



Courtesy of the Thee Lexington Arrows

Thee Lexington Arrows will play Roustabout! Wednesday night at the Darkhorse Tavern. Organizer Jesse Ruegg said the band's sound combines surf rock and garage rock.

Roustabout! performers benefit from partnership

By Kevin Sullivan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

To liken music to lichen, the relationship between booker and band is often symbiotic and mutually beneficial, like in the case of next week's Roustabout!

Members of Thee Lexington Arrows and Thetans!, who will play Wednesday at The Darkhorse Tavern, 128 E. College Ave., have known and worked with the promoters of Roustabout! since before their current bands were formed.

"Bands are fairly crazy and form and break up all the time," Roustabout! promoter Jesse Ruegg said. "We kind of maintain relationships with the musicians themselves. There are a lot of personnel changes between bands, and we'll often book that new band with the musician we knew."

Baltimore-based Thee Lexington Arrows is one example of this.

Bassist Curt Schmelz and guitarist Alex Fine were a part of a band called The Alphabet Bombers that Ruegg and fellow Roustabout! promoter Jeff Van Fossan first saw in Washington, D.C., several years ago, Ruegg said.

Schmelz said he encountered Ruegg and Van Fossan again when touring as a roadie with a band called Shakedown, who played a show in State College, Schmelz said.

Today, Schmelz's new band is about to play their fifth show for the promoters.

Thee Lexington Arrows play a less lo-fi style of garage rock, Schmelz said, although the band's recordings were definitely less polished earlier in its career.

"Our old drummer wasn't the greatest, so we had to keep it lo-fi so you wouldn't notice," Schmelz said.

Ruegg said the band always puts on a show and as such, Roustabout! continues to bring the band to State College. He said the band adds surf rock and rockabilly influences to its garage rock sound.

"They kind of sound like The Sonics if they were fronted by a female singer and had a better guitar player," Ruegg said. "Kathleen is pretty small, but she has a huge voice. When she plays guitar, she really means it."

To e-mail reporter: kjs5089@psu.edu

If you go

What: Thee Lexington Arrows and Thetans!

When: 10 p.m. Wednesday

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

Details: Tickets are \$5

The band tends to do short "weekender"-style touring instead of staying on the road for long periods of time, Schmelz said.

Most of the band members have regular nine-to-five jobs and they usually travel from Baltimore to play a show several hours away, drive home the same night and go to work the next day. For this show, however, Schmelz said he will be taking the next day off — an irregularity for him.

This show also marks the first time the band will play the area with a CD to sell — the band's debut "Get thee to a Drinkery."

The other band on the evening's bill, Thetans!, have a similar but more localized history with other bands.

The State College-based band features several members who were involved in the now defunct Wilcox Hotel, said guitarist Ryan Peterson. After that group's singer moved to Seattle, the members decided to form a new band together.

"We all knew we still wanted to play music, so it was logical," Peterson said. "We're all songwriters, and we have to keep writing songs. It's like we're sick with something — we just got to do it."

Peterson said Thetans! play noise pop influenced equally by heavy metal, the Sex Pistols, AC/DC and avant-garde music.

Two of the members also play in the band The Maximums, Ruegg said.

Though they are active musicians with several projects, Ruegg said the members of Thetans! have been on a hiatus recently.

"They have a good draw with the grad student crowd," Ruegg said. "They haven't played that much so I thought it would be cool to get them in one last time this year."

If you go

What: Festival of Trees and Craft Show

When: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday

Where: Snider Agricultural Arena, corner of Park Ave. and Fox Hollow Road

Details: Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children ages 13 to 17, and free for children ages 12 and under.

tures of them to figure out how to decorate their own trees at home," Kelly Johnson said. "People really do love to see them."

Johnson said she has been a vendor at the festival for two years and was a visitor long before that. It's easy to support the festival because it's fun and for a good cause, Johnson said.

"It's very Christmas-y," she said. "The atmosphere is very magical, especially for children. It just gives you one of those feelings you only get during the holidays. That's why I've been coming here for so long."

Even with its yearly visitors, the festival isn't exactly well known among students.

"I've never heard of it, but it sounds interesting," Chas Myers (senior-actuarial science) said. "I can't say I'd be likely to go, though."

Myers said he would be open to going if the festival were moved to a more accessible place, adding that it seems like it would be a fun seasonal thing to do.

Stephens also said she enjoys being able to see something she worked so hard to plan work out.

"It's really nice to see it all come together," she said. "There's a lot of planning that goes into this event."

The 15th annual event will feature more than 80 different trees decorated by local groups and area businesses.

By Chidi Ugwu
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

While it may not be the first thing that students and locals think of come Christmas, organizers work tirelessly each year to make the Annual Festival of Trees and Craft Show a State College winter staple.

"This festival is really meant for anyone looking to see the magic of the holidays," festival organizer Jennifer Stephens said. "It'll be lots of fun for anyone who comes out."

The festival, presented by the State College YMCA and the Penn State University Society of American Foresters, will run until Sunday in the Snider Agricultural Arena.

Going into its 15th year, the festival will showcase 86 different trees decorated by groups and businesses, and will feature several vendors and musical acts, Stephens said. Visitors are also encouraged to vote for the best decorated tree.

Proceeds from the festival will benefit the State College Family YMCA Strong Kids Campaign, Stephens said.

"A lot of creativity goes into each of these trees," she said. "We have some trees decorated by children's groups and others decorated by senior citizen groups, so there's a lot of diversity."

But some people come to the festival to do more than just admire the trees.

"A lot of times people come and take pic-

UPAC
Your Student Activity Fee
PRESENTS
WHAT'S GOING ON
YOUR GUIDE TO MOVIES, LATENIGHT, MEETINGS & EVENTS AT PENN STATE

HUB MOVIE SHOWCASE

Friday, Dec. 11

SURROGATES starring Bruce Willis - 9 PM

THE INFORMANT! starring Matt Damon - 11 PM

FRIDAY FOOD SPECIALS:

Sbarro: \$1.99 Meatball Hero or Pasta Special and \$1 slice of Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza - 9 PM - 2 AM

Saturday, Dec. 12

THE INVENTION OF LYING starring Ricky Gervais & Jennifer Garner - 9 PM

LOVE HAPPENS starring Jennifer Aniston & Aaron Eckhart - 11 PM

SATURDAY FOOD SPECIALS:

Nathan's: 59¢ Mini-Hamburger, 99¢ Nachos, \$1 Nathan's Hotdog, and 5 Kenny Rogers Roasters Wings for \$1.99 - 9 PM - 2 AM

PSU-UPark Student ID required,

All movies are in the HUB Auditorium

Movies are presented as a study break by Union and Student Activities

COMING UP

Office of Student Activities Presents

Involvement Days 2010

Jan. 11th & Jan 12th

11AM - 4PM Alumni Hall

Now is the time to sign up for a spot to showcase your student organization at the spring involvement fair. It is also a great opportunity for students to get involved on campus. Come learn about hundreds of student organizations and get engaged! For more information go to <http://www.sa.psu.edu/usa/studentactivities>.

UPAC 2009

Allocations as of 11/30/09

Category	Amt Allocated	# Requests Received
Operational	\$6,210.07	81
Media	\$47,374.06	11
Program	\$252,332.94	85
Travel	\$361,056.73	108
TOTAL	\$666,973.80	285

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

