

New Ocean makes waves

Local band, New Ocean, plays to express personality and inspire audiences

BY DANIELLE BRESHEARS
Staff Reporter

Truman State can now add its own up-and-coming indie rock band to the mix of its musical talents. Comprised of four Truman students, the band New Ocean is performing more and gaining a wider fan base throughout Kirksville.

The members of New Ocean include guitarists junior Mitch Etter and senior Ryan Hermann, pianist, cellist and vocalist junior Daniel Yung and singer junior Nate Buttram.

Etter, the band's creator, writes the majority of the music. Etter has been making music since high school, he said. When he got to Truman and met Hermann during the beginning of his freshman year, he said they started playing music together and a band naturally began to form.

"We realized that we liked the same bands, both played guitar and were interested in doing something bigger musically than just playing guitar in the dorm room," Etter said.

They lacked vocals for their group, but after having auditions, they met Yung and Buttram, Etter said.

By the time Yung and Buttram joined the band, New Ocean had a completely finished album that just lacked vocals, Etter said. They recorded vocals last summer, and after making a final mix, had their finished record.

When it comes to writing the songs, Etter said everything around him inspires him. He said things such as the weather, other artists and inspiring words or ideas from others affect his music making.

"None of that is intentional," Etter said. "There is no process or formula for making music, but once it is done and I'm looking

back on it, I can usually trace where certain elements came from."

Etter said success can be defined in many ways to a group such as New Ocean, but for him it's all about the happiness of the band.

"If I am happy with the songs and am not embarrassed to show them off, then it is safe for me to assume there are others who will enjoy the songs as well," he said.

Etter said recognition and profit would be nice too, but happiness has to come first.

For Hermann, success means pleasing the crowd, he said. For him it really isn't about the long term goals for the band, he said.

Inspiration for Hermann is the influence music can have, he said. Having people really get into their music and finding meaning in it is what Hermann described as his inspiration for playing.

"What inspires me as a musician is really just the power of music and the potential it has," Hermann said.

Buttram said he thinks his inspiration comes from a more personal place.

"I find music is just the easiest way to express myself," he said.

He explained how the process of putting himself into music for others to enjoy makes it worth it. Buttram said he also thinks success for the band is just pure enjoyment from the music. Although, as he said, "fame would be welcome too."

Yung said he agrees that the band's inspiration comes from many different places. He said for him, it's all about the music.

"I just like playing music," Yung said. "I'm having fun up there and hopefully other people can enjoy it as well."

As for what would define the band as successful, Yung said he wants the band's music to reach enough people to create a strong fan base.

As a self-proclaimed indie rock band, New Ocean's style of music matches that of its title, Yung said.

"[The name of the band] is more of the sound, the feel of it. It sounds cool, and I feel



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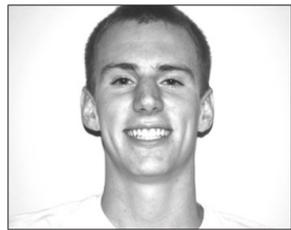
Junior Daniel Yung, left, sophomore Joseph Bossi, center, and junior Nate Buttram, right, perform Oct. 25 at the DuKum Inn. It was the band's first live performance.

like it fits our music pretty well," he said.

The band's latest C.D., 'Finding North,' has 12 songs. New Ocean already has been played on local radio stations and also has

performed at local venues, such as the DuKum Inn. Yung said the band is looking to book more gigs later during November at the Aquadome.

Forgiving and forgetting often is not the best idea



BY JOHN BROOKS
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What does it take to forgive? If you're looking for the answer, sorry, I don't have it. But I do know that while forgiveness can be healing and powerful, it's not always the right answer.

Let's consider the case of Chris Brown. He's a wealthy, successful rapper. I used to occasionally listen to his music. Before the 51st Grammy Awards during 2009, he brutally beat his girlfriend at the time, singer Rihanna. As I read the news reports of the events of that night, I was sickened and disgusted. I thought, what kind of person would do that? Surely in our modern day society, he will pay for his crimes.

He didn't. He was placed on probation and performed some community service. It's great to know that in America, as long as you have a good lawyer, you can brutally assault someone and still not go to jail. Afterward, Brown said, "Words cannot begin to express how sorry and saddened I am over what transpired," according to a gawker.com quote.

I hear a lot about how great forgiveness is, but I don't buy it. Somehow it's viewed as the more

mature option to forgive and forget, to move past these actions. Can people change? Maybe. But I've discovered people change by doing things differently in small ways on a daily basis during a long period of time. They don't change from an introvert to an extrovert the next day, and they certainly don't go from violent criminal to repentant pacifist. That's what Chris Brown is: a violent criminal.

Here's one of my favorite quotes, from the comic strip "Pearls before Swine": "I've decided to start saying sorry a lot more. Not because I'm actually sorry, but because I realized that sorry is just a word you can say."

Actual repentance involves more than apologizing. It takes a full recognition of the act committed, the reasons said act was wrong and a change in behavior to ensure such acts don't occur again.

Let's review exactly what Brown did, according to a transcript of the police review from foxnews.com. Rihanna's riding in his car. They're arguing. Brown pulls the car over and tries to force her out of the car. Smashes her head into the window. Punches her left eye, drawing blood. He pulls back on the road, and continues to hit her. Her mouth fills with blood. Rihanna tries to call her personal assistant. Brown continues to punch her. He pulls over again, and places her in a headlock. He bites her. He hits her legs and arms. If you've never seen it, please, look up the picture of Rihanna post-assault. It's horrifying.

I don't believe Brown when he says he's sorry. I don't think he truly thinks he did anything wrong that night. Those are the actions of a child who can't control his temper.

I wanted Brown to come out and say, "I attacked her that night. It was wrong because physical violence is wrong."

Three years later, Brown has risen to musical prominence again. He performed at the Grammy Awards this year. His followers and fans love to defend him, saying we have to forgive and move on, that the incident was the past and he's a different person now.

That's a terrible argument, and notions like these allow sociopaths like Brown to walk freely throughout our society. Yes, the past is the past. But our past actions reflect who we are as people. The cliché is to forgive and forget. I will never forget Brown's actions. I don't believe that he's sorry. He had to save face to preserve his musical fame.

That's why I think forgiveness is not always the right path. Should our forgiveness depend on other people's actions? No. I absolutely believe in forgiving people for their mistakes in order to move on. But sometimes, forgiveness — when paired with the idea that the past should be forgotten — is wrong. Until Brown shows that he truly understands his crimes and is repentant, there is no room for forgiveness.

We are to blame for Brown's rise back to prominence. I can't understand people who still buy the music of a sociopath, it's the Grammy's, for allowing him to show his face back there. For the same reason we put war criminals on trial for their crimes, we must not allow Brown's past — and the past of other violent criminals — to simply be forgotten, no matter how much his public relations reps would love for us to.

Small acts can have big impact



Editor-in-Chief reflects about the effect of small acts of kindness

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
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Far too often, we are waiting for the big moment, the final reveal or the grand finale. In the anticipation, we sometimes are caught off guard by small acts of kindness.

Those are the moments that knock us off our feet. We spend our time wishing we would win the lottery, day dreaming about running our own company or winning a major award. Those aren't the acts that surprise us, define our relationships, or make our days. It's the small smiles, the unexpected compliments.

It's the little old lady who knocks on your door to make sure you voted. It's the professor who congratulates you on a job well done. It's the empathy from a complete stranger when you look like

you're having a bad day.

Those are the moments we should cherish. Those are the actions we should crave and daydream about.

So instead of waiting for the big moments, cherish the little ones. These events don't make our top 10 lists when we recap a day or highlight a year, but they should.

We even can do one better than appreciating these moments in our lives. We can be the source of these moments for the people we surround ourselves with.

It doesn't have to be big or glamorous. In fact, it should be small. It should go without reward or grand recognition. It should be selfless.

A small self-sacrifice means taking a pause during a day oriented toward fulfilling the wants and needs of "me." This act of selflessness, the momentary change of orientation and awareness to someone else's needs, is what makes those moments so special.

Look around and find out what you can do to make someone else's day. Go out of your way for the sake of putting a smile on someone else's face.

Being aware of others can be a slow process. It has become an expectation to view the world in terms of what it does for us individually.

Take a moment, a small moment. It's a fraction of your day, but it just might be the key to making someone else's.



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