

A Texas music journey

Geoff Spahr Band is making its way in the music business, will play at Harry's tonight

By BETH MULDOON
THE BATTALION

Before the Geoff Spahr Band began its trek through the Texas country-music scene, the guys in the band were little more than a group of friends who liked to play together. Today, the Geoff Spahr Band has numerous shows under its belt and its fan base is growing with each one.

"The band was something that just happened after learning to play the guitar," said frontman Geoff Spahr. "But without the rest of the guys (in the band), I would still only be playing on the back porch of the [Dixie Chicken] by myself."

The band had its first paying gig at The Tap with musician Dave Boland.

"We were not ready and found out about the show about five hours before we were on stage," Spahr said. "It was nerve wracking and crazy, but you gotta start somewhere."

Spahr's guitar-playing ability was evident soon after he began playing. He writes the music and lyrics for each of the band's shows.

"I started to play the guitar about two years ago and I wrote my first song two months after that," Spahr said. "The unique thing about the guitar is that you don't have to know how to read or write sheet music to write a song."

With the pressure of graduation looming, Spahr said he plays to help him get things together.

"I play to relax myself and because it's fun," Spahr said. "It's easy to express myself through words of a song rather than just talking, just

because I love to play."

The Geoff Spahr Band has played many venues with several famous Texas musicians. From Dallas to Austin and The Tap to Poor David's Pub, the band is gaining notoriety and a large fan base.

"Other than Chancellor, my dog, my biggest fan is my girlfriend Katie," Spahr said. "She is honest and

attention to who is on stage.

"I am from Houston and have played at Poor David's there, but the crowd at Poor David's in Dallas is always receptive and loud," Spahr said. "They are just fun to play for."

Texas musicians such as Pat Green, Cory Morrow and Cross Canadian Ragweed are Spahr's major musical influences and he said the band has been lucky to meet and talk to some of them.

"I have met, been around and played with almost all of the musicians that have influenced my music," Spahr said. "That's what's so great about the Texas music scene — it's so personal."

Spahr said he has been able to keep his feet on the ground thanks to his friends and family, even when he has the chance to open for bigger names in Texas country music.

"I have enjoyed being able to open for some great musicians," Spahr said. "It's different to get to know some of the people that everybody listens to, but after all, they are only people too."

Spahr, a senior marketing major, said that being a student has helped him in his ventures into Texas country music.

"Being an Aggie has put me in a great atmosphere for live music and, more so, for Texas music," Spahr said. "I have found my musical style here as well as all of the members of my band in Aggieland. I don't think I would be doing what I am doing if I weren't an Aggie."

"There are a lot of great musicians in the area that do not get the spot light. I guess I'm just lucky."

The Geoff Spahr Band will play at 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, at Hurricane Harry's with Cross Canadian Ragweed.



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gives me constructive criticism, even if I don't always take it very well."

Spahr said that fan interaction is an important element in a successful show.

"The audience that listens and gets into the music is my favorite to play for," Spahr said. "I would rather play for 10 people that are listening than for 500 people who aren't."

Spahr said his favorite place to play is Poor David's Pub in Dallas because the fans pay close

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