

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Rejects

Finale Given by Rejects

After an almost ten hour drive cramped up on a tour bus, the All-American Rejects pulled up right around the back of the Junker Center. "We sleep on the bus," said guitarist Nick Wheeler. With equipment trucks rolling up behind the tour bus, many would assume a band like Aerosmith or Kiss had show up.

But the Rejects, a once small-time band known only to a select crowd, was breaking boundaries - especially after the release of "Gives You Hell." "There was definitely a fun aspect about being a smaller band," said rhythm guitarist Mike Kennerty. "Not that it isn't now, but obviously it's much different." Their latest single, which has been out since September of 2008, is starting to receive mixed reviews. "Sure some people hate it," said Wheeler, "but it's what's keeping us popular right? Some people are always going to hate something that's been overplayed."

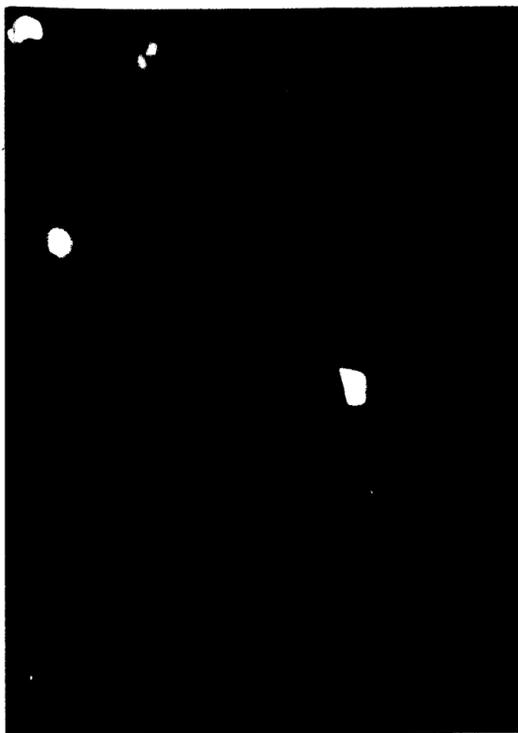
Identifying himself only as "Toad," the Rejects' keyboardist explained his pros and cons about touring with the band.

"When I started playing with Nelly Furtado, up in Canada, I was one of the few keyboard players. Contrary to what you may think, there's really only a handful of touring keyboard players. [The music-industry] is like a brotherhood. It really is. We look out for each other. Like, if a band splits up, or a tour ends, we rely on each other for work. Techies work for everyone," said Toad. It's like a union of musicians, he explained, "That's why you're always seeing band members joining and starting bands with other members. It's work, too, ya know? We have bills to pay too. We just make sure we keep an eye out for one another. Touring with the All-American Rejects is awesome."

As the headlining band began to close the night, the Junker Center rumbled with the cries of screaming fans. By the third song on their set list, "Dirty Little Secret," Ritter was coaxing the fans to bombard the makeshift barricade. Through heavy guitar riffs and Ritter's falsetto vocals, females swooned while males sang along to their favorite and most memorable lyrics.

But only two songs later, after the crowd's excitement level had dwindled, Ritter once again revved the throng of adoring fans: "PSU, where you bitches at?!" With this final push, and along with the recognizable "Swing, Swing," concert-goers had disregarded all regulations. Many were hopping the racks in hopes to escape being crushed, while others were busy crowd surfing. Grabbing an additional microphone - amplifying his voice - Ritter brought the concert to an end on a sudden note.

Yet after encouragement from the audience, the Rejects came back for an encore featuring their single, "Gives You Hell," and "The Wind Blows." As the concert ended, some exited the building in anticipation for their long drives home, some lingered to buy memorabilia and others waited patiently to get a word, autographs, or pictures with their favored band members.



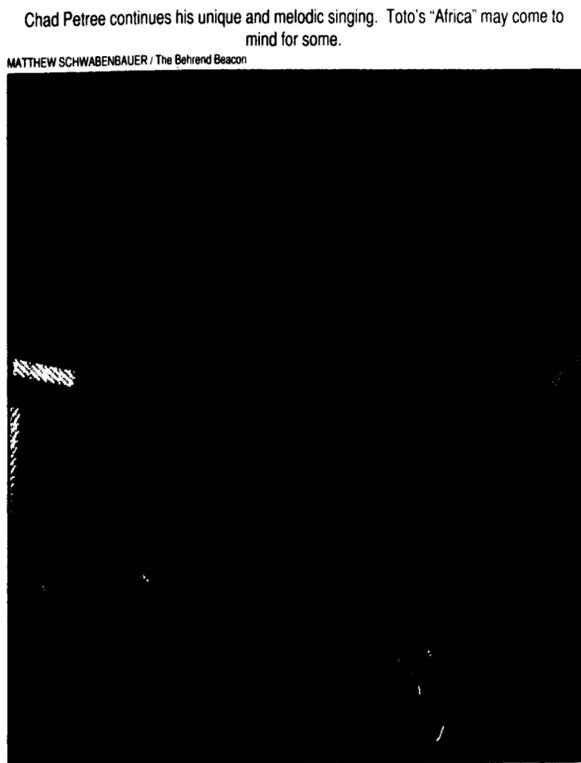
DANIEL SMITH The Behrend Beacon
Tyson Ritter power sliding during the performance.



MATTHEW SCHWABENBAUER The Behrend Beacon
"I really enjoyed playing at Behrend," said Shiny Toy Guns singer Sisely Treasure.



MATTHEW SCHWABENBAUER The Behrend Beacon
The line for the concert, which started growing around noon, eventually stretched all the way to the Bayfront Connector.



MATTHEW SCHWABENBAUER The Behrend Beacon
Chad Petree continues his unique and melodic singing. Toto's "Africa" may come to mind for some.



MATTHEW SCHWABENBAUER The Behrend Beacon
Kristen May harmonizes with her own guitar riffs.



DANIEL SMITH The Behrend Beacon
All-American Rejects guitarist, Nick Wheeler



EVAN KOSER The Behrend Beacon
The Junker Center held at most more than 2,500 people during the concert's highest point.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



DANIEL SMITH The Behrend Beacon
Ritter serenades the majority of the audience. Most concert-goers were, in fact, female.