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## Mourning After "Bridging the Gap Between Bad and Good" Independent

Coffee shop enthusiasts, local band supporters and acoustic lovers – pull out a checkbook. College Station's Mourning After has released its second CD, "The Bridge EP," and it's like nothing one will hear in a long while.

At first glance, the CD conjures up thoughts of past local bands' failed attempts at "so-called music" and the mere six song tracklist makes the disc seem more like a demo than a CD. Band members Dan Osterwisch and Dave Saxe, pictured on the back cover of the CD jacket, don't exactly give off the vibe of international superstar-wannabe alternative rockers. But once the CD starts spinning, something unexpected comes out of the speakers – good music.

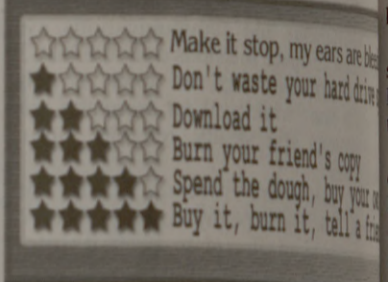
All of Mourning After's songs are acoustic with the occasional background bass, so head-bangers may want to pass on this one. Its sound could be compared to Matchbox 20 or the Goo Goo Dolls' lighter side, but saying Mourning After is like another band would almost be an injustice. The band accomplishes

a sound that's refreshing in the time of so many cover bands.

The lyrics are powerful and uplifting, most songs focusing on moving forward in everyday life and contemplating the best times that lay ahead. One striking line in the tune "The Best Goodbye" is "that was the last time I saw you/ and the first time that I ever really cared/ thank you for showing me what real love's not supposed to be."

"The Bridge EP" is well worth purchasing, and, at \$5 a CD, is quite a steal.

★★★★☆ — Jordan Meyer



### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

#### Jackson gets new lead attorney

Act Two of the Michael Jackson child molestation case gets under way this week with a new cast of lawyers taking center stage.



JACKSON

"My life is at stake," the pop star said as he announced firing his two high profile lawyers, Mark Geragos and Benjamin Brafman.

At the counsel table when court reconvenes Friday will be Thomas Mesereau Jr., a well known advocate whose work on behalf of the downtrodden and minorities was a selling

point for the superstar who has been involved in fund raising for numerous causes.

From his statement, it appeared that Jackson broke with Geragos because of the famed attorney's representation of Scott Peterson on charges that Peterson murdered his wife, Laci, and their unborn child.

Jackson felt that Geragos' involvement in that trial, which is in jury selection, was taking up too much of his time.

"It is imperative that I have the full attention of those who are representing me. My life is at stake," Jackson said. "Therefore, I must feel confident that my interests are of the highest priority. I am innocent of these false charges, and will aggressively seek to clear my name."

Jackson, 45, is free on \$3 million bail. He was originally

charged with seven counts of lewd or lascivious conduct with administering an anesthetic, reportedly while child under 14.

"I have not replaced the defense team," Jackson said. "I have replaced the lead attorneys. And, contrary to what this is a decision that I personally made."

In a hearing Monday afternoon by conference call, Superior Court Judge Robert Melville approved the selection of lead counsel.

"This is a new case, a new proceeding," said Mesereau. "This is Michael's decision. I am very passionate about this. This is a smart man, a good man, is innocent and he's going to show he's innocent."

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