people will not accept his lifestyle, he said.

The question of whether homosexuality is biologically-based or not has divided people for centuries. While some contend that homosexuals have a choice in whether to lead a gay lifestyle, others insist homosexuality is biological.

But Smith said being bisexual was never a choice for him.

"Who would wake up one morning and think, 'Hey, I want the whole world to hate me just because I am attracted to a member of the same sex?'" Smith said. "For those people who think it is a choice, they need to ask themselves what day they decided they were heterosexual and how they came to that decision."

Caryl said every homosexual has a choice when it comes to leading a gay lifestyle.

She said people can choose to be true to themselves and live the life they know in their heart to be true or choose to lie to themselves and be someone they are not.

Sterling said although homosexuals have made great strides in efforts to achieve acceptance, there is still a long way to go before homosexuality is no longer perceived as taboo. He said the gradual trend toward accepting gays and lesbians is occurring because more homosexuals are being open with their sexuality. Many people perceive gays as activists who are fighting for special rights but, in actuality, homosexuals come in all shapes and sizes and may be closer to home than one might think, he said.

"People should realize that it's their best friends, neighbors and fraternity brothers," Sterling said. "We are not just a bunch of activist people who wear their pink triangle shirts — we are just normal people."

Smith said although he has received a positive reaction from most of the people he has come out to, there was one instance when he was shunned.

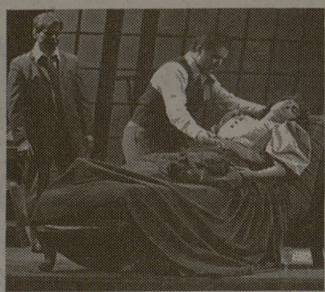
After coming out to one of his fraternity brothers, Smith said the brother was shocked and ignored him the rest of the semester. The following semester, the same brother called him and asked him out.

Caryl said she is relieved she has finally "come out of the closet" and can be open about her sexuality.

"I am me, finally," Caryl said. "There are no more secrets to hide from myself — I am completely alive. It is my life and no one can take that away from me."

**"For those people who think it is a choice, they need to ask themselves what day they decided they were heterosexual and how they came to that decision."**

Dax Smith  
Senior marketing major



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