

THE BATTALION

Consent to play

Blue October brings its brand of home-grown musical honesty to B-CS

By JASON BENNYHOFF

The Battalion

Blue October is a band obsessed with honesty. Its songs concentrate on personal stories of self-discovery. The band members reject the transitional notions of fads and fashion and open their hearts on stage with their music. They refuse to label their music as any particular genre, but say others describe it as "art rock." While the band is not interested in classifying itself, Bryan-College Station residents will have a chance to draw their own conclusions Wednesday when the band plays a stop on their never-ending tour at Placess.

Matt Noveskey, bassist for Blue October said the "art rock" label has stuck because the band tries to make a statement with every song.

"I think this is because the lyrical content is so important," Noveskey said. "People pay attention to the words, not just the music in our songs. Each song deals with an issue."

Noveskey said Blue October's new album, Consent to Treatment, which the band is currently promoting, is about dealing with the problems of everyday life and overcoming them.

"Each song is ultimately about absolutism," Noveskey said. "They are about finding a way to deal with your problems."

While the trials of everyday life are the theme of the band's new album, day-to-day life for the band has changed considerably since its beginning days as a garage band in Houston. The band is now based primarily in San Marcos, but Michael Rand, Blue October's manager, said the band rarely sees home due to its packed touring schedule.

"The band will be on tour forever," Rand said. "Their base is in Texas, but we are booking in Cleveland, Chicago ..."

Since its beginnings in the mid '90s, Blue October has built up an impressive resume nationwide, but its Texas popularity speaks for itself. They have sold more than 5,000 copies of its independently released albums in Houston alone, and last year, the band sold out all of its Texas performances. The band received the Houston Press Award for Best Pop/Rock Artist in 1999 and 2000, and received the same award for Best New Artist in 1999.

Noveskey said, that while awards are nice, playing for crowds, especially Texas crowds, is the band's greatest reward.

"We are on the road so much that we miss Texas crowds," Noveskey said. "The crowds are so cool here. But luckily, we have a few more Texas dates left and we will be doing some Texas shows with a band called SR-71 before we head back up through the Midwest."

Blue October's members are not the only ones happy that they are play-

ing in Texas. Sherard Quina, manager of Placess, said bands like Blue October will add a new musical flavor to his establishment.

"This is our first time having a big rock band," Quina said. "We have done shows with country bands before, but now we plan to start doing some more regular rock-and-roll shows. I am expecting a large turnout for the band, being that they have a large Texas following and a new album out."

Consent to Treatment is the band's first album with Universal Records. While the

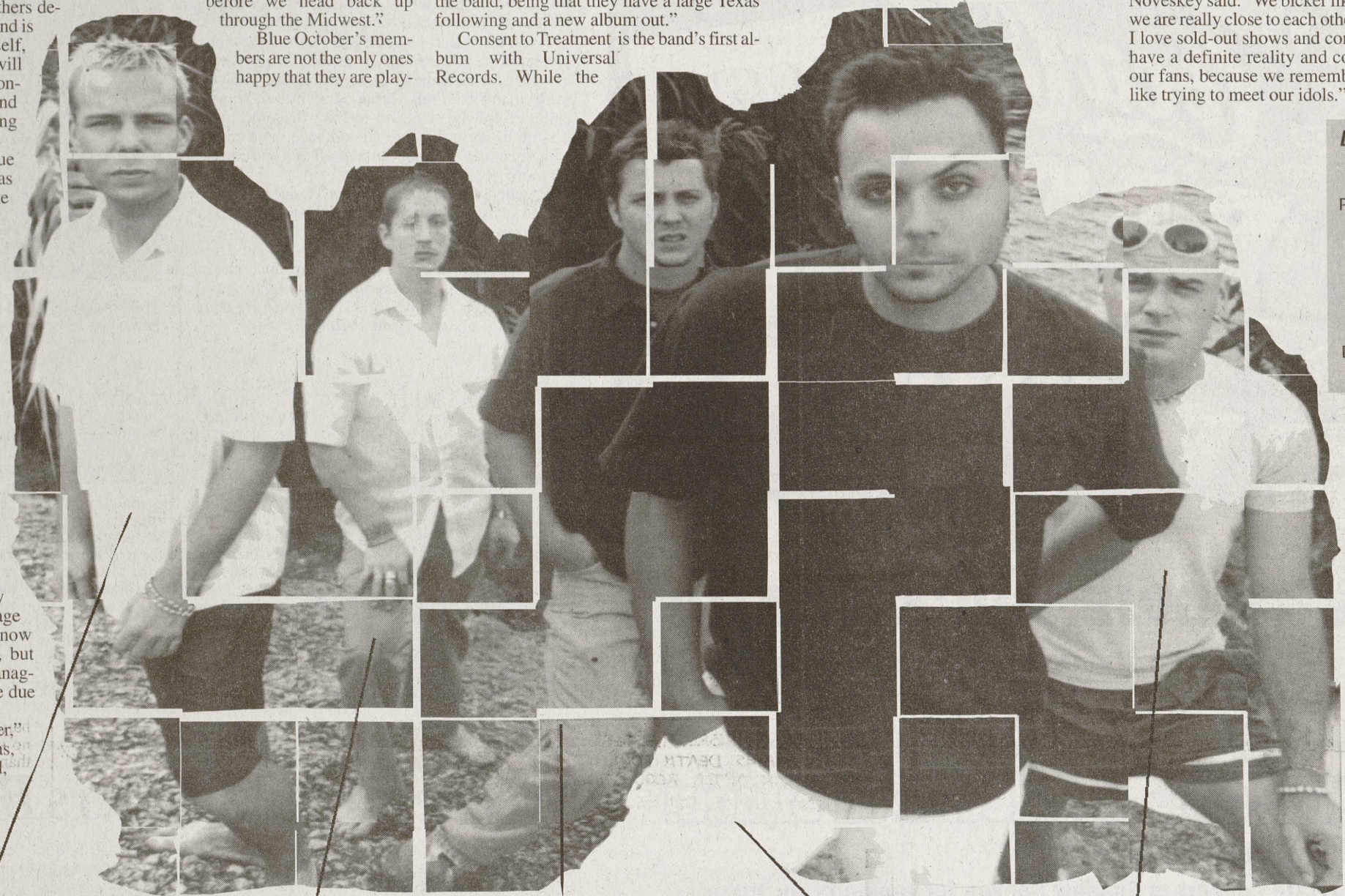
new album will get larger distribution with the larger company, Noveskey said, working with a major label has been both a blessing and a curse for the band.

"One thing that is nice is that you have a lot of resources," Noveskey said. "We got to record in the best studios and we had a real-

ly good time. But there are a lot of expectations, too. They give a lot and they expect quite a bit."

Despite the band's signing a deal with a bigger label and receiving nationwide acclaim, Noveskey said the bandmates' egos have remained in check.

"Everybody in this band is ego-free," Noveskey said. "We bicker like brothers, but we are really close to each other and our fans. I love sold-out shows and compliments. We have a definite reality and connection with our fans, because we remember what it was like trying to meet our idols."



Matt Noveskey
(bass)

Ryan Delahoussaye
(violin)

Jeremy Furstenfeld
(drums)

Just N Furstenfeld
(lean vocals/
guitar)

Bran Coulter
(lead guitar)

Photo Illustration by Ruben Deluma

LOCATION:
Blue October will play at Placess Wednesday.

COST:
Tickets are \$7 at the door.

TIME:
Doors open at 8 p.m.

WCW.COM
SEPT. 5 • 7:00PM

LIVE AT REED ARENA
TO CHARGE CALL 979-268-0414 OR FOR MORE INFO CALL 979-862-7333.
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