*Local band auditions in Pittsburgh*

# Backseat Van Gogh shows its stuff in the big city

By BRIAN GAMERMAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The members of Backseat Van Gogh played the biggest gig of their career Monday at the 3,700-seat Stanley Theater in Pittsburgh. The local band was its usual electric self, yet they were playing to an almost empty house — but then it was planned that way.

In attendance was a handful of dedicated State College fans, the road crew, a couple of radio people and the top brass of DiCesare Engler Productions, the biggest concert promoters in Pittsburgh. It was BSVG's audition. They had come to Pittsburgh with hopes of going home with a recording contract.

"This is the beginning of what it's all about," said David Fox, guitarist and vocalist for BSVG. "Bigger and better concerts. All we have to do is get up and do the show. It's time. We like the music and we know what we're doing."

The build-up to the audition had been a long, slow process. It was almost a year ago that Marty Dorfman (13th administration of justice) approached Rocco Fortunato, the band's drummer and manager. "I liked their sound" Dorfman explained. "I used to be in bookings and thought I might be able to do something for them."

When BSVG produced its demo tape last month, they sent Dorfman a copy. He then played it for Gary Graff, a friend interning in public relations and photography at DiCesare Engler. They both liked the tape and Dorfman began to work from the outside while Graff worked from the inside.

Last Monday the deal broke. Fortunato got a call that night. "Can you be in Pittsburgh next Monday?" DiCesare Engler had recently bought the Stanley and would hold the audition there. A road crew, sound crew and lighting crew were put together in less than a week.

"I've never seen so many people dedicated to a purpose" commented Pam Gray. She was to run lighting with Tom Keiter. They met only one day before the audition, which was to be held on a stage neither had worked before. Rough plans were made for lighting during the trip to Pittsburgh.

The audition was set for 1 p.m. The band and crews ascended the stage at nine that morning. Despite the lack of experience on the part of many of the personnel, everthing was set by noon for sound tests and a quick lighting rehearsal.

Through it all, the members of the band maintained an air of coolness.

"I think I'm gonna' throw up," said Kenny Mathieu, guitarist and vocalist, "I haven't been this nervous since the sixth grade."

"It goes with the territory," noted Fox, in Bogart fashion.

When asked for a few words before he went on, James Rounds, guitarist and vocalist, quipped back in cosmic fashion. "I just want to do what's right," he said.

"Send my insurance policy to my mother," requested Fortunato.

Everything was set. The promoters arrived and seated themselves behind the mixing board. The house lights went down, the stage lights came up and suddenly everyone realized that no one had planned an intro for the band.

After a brief flurry of waving hands and signaling with flashlights, the band went out, unintroduced, and Mathieu greeted the small audience.

Once they began to play, the initial uneasiness quickly vanished. BSVG was immersed in its own element.

The Stanley is a huge, Baroque-style theater with gold-painted columns and a cavernous balcony topped by an ornate, dome ceiling — a far cry from the Phyrst. BSVG made the quantum jump in surroundings with ease, but while they filled the space with eleven of their original songs, something was left behind.

Gone was the casualness of the college town bar band. In its place was a sort of professionalism. They did the same arrangements, but the spontaniaety of working with a packed house during happy hours was not there.

It was due, in part, to playing in such a large house with no crowd. The sound was closer to what might be expected on an album played in an enormous living room; the Stanley had that kind of feel.

All in all, the audition went without a hitch. The band had been told to expect a cold response. They were quite surprised when they were greeted backstage by promoters, including Nick Cenci, former producer with the MoTown Label. Rumor has it that he is behind a future move by DiCesar Engler to start a recording label of its own.

After brief introductions, the band and promoters left to talk business, leaving the crews to strike the stage. They returned hours later. "They want us!" Rounds cheered.

"Fifteen years of paying dues," sighed Mathieu.

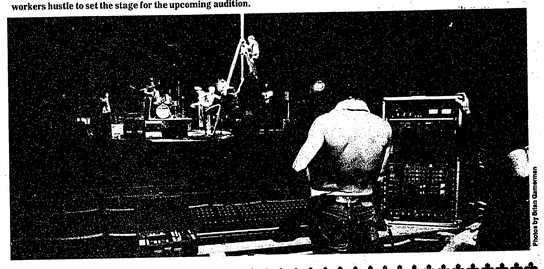
After things had quieted down, Fortunato gave the lowdown. He was optimistic but reserved.

They had been offered a contract, but would have to look it over before signing it, if they signed it.

"Everyone thinks if you cut an album, you're in the money," Fortunato said. "It's just not so. Usually, you have to cut at least three albums before you start seeing any profits."

So, Backseat Van Gogh will still be around for awhile, paying the bills so to speak, on the local circuit.

"We haven't made it yet, but we are definitly on our way to bigger things," Fortunato said.



The crew, above, makes last minute plans for lighting in the backseat of a van going to Pittsburgh. Later, below, dedicated workers hustle to set the stage for the upcoming audition.

Photos by Brian Gamerman

The members of Backseat Van Gogh hang out with their mixer, Barron Chandler, second from right. Even with their tight schedule, there was still some time to see the sights in Pittsburgh.

Photo by Brian Gamerman

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# Fall format features Froth Girl and fold-outs

By DAVID POLIN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Froth, the University's humor magazine, plans to publish at least four issues next year, Howard Mermel, the publication's editor-in-chief, said.

The editors hope to publish Froth's future issues in magazine, rather than tabloid form. "The fall issue will have a color cover and sell for 50 cents," Mermel said.

The 20- to 24-page magazine will go on sale at Fall Term registration, said Dan Mushalko, Froth's associate editor. It will feature a look at the '80s from a local perspective.

The fall issue will also contain a fold-out section, the contents of which Mushalko would not reveal.

The editors plan to bring back some of the features from the 71-year-old publication's past. In addition to the magazine format, they plan to reinstate Froth's mascot — a jester named Frothy.

"This fall's Frothy (Mushalko) was chosen from a number of staff members, on the basis of his wit, energy and ability to wear a size nine jester costume," Mermel said.

The jester will make public appearances to promote the magazine, Mermel said. Mushalko said he will appear at Fall Term registration and hopes to also perform his antics at football and basketball games with the Nittany Lion.

Also reinstated this year will be the appearance of a "Froth Girl" in each issue, Mermel said.

For a period of more than 25 years, ending in the early '70s, Froth girls were chosen to appear in the magazine. A different female would appear in almost every issue of the then monthly humor publication.

The Froth girl, whom Mushalko described as "a lavish, young, little wench," will be suggestively posed, but will not be exploited he said.

Mermel, who also said there is not anything exploitive about the idea, added that humor magazines such as Froth have traditionally had a small percentage of female readers.

Froth is currently in the process of collecting ethnic jokes. In a full page "apology to the world" in its last issue, Froth announced it is "assuming its social responsibility by attempting to absorb every hate joke known to man."

Examples of ethnic jokes may be submitted to Froth at the HUB main desk.

The editors plan to study the jokes and publish the results in a future issue which Mushalko said will be published Winter or Spring Terms.

Another edition of the publication, entitled "The Daily Collusion," will be Froth's traditional parody of the Collegian.

Mushalko said he sees a positive trend in the development of Froth's humor. The publication is in the process of defining a more tasteful humor of its own, he said.

The publication's editor said he foresees a recurrence of Froth's popularity in the 1980s. Humor magazines were very successfulin the 1930s and '50s, Mermel said.

# Anderson student supporters to circulate petitions

• Petitions to place presidential candidate John Anderson's name on the Pennsylvania ballot in November will be available today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the end of the mall at the intersection of College Avenue and Allen Street and from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Pollock Union Building. Students for Anderson will be sponsoring the circulation.

• The free HUB movie this week is "Butterflies Are Free." The film will be shown at dusk tomorrow on the HUB Lawn. Rain location is the HUB Ballroom.

• The HUB Candlelight Coffeehouse series will present Rick Gorrell and Chris Vogt at 8:30 tonight in the HUB Terrace Room.

• The Wednesday noontime concert series will present Dan Johnson today in the Kern lobby. The series is sponsored by Kern Graduate Commons.

• A study skills workshop, covering time management, motivation, methods, note taking and test taking will be held at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center.

• Atherton Hall Council will present a foreign cultural exhibit on Egyptian jewelry, sculpture and metalwork today and tomorrow in Atherton Hall.

• The first ride of a beginner bike riding series sponsored by the Bike Division of the Penn State Outing Club will leave from the HUB Terrace parking lot at 3 p.m. Sunday.

• An all day bike tour to the natural bridge near Archspring will depart from the HUB Terrace parking lot at 9:30 Sunday. The tour is sponsored by the Bike Division of the Penn State Outing Club.

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## Wednesday Evening

6:00 (3) WEATHER-WORLD
(4) BRADY BUNCH
(8) (10) (22) NEWS
(7) JOKER'S WILD
(9) RHODA
6:30 (3) PERSONAL TIME MANAGEMENT
(4) I LOVE LUCY
(6) NBC NEWS
(8) ABC NEWS
(10) TIC TAC DOUGH
(20) (22) CBS NEWS
7:00 (3) HAPPY DAYS AGAIN
(4) MACNEIL-LEHRER REPORT
(5) ALL IN THE FAMILY
(8) (10) (22) DAILY NUMBER
(9) FACE THE MUSIC
(10) TIC TAC DOUGH
(11) NEWS
(22) MATCH GAME
7:01 (6) NEWLYWED GAME
(8) P.M. MAGAZINE
(9) FACE THE MUSIC
7:30 (3) DICK CAVETT SHOW
(5) THAT GOOD OLE NASHVILLE MUSIC
(6) BASEBALL Montreal Expos vs Philadelphia Phillies
(7) DATING GAME
(10) (21) JOKER'S WILD
(11) BASEBALL Boston Red Sox vs New York Yankees
(22) GUINNESS GAME
8:00 (3) GREAT PERFORMANCES 'Morning Becomes Electra' Eugene O'Neill's post-Civil War saga portrays a New England family torn with Freudian conflicts. The production features Joan Hackett, Roberta Maxwell and Bruce Davidson. (2 hrs., 30 mins.)
(5) CAROL BURNETT AND FRIENDS Guest: Jim Nabors.
(6) REAL PEOPLE A one-armed gymnast demonstrates her skills, a dog that water skis, and a visit to the Kahuna volcano in Hawaii. (Repeat; 60 mins.) (Closed-Captioned)
(9) MOVIE -(SUSPENSE) ** "High Crime" 1973 James Whitmore, Franco Nero. Italian detectives fight a drug ring. (2 hrs.)
(10) (21) (22) AMERICA'S JUNIOR MISS PAGEANT The special marks the finale to this year's Pageant, where high school seniors from each of the 50 states compete for the title of America's Junior Miss. Host: Ed McMahon. (60 mins.)
8:30 (5) MERV GRIFFIN
9:00 (5) DIFF'RENT STROKES Arnold and Willis, accidentally locked in a storage room, reminisce about things that have happened since they became the adopted sons of a millionaire. (Repeat) (Closed-Captioned)
(20) (21) (22) SPECIAL MOVIE PRESENTATION 'Women At West Point' 1979 Stars: Linda Purl, Andrew Stevens. The drama tells the story of two young women who, in 1976, break the all-male barrier at the United States Military Academy, and the reactions they faced—from comradely friendship to outright contempt. (2 hrs.)
9:30 (8) LIVE FROM STUDIO 8h 'An Evening With Jerome Robbins' Works by Jerome Robbins, including 'Fancy Free,' 'The Cage' and 'Afternoon Of A Faun' will be danced by members of the New York City Ballet, where Robbins has been a principal choreographer for many years. (90 mins.)
10:00 (3) NEWS
(6) VEGAS Louis Jourdan guest stars as a famous French detective who teams with Dan Tanna to get the goods on three stunning chorus girls who kill to protect the secret system that has helped them cheat the casinos out of millions of dollars. (Repeat; 60 mins.) (Closed-Captioned)
(8) NEWARK AND REALITY
(11) INDEPENDENT NEWS
10:30 (3) JAPAN DAY BY DAY This program documents life in 19th century Japan as detailed in the writings of author Edward Sylvester Morse.
(5) MEET THE MAYORS
(9) NEWS
11:00 (3) MACNEIL-LEHRER REPORT
(5) M.A.S.H.
(8) (10) (20) (22) NEWS
(9) BENNY HILL SHOW
(11) ODD COUPLE
11:30 (5) KOJAK
(6) WIMBLEDON UPDATE
(8) ABC NEWS NIGHTLINE
(20) (21) (22) CBS LATE MOVIE 'THE SAINT: The Russian Prisoner' A beautiful girl and a Russian professor, who plans to defect to the West, combine to provide the Saint with action-packed adventure in Switzerland. (Repeat) 'BLACK SHEEP SQUADRON: A LITTLE BIT OF England' Stars: Robert Conrad, Peter Frampton.
(9) PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H
11:45 (6) THE TONIGHT SHOW 'Best Of Carson' Guests: Steve Lawrence, Elizabeth Ashley.

## Thursday Evening

10:00 (3) TALKABOUT
(6) NEWS
(8) 20-20
(9) NEW YORK REPORT
(10) (21) (22) KNOTS LANDING Laura, lonely and frustrated as a result of Richard's continuing neglect, is discovered in a suggestive situation. (Repeat; 60 mins.)
(11) INDEPENDENT NEWS
10:30 (3) NEWSMAKERS
(5) NINE ON NEW JERSEY
(11) NEWS
11:00 (3) MACNEIL-LEHRER REPORT
(5) M.A.S.H.
(6) (8) (10) (22) NEWS
(9) BENNY HILL SHOW
(11) ODD COUPLE
11:30 (3) ABC CAPTIONED NEWS
(5) KOJAK
(6) WIMBLEDON UPDATE
(8) ABC NEWS NIGHTLINE
(9) NIGHT AT THE RACES Harness racing from Yonkers Raceway.
(20) (21) (22) CBS LATE MOVIE 'THE JEFFERSONS: Rich Man's Disease' George doesn't know whether to be proud or dismayed when he learns that he has 'the rich man's disease' (Repeat) 'SOMETHING FOR JOEY' 1977 Stars: Marc Singer, Geraldine Page.
(8) PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H
11:45 (6) THE TONIGHT SHOW 'Best Of Carson' Guests: Patrick Duffy, Rodney Dangerfield, Dr. Johnny Yune. (Repeat; 90 mins.)
11:50 (8) LOVE BOAT—BARETTA Love Boat—'Dear Beverly' A love loon columnist and her neglected husband take the cruise. Baretta—'New Girl in Town' A drug dealer issues a "hit" contract on Baretta's new partner. (Repeat; 2 hrs., 15 mins.)
12:00 (3) ABC CAPTIONED NEWS
(9) MOVIE -(MUSICAL-COMEDY) *** "Carefree" 1938 Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers.

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