

Roustabout! features returning A-Sides

The Philadelphia-based band is back for the first time since last March, while The Bonapartes make their first showing.

By Kathryn Stevens
and Jessica Horton
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Roustabout! is back in full force tonight with returning favorites The A-Sides, while The Bonapartes make their State College debut.

The show kicks off tonight at 10:30 at The Darkhorse Tavern, 128 E. College Ave.

"The bands really complement each other," said Jeff Van Fossan, Roustabout! organizer. "The A-Sides have more of a pop-feel, while The Bonapartes are more post-punk. I'm excited to get them to play the same date."

The A-Sides played Roustabout! last March to an enthusiastic crowd.

"They're one of my personal favorite bands," Van Fossan said. "Their set went over really well."

For those of you who missed out last spring, The A-Sides are an up-and-coming band from Philadelphia made up of four college-aged guys living the dream of any aspiring musician. The band members met at Drexel University with absolutely no intention of becoming a serious band.

"That's actually where our name came from," said Jon Barthmus, lead singer and guitarist of The A-Sides. "I showed some stuff I was working on to our drummer, and he said, 'Man, we won't even have enough material to make it to the B-side of the record.'"

Obviously, the drummer was mistaken. The A-Sides are signed to the start-up label Prison Jazz, based in Scranton, which is also the label of previous Roustabout! act Okay Paddy.

The A-Sides' music has a definite Beatles-feel, which is exactly its goal. In fact, the band members admit their original aim was to "be the Beatles," Barthmus said, but they certainly have other influences.

The band lists James Bond

movies and the smell of warm blueberry pie as key motivations, but musically speaking, they draw from The Shins, The Ramones and Velvet Underground, to name a few.

"There's been a definite progression in our music," Barthmus said.

The band is getting ready to release its debut album, *Hello, Hello* on March 29, and State College is the last stop before its record release show March 26 at The Khyber in Philadelphia.

They're sharing the stage tonight with The Bonapartes, another group of indie-rock persuasion.

The band was born about eight months ago in Washington, D.C., when various members of other bands, including Roustabout! favorite The ShakeDowns came together.

Despite being young, the band is ready to take on State College.

"This is the first time we have played a show out of the D.C. area and we're hoping it will lead to big things," said Ben Griggs, guitarist for The Bonapartes. "We are very serious about it."

If you go

What: Roustabout!

Time: 10:30

Date: tonight

Place: The Darkhorse Tavern, 128 E. College Ave.

Details: 21 and over; \$3 cover

Griggs describes the band's sound as reminiscent of The Fall, The Replacements and Guided by Voices, with a definite rock 'n' roll vibe.

Van Fossan expects The Bonapartes' sound to go over well in State College's music scene.

"I've heard some really good recommendations about them from other venues down in D.C.," Van Fossan said.

The Bonapartes are shopping around a demo and gearing up for upcoming shows in the D.C. area, but tonight, the band's focus is State College.

"We are really looking forward to playing with The A-Sides," Griggs said. "We've heard that they are really good."

ARTS IN BRIEF

Charges dropped against Dawson

NEW YORK (AP) — A Manhattan judge dismissed charges against Rosario Dawson and two others who were arrested while filming movie scenes near the location of last year's Republican National Convention.

Charges of disorderly conduct and obstructing government administration were dismissed yesterday by Criminal Court Judge Melissa Jackson. The charges were filed against Dawson, director Stephen Marshall and Viaja Groschalves following their arrest near Madison Square Garden, site of the 2004 GOP convention.

THE SCENE

Allen Street Grill, 100 W. College Ave., will feature The Twinz at 10 p.m. and Magic Hat beer. Specials include \$3.50 Bacardi flavor and mixers, and happy hour from 10 p.m. to midnight featuring half-priced well liquor (231-4745).

Bar Bleu, 114 S. Garner St., will feature the dance music of Release. Specials include half-priced happy hour from 9 to 11 p.m. and \$2.25 Captain and Cokes until midnight (237-0374).

Café 210 West, 210 W. College Ave., will feature Hip Hop Nite at 10 p.m. Specials include \$2 10 oz. and \$2.50 16 oz. Bacardi and mixers from 11 a.m. to midnight, \$5 32 oz. liquor pitchers from 11 a.m. to midnight and happy hour starting at 10 p.m. (237-3449).

Crowbar, 420 E. College Ave., will feature the Underground Metal Fest at 8:30 p.m. Specials include half-priced everything from 8 to 10 p.m. and \$5 Molson Canadian pitchers from 8 p.m. to midnight (237-0426).

Lion's Den, 118 S. Garner St., will feature Dennis Fallon at 10:30 p.m. Specials include \$2 Guinness pints and half-priced mixed drinks from 10 p.m. to midnight (237-5081).

The All American Rathskeller, 108 S. Pugh St., will feature Jeff & Seth at 10:30 p.m. Specials include \$2 Jack and colas and happy hour from 10 p.m. to midnight (237-3858).

The Arena, 1521 Martin St., will feature karaoke with DJ 3D. Specials include \$3.50 Yuengling Lager pitchers and happy hour from 8 to 10 p.m. (237-8833).

The Brewery, 233 E. Beaver Ave., will feature Tokyo Vertigo. Specials include \$4.50 Coors Light pitchers until midnight, \$1.75 shots and mixed drinks and \$2 white Russians from 10 to 11 p.m. (237-2892).

The Darkhorse Tavern, 128 E. College Ave., will feature Roustabout! at 10 p.m. Specials include half-priced happies from 10 p.m. to midnight and \$3.75 Labatt Blue pitchers from 5 p.m. to midnight (237-0490).

The Doll's z-Bar, 113 Hiester St., will feature half-priced happies from 9 to 11 p.m. (237-5710).

The Gingerbread Man, 130 Hiester St., will feature G-TV with VJ Boner at 11 p.m. Specials include \$2.50 Icehouse pitchers, \$2.75 Sam Adams and Sierra Nevada pints, \$4 Saranac Lager, Michelob Ultra and Bud Light pitchers, \$2 Dr. McGillicuddy's Mentholmints, \$2.50 cherry busters and Smirnoff cocktails, \$5.50 32 oz. Bacardi Hurricanes and happies from 10 p.m. to midnight (237-0361).

The Saloon, 101 Hiester St., will feature Emily's Toybox. Specials include happy hour from 9 to 11 p.m. and \$4.75 Miller Lite pitchers until midnight (234-4590).

Zeno's, 100 W. College Ave., will feature half-priced import bottles from 10 p.m. to midnight, \$2.50 Sierra Nevada pints and happy hour from 10 p.m. to midnight (237-2857).

To have an arts and entertainment event listed here, e-mail Arts Editor Ann Doyle at aed155@psu.edu two days in advance of the event.

Matisyahu combines reggae, Jewish ideologies

By Kate Detweiler
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Bob Marley and Hasidic Judaism.

The two had little in common until the arrival of Matisyahu, the highly unique, self-proclaimed Hasidic reggae superstar who combines traditional dancehall reggae with lyrics that express the fundamental ideologies of Orthodox Judaism.

Matisyahu, brought here for the second time by the Chabad Jewish Student Center of Penn State, will be playing at 9:30 tonight at Crowbar, 420 E. College Ave.

"We wanted to bring him back because he's an amazing performer and because of the message in his lyrics," said Rabbi Nosson Meretsky, Chabad executive director.

"A lot of his lyrics are based on Jewish mystical concepts and improving oneself and the world," he said.

"The themes are similar to

themes in traditional reggae music, such as redemption from exile," Meretsky added.

Despite the strongly religious content of his original lyrics, Matisyahu's fan base tends to transcend boundaries between specific denominations and faiths.

"My music is not for Hasidic Jews," Matisyahu said. "It is aimed for people that listen to that type of music, and it's generally not Orthodox people. There are a ton of Jews that are into my music, but it tends to be more secular."

Though the event is presented by Chabad, the performance is by no means directed primarily to those with a Jewish heritage.

"It's definitely not limited to the Jewish student population," said Chabad President Jennifer Puterman. "They might find it unique to their culture, but anyone can enjoy the music."

Though his lyrics are often derived from mystical texts, Matisyahu leaves his ideas open for personal interpretation.

"Some of his lyrics are fairly

If you go

What: Matisyahu

Time: Door opens at 8 p.m.

Date: tonight

Place: Crowbar, 420 E. College Ave.

Details: Admission is \$7 in advance, \$10 day of show

general, focusing more on general spirituality," Meretsky said. "He tries to break it down in a way that people can relate to."

Matisyahu's fame has been steadily rising since the 2004 release of his debut album, *Shake Off the Dust ... Arise*, which has made various top 10 lists.

"The main theme of the album is trying to see through the world to see the spiritual dimension, and trying to become sensitive to godliness and less connected to materialism," Matisyahu said. "Everything in this world is not fragmented as it seems, but is all connected, ... is all a part of God."

Overall, though Matisyahu sings about deeply religious concepts, his game plan is not to convert his listeners.

"My goal for making music is to try and uplift and be a positive voice that people can relate to," Matisyahu said.

Crowbar Operations Director Dave Wells worked with Chabad again after Matisyahu's successful performance last spring.

"If you take a look at the Crowbar, it has a wide diversity of music," Wells said.

"So this is just more of that diversity ... but the music and what this guy brings to the table is just incredible," he added.

Despite the recognition he's been receiving in the past year, Matisyahu remains rooted in his spirituality.

"Fame is not that big of a deal ... it's not that noticeable," Matisyahu said. "It's real, and everything that happens in life is real. Nothing is fantasy, even if it's something you've been looking forward to. It feels good, but life is life."

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