

Concert receives mixed reviews

Students' reactions vary from elation to disappointment

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
Staff Reporter

Cheers of joy and groans of disappointment were heard across campus in response to the choice of bands for the fall concert.

The Student Activities Board announced in October that Jack's Mannequin and Relient K would be the bands featured in its fall concert on Nov. 6. Almost immediately, students began voicing their reactions to the selection with an overwhelming mix of enthusiasm and disapproval. As of Monday, more than 1,050 tickets have been sold.

The Facebook page for the event is covered with comments from students who are ecstatic with the choice of bands, others who are critical of the selection and even some who are disappointed at the concert's cost.

One student who is ecstatic with the choice is sophomore Erin Nicol. Nicol has been a fan of Relient K for years and owns several of the band's albums. She said that when she saw the concert on Facebook, she was so excited she squealed.

"I was excited because I love both of those bands," Nicol said.

Nicol attended the SAB concert last year, which featured Flogging Molly in Pershing Arena. She has talked with other students about the concert and said they all seemed excited to see the show.



Photo courtesy of MTV.com
Relient K band members, from left: John Warne, Ethan Luck, Jonathan Schneck, Matt Hoopes and Matt Thiesen.

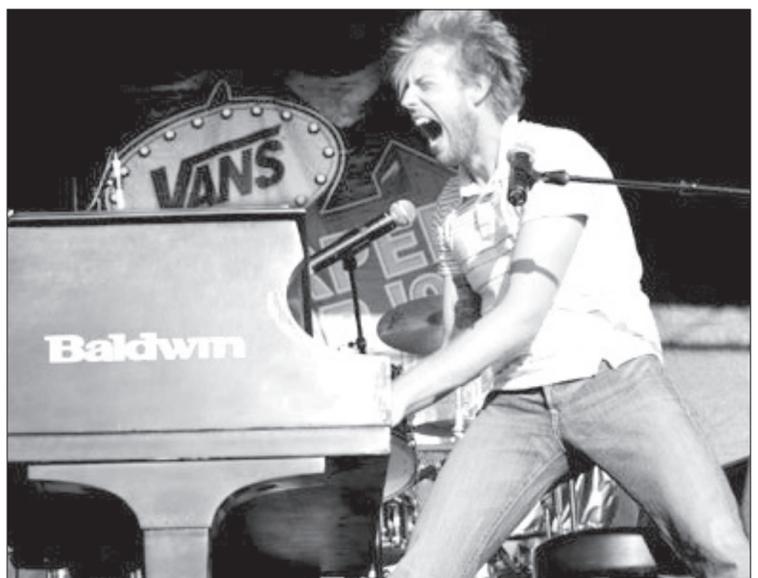


Photo courtesy of pollstar.com
Something Corporate frontman Andrew McMahon started Jack's Mannequin in 2004. Diagnosed with leukemia in 2005, he fought back through his music.

Freshman Sara Perkins said she was disappointed with the fall concert announcement. Perkins said she would have preferred other bands that SAB had on the survey, such as Kid Cudi.

"I thought that both Relient K and Jack's Mannequin are good bands, but when I heard who could've been here I was a little disappointed," Perkins said.

She also said Relient K's music is out of date. Perkins said she can't remember the last time she heard a new song from Relient K.

Perkins might disapprove of the performer selection for the concert, but she spoke favorably of SAB events as a whole.

"I think it's a really good

organization and it gives us something to do, whereas Kirksville doesn't offer a whole lot as a city," Perkins said.

Some students are unfamiliar with the bands selected. Senior Taira Meadowcroft first heard about the concert performers this year from a friend's Facebook status. She was immediately ex-

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Valerie Spencer
Student Activities Board member

cited to see Relient K but is not as familiar with Jack's Mannequin.

"I have never actually heard any of his music," Meadowcroft said.

Even if Meadowcroft isn't familiar with the band, the results of last year's survey showed that students wanted these bands. Relient K and Jack's Mannequin were voted the

no. 1 and no. 2 choices in the student survey.

Meadowcroft recalls taking the survey but doesn't remember what band she voted for. She said she is pleased with the SAB events in general, but that she is disappointed students have to pay \$8 to see the concert.

Senior Valerie Spencer has been involved with SAB since fall 2008 and currently serves as the chair of the fall concert. She has heard both criticism and praise about SAB's choice of bands. Spencer said the responses on the day the concert was announced made her want to work harder.

"It was really motivating to see all the positive feedback the day we announced,"

Spencer said.

Spencer said that SAB also is prepared to receive negative feedback, but that the choices of bands are based strictly off of surveys taken by students. Spencer offered advice for the students who are unhappy with this year's band choices.

"I encourage the students who have negative feelings about the concert to take the fall and spring survey, because those surveys are really what we base our decisions on," Spencer said.

The next SAB survey will be out before the end of the semester and will include questions about who students want as future concert guests, speakers and comedians.

CHAIR | Local cemetery chair comes with supposed consequences

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known about the inhabitants of plot C-63 and the chair marking the inhabitant's final resting place.

The stone chair bears only the name "Baird" and serves as the grave marker and monument for marble cutter John C. Baird and his wife. The original Highland Park Cemetery Association superintendent, John C. Baird was one of the four men who founded the Highland Park Cemetery in 1895 with the purchase of 40 acres of land at the east end of Normal Street.

Resting in the core of the cemetery, this moss and spider web-covered stone chair is the center for a number of urban legends and constantly evolving stories. Like many urban legends, there are an endless number of stories and variations surrounding the infamous chair and the consequences that will fall upon those who sit on it at a certain time.

"Some people say that on Halloween, if you go sit in the chair, you'll die within a year or if you sit in the chair on New Year's Eve at midnight, something bad will happen to you," Williams said. "I think it has just kind

of grown and grown and grown as people made up stories."

"You hear 'Devil's Chair,' and you just assume by the name that there is some kind of witchcraft or evil associated with it," said senior Phil Denight, a "survivor" of the Devil's Chair. While Denight, who has sat in the chair three times, heard that circling the chair supposedly is the key to provoking the spirits, junior Alex Meneely has heard that sitting in the chair three times on a full moon will earn the trespasser a trip to hell. Meneely, who has never sat in the chair, said he enjoys the fact that there is no consistency between stories.

"It's an older myth that started and is just reinvented," Meneely said. "It's kind of fun that you get to make your own story."

While some sit in the chair to prove themselves, others like Williams, think it is disrespectful to sit on the grave marker or monument of the deceased.

"I find it a bit disrespectful," Williams said. "That's your last stopping ground, for some people. That should be a place of rest and peace, and it's upsetting to me to know that kids and teenagers go into the cemetery at night and party and say,

'Oh, let's go sit in the chair!' I don't think that chair should be used for that purpose."

While she does think that legitimate research should be carried out by paranormal experts, she doesn't believe just anyone should test the legend.

"I've heard many stories of kids going there late at night, and it's just a good way to get the cops after you," Williams said.

On the other hand, a simple "Do it!" conveys the feelings of Denight and others who see only innocence in the act and think others should experience it.

While there is debate about the act of sitting in the chair itself, the real question still remains: Is there any truth behind the multitude of urban legends surrounding the Devil's Chair? Although many test the chair and attempt to prove their courage, not all believe the folklore and stories surrounding the chair.

"I'm not one to kind of believe in the Devil's Chair, but I mean, if it's past dark and you're in a cemetery, you're feeling kind of creeped out," Denight said.

Unlike Denight, Williams thinks there may be more to the chair than meets the eye.

"I'm going to say that almost any cemetery is going to have paranormal activity, because not everyone is going to be resting after they're gone," Williams said. "As far as this particular chair and that particular cemetery, I don't know. It's always something worth checking out."

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