

The Daily Tar Heel

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Daystar

*Raleigh-based band
energetic, creative*

By DEBBIE AUGUST

Energy, creativity, and technical proficiency characterize Daystar, a new Raleigh-based band that performed at Pegasus last week.

Daystar features lead vocalists Kathryn Kilburn and Jeff Brooks, vocalist and lead guitarist Billy Keasler, rhythm guitarist K.R. Robertson, back-up vocalist and bass guitarist Randy Isom, vocalist and keyboardist Kevin Brown, and drummer Mike Kiorpes. All the members of the band are from North Carolina, and Kilburn is attending UNC-Chapel Hill.

Daystar is comprised of the members of various other bands which have recently broken up, and only two of the original Daystar players still remain. "Not sticking with the originals has turned out okay, because now we've got seven top-quality musicians," Keasler said.

The band was formed in June, but its members are obviously not amateurs. Daystar is a conglomeration of some of Raleigh's finest musicians. The players, in addition to being gifted musicians, are enthusiastic about what they are doing and what they plan to do in the future.

Much of Daystar's appeal may be credited

to the technical crew. Although the mixing was inconsistent—the vocals often had a shrill, tinny quality, and the drums were usually overpowering—the lighting was dramatic and effective, adding emphasis when it was necessary, and letting the music speak for itself when it was appropriate.

Most of these musicians are multi-talented, an asset most readily apparent in Keasler and Brown. Keasler is an obviously experienced performer who delivered more than a few impressive solos, and whose deep, clear voice was a pleasure to listen to. He is controlled in every aspect, but his performance would be drastically improved if he gave some indication that he was enjoying himself—a smile, perhaps.

Brown, though he remains well out of the limelight, is essential to the quality of Daystar's sound. He is a consistent, sensitive keyboardist, and whether singing lead or back-up, is a soothing but powerful vocalist.

Each member of the band has a unique style. Robertson seems to be having the time of his life on stage. He jumps about so energetically that it seems impossible for him to be playing the guitar at the same time.

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