

# PSH Student Carl Bell also member of Fuel

*"... what happens when a new work of art is created is something that happens simultaneously to all the works of art which preceded it. . . ." T.S. Eliot*

Jody L. Jacobs  
Editor

It's 2:30 a.m., Monday, at Mechanicsburg's Holiday Inn on the Carlisle Pike. The Polynesian torches on the deck of the hotel's club Wanda's have just been capped off for the night. The bartenders and waitresses, clad in their blue and white staff shirts, have collected the last of the empty beer bottles and cocktail glasses scattered throughout the club, and now count their receipts and cash in their tips.

Carl Bell stands on the club's small stage which is draped by a fluorescent red, orange, blue, and yellow tie-dye backdrop. He removes the earplugs that he purchased from WalMart six hours ago, and the silence of the empty bar intensifies. Then, the guitarist picks up his wine-burgundy Les Paul from its stand, frees it from the amplifier, and lays it to rest for the night in its hard, black instrument case.

With guitar in hand, Bell walks out into the crisp autumn night and toward his Ford pickup truck. Towering above him, the Holiday Inn marquee glows with its fluorescent message: "FUEL,

LIVE EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT."

As Bell drives back to his Middletown apartment, he thinks how nice it is to leave so early.

Usually after a gig, he and the other members of the local band Fuel: Jody Abbott, Jeff Abercrombie, Brett Seallions, and sound man Randy Lane, would still be inside tearing down their equipment for about another hour. But, the group will be back later that afternoon for rehearsal, so they have left their equipment there until then.

Until rehearsal, Bell will have a chance to catch a few hours of sleep before making an 11:00 a.m. class at Penn State Harrisburg (PSH), where he is a secondary education major. This alternative rock musician will soon be discussing the works of Wordsworth and T.S. Eliot.

By then, he will have shed his gray/black, retro-alternative band attire, as well as his animated performer persona, for the more conservative henley-collared shirt, jeans, sneakers, and canvas jacket worn by many of the male undergraduates on campus.

Do students know, as they sit next to Bell, dis-

cussing about Eliot's "Tradition and the Individual Talent," that hours before he was performing the "works" of the Rancid, Green Day, Everclear, Rage Against the Machine, as well as Fuel's own originals?

"Absolutely not," says a shocked American studies major Beth Summy. She had heard, of course, about the band, Fuel. What she didn't know was that Bell is a member.

"He seems so conservative in class. I could never picture him on stage," she says.

"Well," says Fuel's drummer, Jody Abbott, "Carl's a conservative guy."

Another reason why students might be a bit surprised to discover that Bell is in Fuel, is because he rarely talks about band life at school.

Bell says that he's not ashamed to admit he's in the band, but he doesn't volunteer that information either. He says that people "start deducting IQ points immediately" when they find out he's a professional guitar player and he doesn't want to be judged by the stereotype.

"I kind of like the anonymity," he says.

Glen Mazis, associate professor of humanities and philosophy, has taught Bell in class. He says that Bell's cautious attitude about telling students that he's in a band is understandable.

"Carl is so down to earth and approachable. He's completely opposite of the stereotype that is associated with a musician," he says.

Mazis believes that Bell's musical and academic pursuits "augment" each other and aide his creativity.

"Part of being an artist is being a student," he adds.

Students, Mazis says, might find it a bit "intimidating" to be sitting next to someone in class for whom performing music is more than just a dream, but a goal that is being professionally pursued.

He adds that because of the glamorous images that are associated with rock music in our popular culture, students may also make assumptions about Bell that are not true.

Although writing and performing music are Bell's passion, he will quickly tell you that life on the road to the label contract is anything but glamorous.

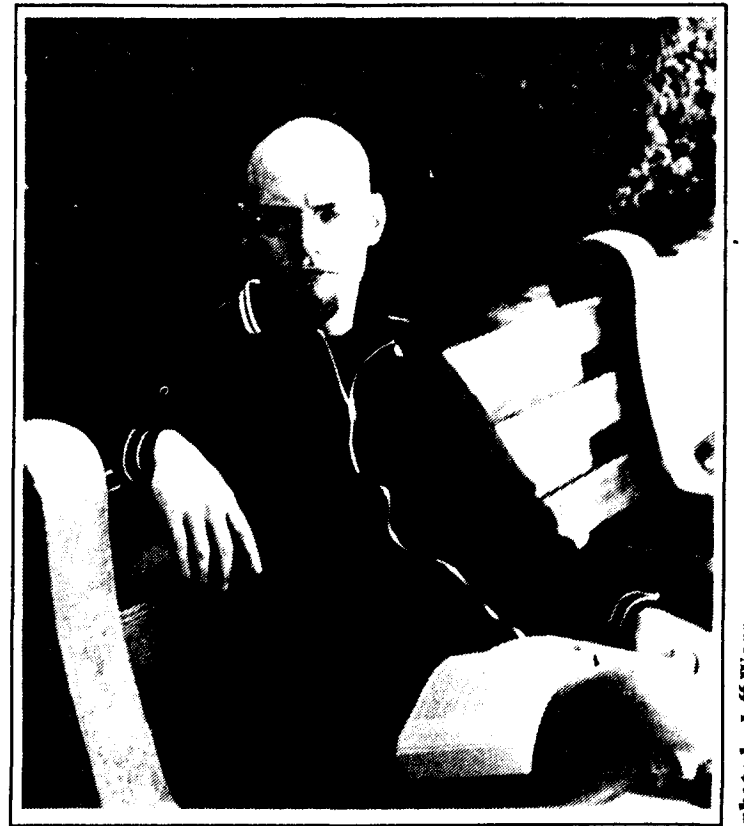


photo by Jeff Warren

Actually, he says, "It's a lot of hard work."

Fuel performs about four days a week. In addition to their regular Sunday night gig at Wanda's, they also perform at other clubs in the eastern side of the state and in N.J.

In addition to performing, Bell also writes the group's original material.

"Somewhere, in the middle of all of that, I go to school too," Bell says.

Right now, the band has no tour bus and driver, although the group does own their own truck to haul their equipment. And, there are no roadies to set up and tear down the sound equipment. What they do have, however, is five guys, who are so determined to make their

band a success, that they work the 60 to 70 hour weeks to get all of those jobs done.

"They are a great bunch of guys," Bell says. "This is a common dream that we each want to see come true."

The PSH campus is where Bell pursues his other dream, to be a high school teacher.

"Teaching is also a stage. It will give me another opportunity to make a connection with people," he says.

Mazis says that because Bell has such an excitement and wonder about learning, "he should be a teacher." He also thinks that Bell will be able to reach teenagers, because he is connected to something that they

**See Fuel pg. 6**

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## Fuel to release "Porcelain"

Jody L. Jacobs  
Editor

Fuel currently awaits the release of their compact disc, "Porcelain," which is scheduled to be in music stores by mid-November. This is the band's second recording and follows a self-titled tape that was released in 1994.

The group, finding themselves unsatisfied with the studios that were available, decided to take on the

entire project themselves.

Carl Bell and Fuel's sound man, Randy Lane recorded, mixed, and produced "Porcelain" this past summer.

Drummer, Jody Abbott, also credits Bell as the band's primary songwriter.

The compact disc features "Ozone Baby," "Song For You," "Shimmer," "Nothing," "Sunday Girl," and "Hideaway," which were

written by Bell.

Bell, who describes Fuel's sound as "intense guitar-based modern rock," says that he has written hundreds of songs, but only a few will "make the cut," to be included in a recording.

He says that when he is composing, there can be at least 10 songs that he is trying to finish.

There is always a melody or perspective going through his mind and he says he carries a recorder with him to capture his inspirations.

"The music I write has to be written because they are a form of self-expression," he says. "I write my songs with the hope that somebody, somewhere has those same feelings."

Bell says that his college studies of the classical writers, including Wordsworth, Eliot and Thoreau indirectly, (and sometimes directly), affect the music he writes.

The knowledge of the work of past artists, he says, does help him to create something "unique in the present."

After the release of "Porcelain," Bell says that the nature of the band's performances will begin to include more of Fuel's originals and fewer covers.

To find out more information about Fuel's schedule or their compact disc

"Porcelain," call the band's hotline at (800) 674-8178, extension 0070.



NOV. '96 CALENDAR				
THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	
	1 LUPO'S ALLENTOWN, PA.	2 VILLAGE LANCASTER, PA.	3 WANDAS MECHANICSBURG, PA.	
7 CALADILL TILDWOOD, NJ.	8 SHAKEY'S HERSHEY, PA.	9 LORAH'S HATFIELD, PA.	10 WANDAS MECHANICSBURG, PA.	
14 HOOP STROUDSBURG, PA.	15 BROWNIES 23E PHILADELPHIA, PA.	16 LONGBRANCH WILLIAMSTOWN, PA.	17 WANDAS MECHANICSBURG, PA.	
21 LEGENDS JOHNSON CITY, TN.	22 LEGENDS JOHNSON CITY, TN.	23 LEGENDS JOHNSON CITY, TN.	24 (call hotline)	
28 (call hotline)	29 WANDAS MECHANICSBURG, PA.	30 WANDAS MECHANICSBURG, PA.		