



Maureen Ferry/Index

Alumni Dylan Phelps, Andy Meyer and Joe Brown and John Mark Hatfield make up The State.

## Local band livens up music scene

Enthusiastic music attracts and entertains crowd at Patterson's

Erin Sadzewicz  
Features Editor

Their mission is simple: "To take over the world with their high-voltage rock. ... To unite everyone with a language they can understand: The language of rock," according to The State's Web site.

Hailing from Kirksville, they might have a little trouble taking over the world, but they definitely took over Patterson's last Friday night. Set against the not-quite-fitting backdrop of a big screen showing the Nationals' domination over the Cardinals, their young, borderline-punk, self-described rock band dominated the small crowd.

The opening band, a two-man, barefoot acoustic session with intermittent spiritual poetry, muddled all expectations I might have had of The State, and I was pleasantly surprised with the fun, upbeat feel to its music.

As the set progressed, their performing experience became more apparent. The dynamics became more significant, and the melodies and tempos meshed better.

The music is not unique, and neither are the lyrics, but through them radiates the enthusiasm of four young men who pay homage to the likes of Jimmy Page. During a break in the set, I had the pleasure of speaking with Joe Brown, lead singer and former Truman student who lists the Foo Fighters and JimmyEatWorld as inspi-

ration. The State's music reflects this, especially with the catchy, melodic rhythms of "The Hard Part is Letting Go."

The State has released a 10-song CD recorded at Brown's home. At the beginning of the set, they openly proclaimed debt and shamelessly begged the audience for business. It's uncertain how many albums they sold that day, but the owner of one will find a great representation of The State's musical ability. The songs range from lighter, mellower songs to quick-tempo rock. Songs like "Nothing Alone" and "Apology" create a clear ease into the beginning, building up to a climax and then backing down for closure with lyrics to appropriately match the emotions of the music. Songs with these qualities are descended from people who know music and how to shape it into a message.

There is no doubt their live performance was a much more enjoyable experience than the CD because half the fun of listening to a band like this is witnessing the devotion, the dedication and the love of performing what the band members are so proud of creating. This band's enthusiasm for music is infectious.

The State has the distinct scent of one of the many underground rock bands working its tail off to acquire as many small-town fans as possible with the eventual hopes and dreams of real rockstardom. Most of these bands never make it all the way, and if The State follows the majority, at least they will have made an impact on those fortunate enough to see them live.



Wire Photo

Four Smart Tech employees, played by Steve Carell, Paul Rudd, Romany Malco and Seth Rogen, attend a speed-dating event to help Carell's character, Andy, meet women. Andy's co-workers are concerned because he is a middle-aged virgin.

## Crude prude scores

Movie pokes fun at middle-aged virgin, Carell proves charming

Sara DeGonia  
Assistant Features Editor

Usually, raunchy is just raunchy.

Fortunately for audiences of "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," the lewd humor, which makes up about 95 percent of the movie, surpasses inappropriate and actually works.

A large part of the crude comedy is so profoundly disgusting and tasteless that to laugh and shake the head is the only socially acceptable reaction.

But "Virgin" also manipulates its viewers in a sneaky, underhanded way — by employing the overused innuendos of modern cinema to highlight the positive attributes of the film's potential hero.

In other words, all the rude and out-of-line comments and appalling actions of the supporting actors make Steve Carell's character, Andy Stitzer, look really good.

And after all, from the second Andy appears on-screen, cuddled up in his single bed, clinging to a pillow like a toddler clutches a teddy, his intended innocence is apparent.

So here's the part in the movie where the audience is supposed to pity him — which it does — and then enjoy at least five or 10 minutes of sequences to prove how excessively pathetic he is — which it doesn't.

Sure, there's the montage of Andy doing slightly dorky things: playing video games, painting his action figures under an enormous magnifying glass and delicately handling his collector's item toys in their original packages.

But he is just a bachelor with a lot of hobbies.

He is not a completely hopeless case.

In fact, hidden behind that trying-too-hard façade is a man with an inexplicably natural coolness about him.

And the great and powerful force behind the scenes must have recognized Andy's inherent coolness, because "Virgin" luckily lacks a man-makeover scene.

Andy's Smart Tech co-workers never force him to do the

Queer Eye thing — new haircut, better clothes — oh wait, except for the chest waxing.

Still, he doesn't magically become better looking or instantly adopt a suave, smooth-talking personality.

He pretty much stays the same guy.

He rides a bicycle the entire movie.

Of course in this standard conflict-resolution plot format, there has to be some element of change to help the guy achieve his ... goal.

Naturally, no man is an island, and thus David, Jay and Cal are introduced. Short of convicted felons and four-legged creatures, Andy's fellow employees are the worst possible sources of advice — romantic or otherwise, not that they

hesitate to dish it out.

Still, they're the ones who yank him out of the life he's settled for and supply plenty of horrible examples.

David, played by Paul Rudd,

is instantly the most lovable of the three colleagues. Rudd does a splendid job of creating a somewhat dominant presence as an actor without threatening the star quality of Carell.

Not that Carell requires his co-stars to scoot closer to the plate — he's no bunter. The star of the NBC series "The Office" (in which he co-stars with Truman alumna Jenna Fischer) shows no signs of insecurity or inability as an actor, despite the fact that "Virgin" is his first starring role in a highly publicized film.

In fact, his character is a sincerely entertaining blend of awkward and adorable.

And the adorable comes out of nowhere.

But as important as that attribute is to Andy's relationship with a local store owner, Trish (played by Catherine Keener), and to his plight as a 40-year-old virgin, it's not really why audiences go see a movie like this.

So is it funny?

Excessive vulgarity can be hilarious, but it also can be annoying.

Even Trish, the "hot grandma," serves her share of shockingly distasteful dialogue.

Bottom line: Carell's convincing portrayal of a middle-aged prude, however, provides a high probability for unexpected laughs.

### Movie Review

'40-Year-Old Virgin'

Director:

Judd Apatow

Starring:

Steve Carell

Genre: Comedy

Length: 116 minutes

☑☑☑☐☐

## Horoscopes

August 21 to 27

By Madame Hughes

**ARIES:** (March 20 to April 18) When trying to get your point across, think of a one-act play. Make it short and succinct. This leaves less room for misunderstanding and confusion.

**TAURUS:** (April 19 to May 20) If you ever crammed for exams, then you are familiar with the uncomfortable tension that is overtaking you now. All you can do is be as prepared as possible and let go of whatever is out of your control.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 20) Many could take a diplomacy lesson from you. The expression, "You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar" is one of your favorites. With that silver tongue you possess, it's so easy to have people right in the palm of your hand.

**CANCER:** (June 21 to July 22) No one has to spell it out for you — it is crystal clear that true happiness is never found through pricey purchases or exotic trips. You know that it is realized when

you look for and find it within yourself.

**LEO:** (July 23 to Aug. 22) The "jet-setter" lifestyle is very alluring to you, Leo. Although you know you can't realistically adopt the globe-trotting ways of a movie star, you will have a chance soon to get a little taste of this life. Bon voyage!

**VIRGO:** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) It's back-to-school time, and that means back to more daily structure. You couldn't be happier, as your normal levels of organization and efficiency languished in the laid-back summer months.

**LIBRA:** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) In your current business situa-

tion, you have far more leverage than you realize. Being aware of this clout will put you in a much better position from which to strike a deal favorable to your interests.

**SCORPIO:** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Physical health should be your primary concern at the moment. Surely you have heard that pain is your body's way of saying, "pay attention." Well, that nagging distress has been shouting at you to do something, and you had best be heedful.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Lately it seems as if you were the inspiration behind Oscar

Wilde's thoughts on advice, "I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself." Keep in mind that there is always a place for good advice.

**CAPRICORN:** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Right about now you should be reaping the rewards of your well-tended, bountiful garden. Because there is such an abundance, take some extra time to share the harvest with neighbors. They will remember your kindness.

**AQUARIUS:** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You, a Victorian prude? Never! Your approach to physical pas-

sion embraces a thoroughly open and accepting philosophy. Although this broad-mindedness seems appropriate to you, there are times when prudishness serves well.

**PISCES:** (Feb. 19 to March 19) One of man's oldest and most emotional forms of expression is poetry. As an impassioned Piscean, you are drawn to communicate in this often rhyming way. A quote of 19th-century poet Percy Shelley to ponder: "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS SEPT. 9:** You share your birthday with Otis Redding and Michael Keaton. You are drawn to challenges and seek out complex people to stimulate you.



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