

I'm with the band

by Cole Brumley
The Collegian

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series exploring the behind-the-scenes structure and events in today's club bands.

To play in a band, to stand on stage in front of thousands of people, to travel the country playing music for your fans. This is the dream of many an aspiring musician today. Is it yours? Would you like to make tons of money doing something that's tons of fun?

Think about this a minute. I don't want to crush someone's dream, but it isn't all it's cut out to be. You don't make tons of money, you don't travel much, and if you are not practically a natural in music, it's sometimes more work than it is fun. It's not easy to get started, and believe me, you do have to start somewhere. Fame and fortune (well, fame anyway) doesn't come overnight.

The organization of a band has to be the most important element

and Rob.

Well, we need a bassist, a guitarist, a keyboard player, a drummer, and a singer.

A bassist must be able to keep time with the drummer. He should have no problem staying in the background, but be skilled enough to work right along with the other players in the band. He should also know when the time for each of these is.

If you don't have a good solid bassist, the band may crumble around your feet. Well, Jon gets his wish, we'll put him on bass and see if he can cut it.

A guitar player is sometimes the star of the band. Although, in my opinion, a guitar should blend in as much as the bass player. Remember, this isn't one big solo. Rob seems to know his way around a fret board, so we'll let him have the spot.

A drummer is as much in the background as the bass player, if not more. It is a thankless job that takes a lot of work. The drummer has to be able to lay down a solid rhythm and stick with or change the beat if necessary.

The drummer also conveys

Reader gives critic a bad rap

Upset by "top five" picks

I am writing this letter in response to Christi Luden's (music critic for *The Collegian*) quote about rap in the December 6 issue of *The Collegian*.

After picking M.C. Hammer's album *Please Hammer Don't Hurt Em* as the third best album of the year she says that "It's about time a rap artist sings about decent topics and has some substance (unlike 2 Live Crew)."

Well, for Christi and the rest of the uninformed people out there, rap has produced many songs with substance and decent topics.

Perhaps you should listen to Public Enemy or Boogie Down Productions. These groups sing about black awareness and racism. Something that top forty junkies would know nothing about. Rap is the voice of a culture and a people. Rap comes from the street and addresses the ghetto.

Please do not say these people have no substance to their music just because you can't relate to it. Many rappers, such as KRS-One, try to teach kids what our schools fail to do.

As for the rest of Christi's picks (Janet Jackson, Paula Abdul, Heart, and Whitney Houston), I'll quote Public Enemy "You singers are spineless; as you sing your senseless songs to the mindless. Your general subject love is minimal, it's sex for profit." To Christi I ask what substance do these people have.

Nonetheless the facts remain that most top forty singers don't have the nerve to sing about anything controversial and therefore continue to fill young minds with garbage that does nothing to solve our society's problems.

Part one- Filling up the group's roster

in getting started. It would be very difficult to get anywhere if a bunch of guys just went into a bar one night and decided they were going to play for the crowd. This spontaneity would work if you were, say, Van Halen, but for a few guys who just started playing--no way.

The first step of organization is to decide what instruments your band needs. There is a vast spectrum of instruments out there, but we'll stick with the simple ones.

Let's say that a bunch of guys want to start a band so they can play in bars and make a little extra money on the weekends. The name of our imaginary band will be Betty Rubble (an old name for my current band) and five people are going to be a part of our imaginary band.

Okay, we have a name and we have people. What now? What instruments are these five people going to play? Let's say the names of the people in our little group are: Jon, Axl, Scott, Jeff,

the personality of each song the group will do. Scott has been at this about five years, so he will add a great deal to this group. An experienced drummer is hard to find and we were lucky.

A keyboardist adds harmony and beauty to a band. Although some bands do not use a keyboard player, due to the music our band will play, he will be needed. We all know Jeff can play keyboard, so we pick him up as soon as possible.

Some bands double up for a singer. In other words, someone will play an instrument and sing at the same time. It is very hard to find someone who can sing well, but once again, we were lucky to find Axl (Coincidence? Maybe.) Axl is just fresh from another band which has been around for a while and he is eager to get back into the limelight.

Well, we have our band members. Now it's time to get to work. Next week, we will dive into equipment, because what is a band without equipment?

Up Close With...



Michael D. Chiteman

Name: Michael D. Chiteman
Birthdate: January 27 (this century!)
Birthplace: Akron, Ohio
Current job position: Head, Division of Undergraduate Studies.
Very first job: Selling pop at a church bingo game (good catholic job)
Secret vice: All of them? Ferraris, Lotus Turbo Espirits, twins...
Three things that can always be found in your refrigerator: Empty space, Diet Coke, lettuce (the only 3 things usually in my refrigerator)
Movie you could see again any time: 2001: A Space Odyssey-for its sense of hope.
Book you could read again any time: "The Grapes of Wrath" by Steinbeck-for its sense of history.
With whom would you most like to have dinner with?: Amelia Earhart
Your ultimate dream vacation: A few weeks in Tahiti with a corporate jet at my disposal.
What actor would you have portray yourself in a movie based on your life?: Danny DeVito or David Shields
Behrend's best kept secret: The quality of education available here.
Accomplishment you are proudest of: Every former DUS student on graduation day!
People may be surprised to know that...If I agitate and harass you, it means I'm fond of you.
Things you could do without: Snow, bigotry, and work.

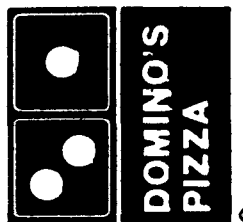
The fact also remains that most white people fail to give any credit to rappers besides the commercial types of M.C. Hammer and Vanilla Ice.

Please take off the blinders people. This is college, a place to open your mind. Don't put something down that you know

nothing about. By the way Christi, if you or anyone else would like to hear some good rap call 455-0940. As KRS-One says, "You must learn."

Tom Strunk
Second Semester
History

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delivery persons

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