

DRIVIN' N' CRYIN

Kinney drives rock'n'roll band

By BRIAN McCARTER
Staff Writer

Kevn Kinney of drivin'n'cryin' is an odd man. During the course of my brief interview with him, I sought answers to questions on a wide range of topics, but got something more on the order of tentative speculations and rock n' roll epigrams.

I sought for obvious reasons to skip the obvious questions (e.g., "how long has the band been together?" and that sort of thing), and to get right to some more substantial inquiry. Not that I desired pearls of sage-like wisdom from him — he is a rock musician, not a philosopher, after all. I merely wanted to know his opinions of some of the goofier aspects of today's rock music ethos, something of which he is, here in the South, anyway, preeminently a part.

I began by asking him about the worst of what I call the rock music "hand raisers:" PETA. I knew many of his friends were involved with the group, and I asked whether he wished to make any criticism of them or of some specific aspect of their beliefs. I enjoyed his response: "Well, you know, I wear leather, and if I were stranded out in the woods and couldn't find any berries or anything to eat, I would kill an animal and put it in my mouth. But hunting, you know, I don't know. I mean, is a cow really an animal? I don't know."

At this point, I decided that I liked him very much and would ask him only questions of the teeny bopper bio' stats variety. Here is what I learned:

Kevn Kinney is 30 years old and more impassioned about playing rock music than ever. His basic philosophy is that "you should be arrogant enough to be yourself."

He writes all the songs for the band, though he has never sat down with the formal intention of writing one; they just come to him as spontaneous self-expression.

When not on the road, the band practices five days a week and four hours a day. Kevn never practices on his own, however. His hair is brown, and his eye color is uncertain. He does not care much for rap music. He likes to do things by himself.

And he has two creeds which he says nicely supplement the one given above: a) "Turn it up, or turn it the f--- off" and b) "A full cup of coffee, a full tank of gas, a steady job and an open road is all you need".

I neglected to ask just how one can pursue the open road and at the same time maintain a steady job. Somehow his thoughts on cows had answered that for me.



Drivin' n' cryin' will perform at B.L. Roosters Thursday. If the weather is good, the concert will be outdoors and an additional 3000 tickets will go on sale at 8 p.m. at B.L. Roosters.



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