

Gang-Guru changing local formula

By JASON CHERKIS
Collegian Arts Writer

On College Avenue, cover bands and R.E.M. disciples blanket each watering hole — numbing patrons while milking the scene.

Gang-Guru is a band ready to change the local formula. Formed in August by lead composer and keyboardist, Jennifer Chesworth (senior-English), the group is one of the few around that plays only originals.

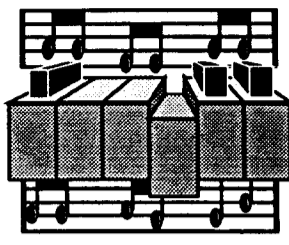
"I don't think we're going to be stepping on anybody's toes by doing what we're doing because we're not exclusively set on style," said Lynn Chaplin, Gang-Guru's bassist. "We're not a blues band and we're not a cover band."

Boasting eclectic styles ranging from reggae to mid-70s guitar sounds, the group's music and personality are constantly evolving, Chesworth said.

Not concerned with a definite image, you won't find Gang-Guru flaunting libidos or smashing equipment.

"I don't want to limit our music for any superficial meaning, not for commercialism or crowd-pleasing," Chesworth said. "If the crowd likes you, then you'll get jobs."

Local Talent



Collegian Graphic/Allyson Lucash

With any good band, chemistry is important. For Gang-Guru, it's the group's inner hostility that charges them, said Michael Abrams (junior-film), rhythm guitarist and mandolin player.

The band goes through as many emotions as musical genres in one live performance. Feelings felt within the group include: anal, hypnotized, hungry and the need to urinate.

Huddled down deep in a basement, the group practices for upcoming shows under a sole light. Shows include Feb. 22 and March 28 performances at the VFW, 139 N. Barnard St.

Their hours of play consist of practicing old songs and molding new ones. It's forming



Collegian Photo/Michael Shapiro

Gang-Guru plays a benefit at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post. From left to right, members are Jennifer Chesworth, Michael Abrams, Danielle Dolges and Gary Bater.

those new tunes that generates the most excitement from the band members.

"We really love to play and practicing is the highlight of our day," Chaplin said.

With each original, the songs come out differently for Chesworth.

"Some songs I get a bass line first, and other songs I leave Lynn totally cold to make something up," Chesworth said. "Sometimes I'll walk up to a

tape recorder and go 'la la la,' or if I have a guitar, I do the progressions."

The standouts heard through the concrete walls and aluminum siding include "Relax," a funky rave-up and "Indecision," which seems right out of the Beatles' *Abbey Road* sessions.

Under the cool, kinetic beats, the lyrics deal with some serious issues.

"City of Sin" is about a

woman who gets raped, and when the police come, they rape her. 'Listen to the Wind' is about the environment and 'Heart of the City' is about child abuse," Chesworth said.

Gang-Guru's future is uncertain, with show dates set and more than 20 originals yet to learn.

"I want to travel and to record and to have as many out-of-body experiences and orgasms as we can," Chesworth said.

Connery film hits it big in first weekend

By JOHN HORN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — The search for a cancer cure in the Amazon found box-office gold as *Medicine Man* debuted in first place at the nation's movie theaters over the weekend.

Starring Sean Connery as a biochemist in the rain forest, *Medicine Man* earned \$8.5 million in its initial weekend of release, according to figures released yesterday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

The strong debut knocked *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle* out of the top spot. The bad nanny thriller, which had been No. 1 for four straight weekends, took second on sales of \$6.5 million.

Final Analysis, a new drama starring Richard Gere as a psychiatrist with more problems than his patients, debuted to moderate business, pulling in \$6.4 million for third place.

Fried Green Tomatoes, the simple story of two generations of Southern women, continued to play strongly, claiming fourth place on earnings of \$6.2 million. Its box-office take was down just 8 percent from a week ago.

In fifth was Melanie Griffith in *Shining Through*, which made \$3.7 million, a staggering 43 percent drop from last weekend.

The Steve Martin comedy *Father of the Bride* collected \$2.8 million for sixth place.

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