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DANIELLE HOWLE PREPARES FOR LILITH FAIR

staff writer TJ LYERLY

olumbia native Danielle Howle performed for a packed crowd at Courtyard Coffee

House July 19 and July 20.

L a s t
week's solo
performances
served two
main purposes: to collect
money to help
pay for the trip
for her upcoming
dates at Lilith
Fair in Houston
and Austin and to
record a new live
CD.

Danielle Howle's last

live solo CD was recorded at the McKissick Museum in January 1995, and she has added new material to her list of local hits since then.

Her performances with her band, the Tantrums, are entertaining in their own right, but her solo performances have an entirely different fla-

While the chiming of the guitar and pounding of the rhythm section are the central ingredients in the shows with her band, her words are the focal point in her solo performances.

Unlike the shows with the Tantrums, Howle has more freedom to cut up and go off on tangents. In the middle of a song it's not uncommon for her to stop playing and just let her thoughts diverge.

It's not necessarily the subject she is discussing, but her innocent child-like vocal inflections and impeccable sense of comic timing that can bring the crowd to a roar.

Sh e muses about many of life's oddities, most of which we can all relate to, but occasionally she may get lost in a

monologue. Sometimes the way she says things, not what she says, is entertaining.

One such diversion led her to a discussion of sound wavelengths where she came to the realization that she was just a "number," referring to the amplitude of the wavelengths made by each note or

This "thinking out loud" is how

she maintains the attention of her audience.

Just as the audience's laughter dies down, she decides to play another song, often of a serious nature, such as about a failed relationship or unrequited feelings for another She reminds us of the complexity of her

In these shows, she introduced some "spoken word" pieces. Wednesday night she reminisced about the tree climbing in her youth, and Thursday, she gave her campaign speech as if she were running for "Office of Rock Star."

These spoken word performances, combined with songs she has written over the past 13 years and her

> between-song banter, introduced many to her diverse talent, clever mind and her overall good nature.

She even burst into tears the first night. "Even if I don't get

famous, it doesn't matter because I still have you guys," Howle said.

Danielle Howle will be playing at the Lilith Fair in Houston today. The Courtyard Coffee House, just across the Gervais Street Bridge, was voted Columbia's Best Coffee House in 1998 by The State newspaper. The quaint establishment serves a variety of beverages, sandwiches and desserts.

Danielle Howle observed in one of her soliloquies, "No one should be allowed to eat in a restaurant unless they have worked in food services before. It's like serving in the military; everyone should have to pay their dues."

So if you go to the Courtyard, make sure you tip them well.



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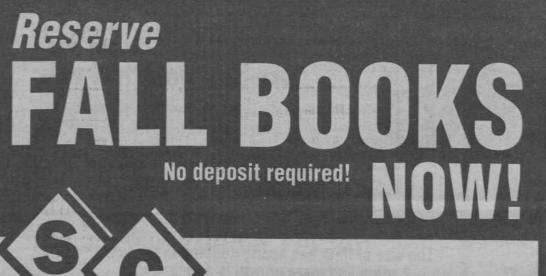
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