

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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More than a passing trend

Passerby to perform tonight at Concept

By Nishat Fatima
THE BATTALION

Within the past few months, Temple-based alternative rock band Passerby has had a string of sold-out performances, opened for MTV's "Jackass" at a local club and performed as a special guest for mainstream alternative band Evanescence (which resulted in the band selling out of all its CD's available at the show).

After catching the attention of the radio and label industry and with a full-length album on the way, most underground rock enthusiasts would agree that a small Texas town never sounded so good.

From the first steps as a small town band in a garage to the band's current success, lead vocalist Lacey Mosley said she has and always will credit God's grace for all strides they have taken.

"We pray before every show," Mosley said. "I don't think we are that great or anything but rather, I think God is responsible for everything. If the audiences like us, it is because God wants them to."

Mosley said this faith, combined with the strong relationship with her band mates is the key to their persistence.

"We all really love each other," she said. "Everyone in the band is presenting the same message, and we stand for what we believe in. When all of that comes together, it forms something beautiful."

Drummer James Culpepper said being a part of Passerby is a rewarding experience.

"Even if I wasn't in Passerby, I would still be playing music," he said. "We haven't ever really had any internal problems either."

We are like a family. It is a great feeling to be a part of this band." Mosley said Passerby is in the initial stages of composing its latest CD and is working with different producers on its sound.

Although the band's demo CD was made in a mere three hours, Passerby still managed to move an impressive number of copies.

Samir Bhattacharya, guitarist for the band, said Passerby is aiming to make its full-length disc even better than its demo CD.

"Our sound is still growing," he said. "The style is going to be the same, but it will be a little more elaborate. Everywhere we go, we just want to play good music. People can label us however they want, but we don't want to be in any one genre."

Starting out in a small Texas town wasn't a deterring factor for the band. Rather, Bhattacharya said, having a society with a close network of people worked in their favor.

"Coming from a small town helped us out a lot," he said. "Since there wasn't a big music scene back in Temple, when audiences saw us and liked us they got the word out fast. People actually knew who we were. I think if we were from a city with a big music scene like Austin, we would have been drowned in a sea of other musicians."

Bhattacharya said each band member has his own musical influences to bring to the table. He listed some of his personal influences as Lesermor, The Mistake Pageant and the Smashing Pumpkins.

As for what the future holds for the band, Mosley and Bhattacharya said they were eager about the tour, the new CD and anything else in store for Passerby.

"We are all really excited," Bhattacharya said. "We have been performing for a long time, so we aren't nervous or anything. Just excited."

"Everyone in the band is presenting the same message, and we stand for what we believe in. When all of that comes together, it forms something beautiful."

—Laci Mosley
lead vocalist for Passerby



PHOTO COURTESY OF PASSERBY

Passerby will hit Concept's stage at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Mosley and Bhattacharya will perform an acoustic set on 103.9 "The X" at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Passerby will perform at Concept on Wednesday night at 8 p.m. Opening acts include Ethan Durell, Grayson, Beggar St. Social, Paris Green and Drew Nix. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 at the door.

NEWS IN BRIEF

American Eagle pilot's blood-alcohol level three times legal limit

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — An American Eagle pilot was pulled from a flight minutes before it was to depart Tuesday after authorities believed they smelled alcohol on the pilot's breath at a security checkpoint.

Police at Gerald R. Ford International Airport escorted the captain from the plane and conducted a preliminary breath test that indicated a

blood-alcohol level of 0.12 percent, or three times the Federal Aviation Administration's legal limit, said airport spokesman Bruce Schedlbauer.

The pilot was in the custody of American Eagle personnel and was to undergo additional blood-alcohol tests, Bailey said.

Bailey said American Eagle's alcohol policy is more stringent than FAA standards and that crew members may face disciplinary action if blood-alcohol content was found to be over .02 percent.

Audrey Hepburn auction raises money for children's fund

NEW YORK (AP) — She favored Givenchy ball gowns, traveled with Louis Vuitton luggage and wore Lacoste polo shirts during visits to some of the world's poorest villages.

On Monday evening, admirers of the late Audrey Hepburn had the chance to take home some of the Oscar-winning actress' personal effects and other donated items at a Sotheby's charity, which raised

\$177,000.

Hepburn's son, Sean Hepburn Ferrer, said the money would be used to support the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund, which was founded in 1994, a year after she died, and works with the U.S. fund for UNICEF.

Among the items on auction were a Givenchy ball gown worn by the doe-eyed actress in the 1957 film "Funny Face," which sold for \$17,000, and a new collection of 25 multicolor Lacoste shirts, which sold for \$2,000.

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