

Entertainment Spotlight:

Shea Quinn

By Andrea Abolins

Shea Quinn's grandmother might not like to admit it, but she's the reason he's a musician today.

"My grandmother had a record store, and I got my first Beatles album when I was five," mused Quinn. "She doesn't like to admit to it, but she started it."

Twenty-some odd years later, Quinn is considered one of Central Pennsylvania's most talented, if not most popular, musicians. He's just released two singles with up-and-coming vocalist Jeffrey Gaines, and for the past eight years he's been bassist for the Sharks, one of the area's favorite bands.

Quinn started playing guitar when he was 10. He and his brother performed together in talent shows. During high school, the brothers were promising athletes who grew their hair long and

acted like rock stars during the off season.

Quinn got his first taste of musical fame in the Harrisburg-based band, the Pikers. The "new wave" band had a wide following, and to this day is still remembered fondly by its fans. After their break-up, Quinn joined the Lancaster-based Sharks.

The Sharks were pop-oriented and groomed for success. Quinn was playing bass and doing vocals for the band that would make two full-length LP's, three EP's (extended-play singles) and a number of 45's.

National prominence came in 1984 when the band's video "On My Own" won MTV's Basement Tapes contest. They received a national recording contract and their video was continually one of MTV's most requested videos.

After eight years with the Sharks, Quinn, the group's most energetic



personality, decided to try his hand at something new.

"I'm not leaving the Sharks. I wrote a couple of songs that didn't fit the band, and they were in me, so I had to do them," Quinn said about his compilation with Jeffrey Gaines.

One night, after a Sharks show at the Metron, Gaines approached Quinn with a tape. Quinn listened to it and found they had a lot in common musically. He called Gaines, and they decided to write and record together.

In March of 1988, the two partners went into the recording studio. The end products were the two songs on their

cassette, "Closer" and "What It Is," recently released on Boy Wonder Records.

Quinn played acoustic guitar and bass for the songs, and both Quinn and Gaines did vocals. In the studio, Shark-mates Mark Showers and Roger Girke and other local musicians helped out.

Quinn's writing abilities graced both songs, with "What It Is" being Gaines' first pairing with Quinn. "Closer," an up-beat funky dance tune, contrasted nicely with the ballad-style of "What It Is," guaranteeing public popularity and decent air-play.

Working with Gaines was Quinn's chance to explore new avenues in rock and roll. Currently, Quinn is looking for a major label for their work, and some interest has been expressed.

"I'm very happy with the project (with Gaines) and I think it's the best thing I've done so far," Quinn said.

No doubt, many of his fans, including his grandmother, will agree.

The single isn't yet available from any major record company. To obtain a copy of the single, write Boy Wonder Records, 1200 Blue Ridge Rd., Harrisburg, Pa. 17110.

Basketball Team Plays on Despite the Odds

by Josette M. Kloker

The Penn State Harrisburg's Men's Basketball team's record is not a reflection on their hard work and dedication, according to Coach Scott Henry.

The basketball team, whose record is 2 and 19, does not pay attention to its losses. "We are not concerned with our wins and losses, but with what we learn every time out," said Henry.

Henry said the reasons for their losing season include Penn State Harrisburg being a junior/senior college and the lack of financial support.

"Being a junior/senior college, it is extremely difficult to compete against four year colleges," said Henry. "Four years provide a coach with the opportunity to build a team and watch it grow and develop."

Most of the other schools the team plays have another advantage - money. Unlike Penn State Harrisburg, said Henry, the colleges they compete against can provide scholarships and other types of financial support. Henry feels that is crucial to the success of building a quality program. "If they (the school) don't make investments, how can they expect to see benefits?" asked Henry.

One of the team's starters, Chris Schweigert, said Coach Henry is "doing the best job possible with the amount of support he's getting." He continued, "I think the school and students should be more supportive." Considering the Penn

State Harrisburg gymnasium can seat 3000 people, Henry and his players do not feel 30 fans per game is a supportive number. "Although, I am pleased with the student support in comparison with last year," said Henry.

Henry stressed the fact their losing record is not necessarily a lack of talent. In fact, leading scorer Kevin Kennedy is threatening the school's record in scoring. In a tournament this season at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Kennedy was awarded MVP despite Penn State Harrisburg's average 40 point loss in both games. To add to this feat, he was playing with a 103-degree temperature. "Kevin is the best player in our league," said one of his teammates, Rob Linden.

Looking forward to the remainder of the season, Linden said, "We are going to start winning some games." Coach Henry just hopes the team can "play hard and improve in every game."

His main concern is with the future of the program. Since the program has only experienced one winning season, it is possible it may be discontinued. Henry said in order to prevent this from occurring, the program needs the support of the administration and student body.

The next home game is Saturday, January 28 against Eastern Mennonite. Anyone interested in joining the basketball program should contact Coach Scott Henry or Assistant Coach Rich Miller at 948-6266.

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