

Thursday • November 13, 1997

# Over the 'Top'

Interview with Carrot Top reveals the man underneath the comedy and copper locks

By CHRIS MARTIN  
Staff writer

What has three arms, two heads, one semi-trailer full of toys and is red all over? A demonic Santa Claus? Wrong answer, but it is the right frame of mind for a night of comedy with Carrot Top.

Carrot Top and his toy chest will be live on stage tonight at 8 in Rudder Auditorium. For those unfamiliar with Carrot Top's overblown, observational comedy, it is a bit like being locked in a toy store overnight while watching tapes of Seinfeld on fast forward through 3-D glasses.

In addition to his many sold-out stand-up tours, Carrot Top has the top-rated show on the Cartoon Network ("Carrot Top's A.M. Mayhem"), a book ("Junk in the Trunk"), a Web site ([www.carrottop.com](http://www.carrottop.com)) and an upcoming movie called *Chairman of the Board*.

Carrot Top grew up in Cocoa Beach, Fla., and attended college at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

When we talked to Carrot Top last week, he was in Florida preparing for performances in Texas.

**Battalion:** So what were your college days like?

**Carrot Top:** Those were the good old days! No stress, no nothing. Just sleep in and get drunk. I did get my degree in marketing, thank God. Well, actually, I should say the guy I sat next to gave me the degree.

**CT:** I haven't been back down to that part of Florida in a few years. I'm afraid my student loan guy will find me.

**Batt:** Is college where you started your comedy routine?

**CT:** Yeah, I was just a regular old college kid. They had a talent night at the school bar one night. I went up on stage and did jokes. That's how it all started.

**Batt:** I've heard your show is almost like a Kiss concert.

**CT:** I think they say that because I have a lot of pyrotechnics and lasers and lights. Most comics don't have that kind of stuff, but I wanted to have a big show. I think I wanted to be a rock star deep down inside. So I kind of mixed the two and made it a rock 'n' roll comedy show.

**Batt:** If you could rock on stage with anyone, who would it be?

**CT:** I would say the Grateful Dead, but they're dead. I'd like to rock with the Stones one night. It would be cool to be that close and see how old they are.

**All the people I'd like to rock with are dead. Jim Morrison, dead.**

**Batt:** Hanson's still alive.

**CT:** I thought they were chicks! I thought it was like a Mentos commercial. I had no idea they were guys.

**Batt:** There's no shame in that.

**CT:** Okay, good.

**Batt:** The Jaggerian theory of the Rolling Stones was sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Is there a Carrotopian theory of comedy?

**CT:** Yeah, it's dirty magazines, coffee and the remote.

**Batt:** Is TV where you get your inspiration?

**CT:** I get it mostly from just walking around. People make me laugh. You see things that make you laugh, like how Hooters has food to go. Why would you want food to go from Hooters? The food sucks. That's why I've got a to-go bag with tits on the side, so you can take the atmosphere home.

**Batt:** Have you been to Texas very often?

**CT:** Only a few times, but I've always had a blast. The Texas crowds are always really energetic and ready to laugh. I'm looking forward to it.

**Batt:** Do you enjoy country line dancing?

**CT:** Country line dancing? I invented it, what do you mean? I'd be a cowboy, but I can't get a hat over my head. I've got too much hair. I think I'd look like a chick in a hat — like Hanson.

PLEASE SEE **CARROT** ON PAGE 4.



## Wakeland promotes new self-titled album tonight

By STEPHEN WELLS  
Staff writer

Wakeland, the Oklahoma-based power pop group who played at last year's Ag Final with Jackpierce, is coming back to Texas A&M to celebrate the release of their new self-titled CD.

Wakeland will be bringing their new release with them to Marooned Records today at 5 to perform an acoustic set of new and old material. The Marooned concert will be a precursor to a two-hour concert at the

Dixie Theatre later tonight.

Wakeland is the combined talents of Chris Sullivan (guitars and vocals), Brad Heinrichs (guitars), Shane Litsch (drums), and Andy Nunez (bass). Together, these four have forged a sound of infectious grooves without all the staged melodrama.

Singles such as "Falling Again" and "Half of You" demonstrate Wakeland's ability to produce clean and memorable pop songs.

Heinrichs said the band takes an honest approach to songwriting.

"I never like to write about

something I don't personally know about," Heinrichs said. "If I don't feel it, if it isn't true for me, how can I get it across?"

Wakeland began as cover band at OSU with no long-term plans in mind.

In a press release, Sullivan explained the attitude most people hold toward cover bands.

"People trash cover bands," said Sullivan. "But if you start out as one, it really makes you tight. You learn to play together."

With previous performances at the Tap and the Dixie Theatre, this

band has experience with A&M crowds.

"We do fairly well in College Station," Sullivan said. "We started off playing at the Tap, but our last couple of performances have been at the Dixie Theatre. It's actually one of our favorite places to play."

The new album represents a new direction for Wakeland, who have recently broken away from the record label that produced their last album, *Magnetic*.

PLEASE SEE **WAKELAND** ON PAGE 4.



Wakeland

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