

Band Continued From Pg. 1

good. The group started out just playing for fun, but has now written over twenty songs of their own. They draw inspiration for their songs from their own lives and past experiences. Parrot and Welch usually write the lyrics. Some of their best original songs include "Weary Traveler," which starts out mellow and then becomes more hard rock with beautiful lyrics, and "Breakdown," which includes an impressive guitar solo from Lee that shows his wide range of talent.

A typical weekend for the band includes getting together to practice in the top floor of Welch's garage, which they have basically taken over. They say

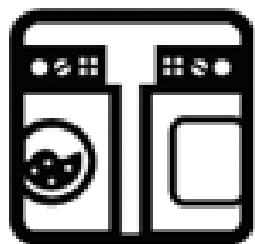
that during the summer, they practically live there. It gets pretty loud when they rehearse. So far, the group has performed at the Heard County Recreation Department, local venues around town and at Welch's home for friends and family. They also recently participated in the "Acid Mike," competition and won first place. However, the band would like to expand their audience and are currently tossing the idea around of having an after prom party and concert. "We are willing to perform just about anywhere," Welch said.

Life's Gates members are grateful for the band and believe it has kept them out of trouble. "Except me," Cannon stated. It has provided them with an

opportunity to show off their talent, while bonding with people who share a common interest and skill. Since they practice so much, they do not really have time to become a burden on society or fall in with the wrong crowd. All the practice has definitely paid off. Right now, they do not have a manager and are taking care of managing themselves.

When asked what some goals for the band are they responded with "having a CD in Wal-Mart," and "having a song on Guitar Hero."

After they graduate, Welch and Parrot hope to continue on in their music career, while Cannon and Lee plan on going to an Automotive school in Tennessee. However, neither would say no to becoming a famous rock band. After all, Welch already has the rock star look down pat. Hopefully, the band will continue to be successful and accomplish their goals. Who would not want to play a Life's Gates song on Guitar Hero?



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