

King me, baby

Toronto band to wax philosophical at Dalapalooza

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Philosopher Kings are performing on Sunday, September 10th at Dalapalooza. They are: Gerald Eaton, James McCollum, Brian West, Jon Levine, Jason Levine, and Craig Hunter. Brian West spoke to the Gazette last Friday. Here are his insights.

Gaz: Tell us how the group's name originated.

BW: It's funny. Everyone in the group is vying for ownership of the name. It started as a joke. Jon and Gerald used to make up joke names late at night over the phone. We found Philosopher Kings funny because it was so pompous. It's a very sarcastic name, implying that someone is more intellectually endowed than everyone else, you know, able to rule the world.

Gaz: Where has the summer taken you?

BW: We've been touring relentlessly, working on videos and writing when we find the time. We were in Japan for ten days; it was totally amazing, just incredible. Someone over there liked our sound and we got a lot of radio play. There was actually the rare happening of two of our songs [Editor's note: The songs were "Turn my head around" and "Charms"] climbing the charts at the same time.

Gaz: How do you guys like being on the road?

BW: You have to be close as a band. On our first tour, there were the six of us and our manager stuffed into a tiny van. It's really intense. I tell people it's like having five girlfriends; we're in each other's face all the time.

Gaz: What are you listening to right now?

BW: I like Tricky and also, Bjork's new stuff is great. As a band, we've been listening to a group called G-Love and Special Sauce. They're a mixture of hip hop and blues. Quite bizarre.

We've always been into jazz, of course. People like Coltrane and Freddy Hubbard. Acid jazz, '60's jazz, when it was in its heyday. Also, hip hop, groups such



as Far Side, Diggable Planets and Soul Coughing.

Elvis Costello and early Bruce Springsteen too.

Gaz: Do you incorporate all these influences into your music? How would you describe your sound?

BW: We're hard to label. It's very eclectic, with the different tastes of six guys. Hip hop, jazz, soul, R and B all come into play. Sade, the lyrics of Tom Waits, Groove, and even Earth, Wind and Fire have all affected our sound. No Tom Petty in there, though.

Gaz: Is there an overriding message in all your songs?

BW: We didn't set out with that in mind, but it worked out that way. Like a lot of Bruce Springsteen lyrics, a lot of our songs are about having aspirations and falling flat on your face.

And of course, we do a lot of relationship songs. Love songs, but not in a cheesy way. It's the most important topic, the only thing that stays relevant. Not like '60's political songs that rise and ebb. We have a very maternal theme.

Gaz: Where do you like playing?

BW: Vancouver. We have a great following there. Montréal, too. We love it there. They know how to have fun and the city never stops. Best looking girls in Canada, too.

Gaz: What's in the future for the Philosopher Kings?

BW: We want this to be our career—we're in it for the long haul. It would be great if we could expose a lot of people to our music, but we want to stay creative and do what we like. We just signed on with Columbia House in the States, so we'll see where that takes us.

SO, you wander into the SUB and are awestruck by the number of incredibly cool people flocking to room 312. It must be Monday at 4pm, it must be time for a Gazette staff meeting. Be cool. Join the Gazette. No experience necessary.

BIRDLAND CABARET

Thursday September 7
BIRDLAND BLUES JAM
WITH BIG CITY BLUES \$2

"The perfect band to truly do justice to being signed to Henry Rollins' Human Pit Bull label. An experience in intensity like no other." — Exclaim Magazine



Friday September 8
DIE CHEERLEADER
COYOTE & CLEVELAND STEAMER \$6

Saturday September 9

JALE
THE CHINSTRAPS
& GUESTS \$6

Wednesday
September 13
CARNAGE FAMILY
AND GUESTS \$3

Thursday September 14
JERRY GRANELLI
AND GUESTS \$8
SHOW STARTS @ 10 PM

Friday September 15

COOL BLUE HALO
STRAWBERRY
KUDZU
SHINE FACTORY \$4

Saturday September 16

THE SUPERFRIENDZ
THEE SUDDENS
PLUMTREE \$5

Wednesday September 20

PIGGY & GUESTS \$3

Thursday September 21

BIG PICTURE &
VANCOUVER'S PAPERBOYS \$4

Friday September 22

JR. GONE WILD
LEONARD CONAN \$5

September 23 & 24

BLUES EAST FESTIVAL
LINEUP T.B.A.

Every Sunday 10 - 3:30 am

"BEATS, BREAKS & BASS!"

HALIFAX'S TOP D.J.'S SPIN THEIR TUNES
NO COVER - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10

DJ JO RUN & DJ CRITICAL

Every Wednesday
WING NIGHT
10¢ A PIECE

Every Tuesday
OPEN MIKE NIGHT
NO COVER

BIRDLAND ON-LINE:

<http://www.atcon.com/stores/birdland/>

Open 'til 3:30 am every night • Kitchen open every day for lunch
2021 Brunswick St. at Cogswell • 425-0889

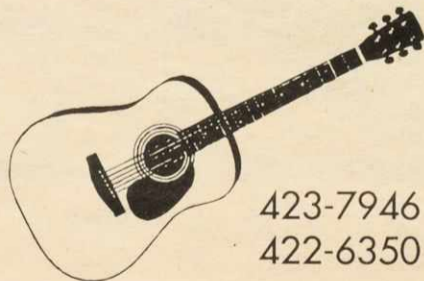
NEW AND IMPROVED!

Gazette
Classifieds

Gazette classified ads are now available. Want to buy or sell something? Want to have your message reach 10,000 people on and off campus?

Come to our offices and speak to Jan, our advertising manager, SUB 3rd floor

HALIFAX
FOLKLORE
CENTRE



423-7946

422-6350

SEPTEMBER SALE

Selected Musical Instruments
VERY SPECIAL PRICES!

• Guitars • Amps • Bases • Mandolins • Violins, etc.

MUSIC LESSONS

Guitar: Folk, Classical, Rock, Country, Blues and Jazz
Voice, Electric Bass, Recorder, Flute, Mandolin, Fiddle
Bluegrass Banjo, Autoharp, Classical Violin
Tin Whistle, Harmonica, Etc.

- No Registration Fees •
- Day & Evening •

(Located just off Spring Garden Rd.)

1528 Brunswick St., Halifax

WARRANTY ON ALL INSTRUMENTS • MAIL ORDERS TAKEN

Wild Hearts Saloon

Offers you a
*FREE CAB RIDE!

Just grab 2 friends and
YELLOW CAB will pick you
up at Dalhousie Campus
for a fun filled night at
the Wild Hearts Saloon!

*Valid Thursday, Friday and Saturday after 8pm only
1 student must show I.D. Student must call and be
picked up from Dalhousie Campus

Yellow Cab
422-1551

Join us for a fun filled night of
country music, pool, great food,
friendly atmosphere and more!



WILD HEARTS
SALOON

3635 Strawberry Hill 455-5140