

Laying it all on the line

Christian rock band offers something different to Texas music

By JENNY VRNAK
 THE BATTALION

which they share Plumblin's goals and its purpose. "The group's number one goal is to share Jesus Christ," Wisener said. "We want to do this as long as we can."

Based out of Central Texas, the group plays many concerts in the Salado, Temple and Belton areas. Plumblin also has concerts scheduled later this summer in Copperas Cove, Latham Springs and on July 19, at the Mayborn Civic Center.

Lisa Eckstrum, who also helps with the band's management, said people should definitely see the group perform if they get the chance.

"It's great because at their concerts, they put up the lyrics so that the crowd can sing along with them," Eckstrum said. "Plus, they're all young and good-looking and, at the same time, they're good influences."

The band's first release from the album is a song titled "Spinnin'," which has been receiving airtime by local radio personalities. The entire album is comprised of original songs written by the group's members and will be available at the concerts and in music stores across Texas.

Plumblin's members are hoping this concert and

many more like it will help introduce a lot of people to music they may not have heard before.

"The music is us," Wisener said. "The message is Jesus Christ. We play what we hear."

Wisener said they have seen many people in the audiences come to know Jesus at almost every event they have played.

"People learn through the music," he said. "We don't preach in our show — we just share."

Plumblin members hope the release of the first album and the tour this summer will help get the band started. Wisener said much of the band's future is dependent on the success of this album.

"We started working on this album last December," he said. "We hope to start working on another one this December, but right now, we're doing all we can to sell this one and get going."

Eckstrum said spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ is what motivates the band members to work hard, rather than money or fame.

"They are not trying to get rich," Eckstrum said. "They are just trying to have fun and make a decent living while spreading the gospel at the same time."



Plumblin will perform Friday at 3rd Floor Cantina in Bryan.

Batman & Robin: Star cast fails to fly

By CHRIS BROOKS
 THE BATTALION

Arnold Schwarzenegger is billed over George Clooney — Batman. This causes horrible flashbacks of how Batman Forever was about Jim Carrey (not The Riddler), but the movie-goer's fears are not realized in Batman and Robin. It really is a good movie.

The movie gets to a quick start as Batman and Robin are summoned to stop a museum robbery by Mr. Freeze (Schwarzenegger). The caped crusaders attempt to foil the robbery, but fail because of Robin's (Chris O'Donnell) youthful recklessness — a subplot that resurfaces throughout the film. The scene immediately shifts to a laboratory in South America where the transformation of Pamela Isley (Uma Thurman) into Poison Ivy and the creation of Bane (Jeep Swenson) are witnessed. Soon after, Barbara Wilson (Alicia Silverstone) — destined to become Batgirl — arrives at the front door of Wayne Manor.

Freeze and Ivy are interesting characters that hold rather well to Batman tradition. Victor Fries is a scientist who is forced to live

Batman and Robin
 Starring George Clooney, Chris O'Donnell, Alicia Silverstone and Arnold Schwarzenegger
 Directed by Joel Schumacher
 Rated PG-13
 Playing at Hollywood 16
 ★★ 1/2

in sub-zero temperatures because of a lab accident. He is driven by his desire to save his young wife, and resorts to destroying the world to avenge her death and make others share his pain. Poison Ivy, on the other hand, is a certifiable nut. She is an eco-terrorist who believes humanity should be destroyed for what it has done to the earth.

One major disappointment of the movie is Bane. Bane is a moronic, hulking strong man who cannot speak more than two grunted words at a time, rather than the clever hulk who nearly destroyed Batman in Knightfall. Bane deserves his own movie, not the treatment he receives in Batman and Robin.

The movie has a number of funny one-liners and, being a Batman

movie, is full of gadgets and vehicles. Some of the gadgets are a little silly, such as ice skates in Batman and Robin's boots for their first encounter with Freeze. The nipples on Batman and Robin's (but not Batgirl's — sorry, guys) costumes are a bit much, as well. Nothing is too bad, though — nothing as bad as the "anti-shark Batspray" in the '60s Batman movie.

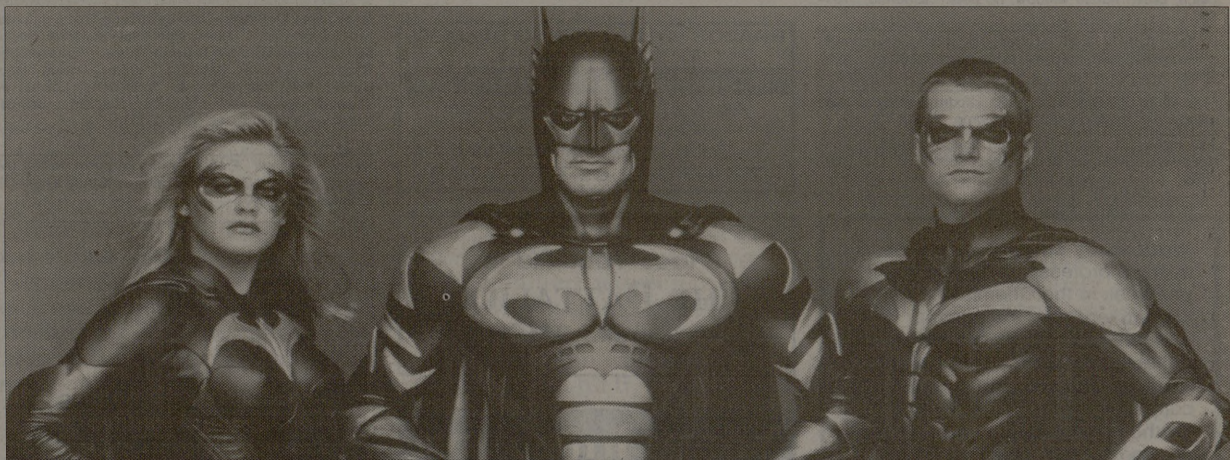
Joel Schumacher has apparently found a happy medium between the traditional dark, haunted Batman he hates and the silly world he created for Batman Forever. Both villains and all the heroes get a good share of the screen, and there are only a few silly scenes — although it starts to slip a little toward the end.

The movie also features a number of celebrity cameos such as Elle McPherson as Bruce Wayne's love interest.

Batman and Robin loses a star for the nipples in the costumes, a half star for its treatment of Bane and the ending and a star for a completely unnecessary song that is just too silly to be excused. Overall, though, Batman and Robin has plenty of explosions, interesting characters and a pretty good story. The ending is a bit weak, but it's a nice ride.



(Above) Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as Mr. Freeze in *Batman and Robin*. (Right) Other stars of the Warner Brothers movie are Alicia Silverstone as Batgirl, George Clooney as Batman and Chris O'Donnell as Robin.



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