

Vertical Horizon's Tour Takes Group to Very Top

By JUSTIN WINTERS
Staff Writer

If there is one thing to be said about Vertical Horizon, according to guitarist/vocalist Keith Kane, the band does have a heck of a work ethic.

"We do a lot of stuff during the day," he said. "With this band, we feel that when we are on the road, it's time to work and when we are off the road, it's time not to work."

Touring to promote its first major label venture, Vertical's quartet of Kane, lead vocalist Matt Scannell, bassist Sean Hurley and drummer Ed Toth is set to bring its brand of "alternative pop" to

UNC's Memorial Hall on Sunday.

If there is one rumor that Kane wants the band's performances to dispel, it's that Vertical can be compared to other testosterone-dominated groups such as Backstreet Boys or N'Sync.

"First of all I think we are a little too old," he said. "Secondly, I think that all the people who like top-40 music are sort of excited about a fresh air finally."

Vertical, the "fresh air" that the guitarist/vocalist speaks of, hopes to show the music world that it is more than just a few guys who can lip-sync and dance.

The band's first three self-released albums have sold more than 70,000 copies, and the band hopes to make

Vertical Horizon a household name with its RCA debut *Everything You Want*.

Vertical is best described as a "song-writing-based band of four elements that tries to stretch the boundaries musically as well as vocally," Kane said. "We are an alternative-pop band."

Since first forming back in 1991, Vertical has transformed from a couple of guys playing acoustic guitars at Georgetown University to a successful band with a multi-sellout tour largely attributed to its devoted fan base.

The only thing that has stood in Vertical's way thus far on the tour has been the flu, Kane said.

"There has been that flu bug going

around and I think it has landed on all of the buses," he said from the band's latest gig in Florida. "Sleep is at a premium, but with a couple of days off we've had a chance to recharge."

Vertical is no stranger to playing the college scene in Chapel Hill. They have packed shows numerous times at Cat's Cradle as well as at Greek functions.

Kane said Sunday's show will give the band an audience that might differ slightly from the tour's other shows in venues such as the House of Blues.

"I'm fired up, man," he said. "The college crowd is always fun, and we love coming to North Carolina."

The band's newest single,

"Everything You Want," has blasted its way up *Billboard's* Modern Rock chart, and its video has landed the band's faces on MTV and VH1.

Kane said the song's universal appeal makes it an alternative to other songs today that only appeal to a small group.

"It's about really liking somebody and becoming great friends with them but always being just a friend," he said. "It's feeling like you are the perfect thing for someone but not having that feeling returned."

Kane said the feeling of meeting goals he first thought impossible, such as signing a record deal with RCA, having a music video, or receiving mail from fans

across the nation, makes the band's newest success all the more sweet.

"It's just an unbelievable feeling," he said. "It's like that we are not out here busting our asses for no reason."

But don't expect Vertical to rest on its laurels once it finishes this tour. More singles will be released from the album, and the band plans to begin recording its next album soon after, Kane said.

"We will take off some time to write and recharge the batteries," he said. "But until then, it's just tour and try to get the album into as many ears as possible."

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BSM

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body president has won the election.

"It was a tough choice. They were all good candidates, and a lot of people walked away still questioning (the choices)," said Tiffany Black, co-public relations coordinator of the BSM.

Smiley said during the forum that her focus in office would be on active outreach in administrative appointments.

"Everyone will have an application in their hands," said Smiley, who recalled the lack of diversity she saw when approving appointments as chairwoman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee in Congress. "I'm not here to be the savior of the black population, but I'm here to put students back into student government," she said.

Candidate Matt Martin said if endorsed, he would not disappoint the BSM. "I have a real desire to tear down the walls between the black and white communities," Martin said.

Both Martin and candidate Brad Matthews, a BSM member, said they would continue to be regulars at the group's weekly meetings regardless of the endorsements. Matthews drew strong reaction from the crowd with his Swahili language skills, adapting the BSM's slogan of "Freedom Through Revolution" to "Freedom Through Opportunity."

Matthews distanced himself from his position in Student Body President Nic Heinke's administration, for which he served as senior adviser.

"I'm representing me," Matthews said, after noting that he had badgered leaders for more diverse appointments.

Candidate Josh Ray said he supported a cultural diversity program in C-TOPS, the summer orientation program for new students. Ray said his diversity education came from his experiences at UNC. "When I got to Carolina, I met diversity. I lived diversity," he said.

BSM President Chris Faison opened the forum by explaining that two student body president candidates, Michael Harris and Preston Smith, were not allowed to speak because they missed the endorsement paperwork deadline of Jan. 31. Faison stood by the BSM policy, but he said the group planned to inform the Elections Board of their deadlines in the future in case candidates did not contact the BSM personally.

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PARKING

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"Parking is obviously a problem and is going to continue to be a problem," Matthews said. "We have to at least make sure students don't lose spaces and gain them where possible."

Matthews said he wanted to make Chapel Hill buses free to students via a \$20 increase in the student activity fee.

"I will fight tooth and nail for a referendum granting students bus service," he said. "If you buy a bus pass once as a student it pays for itself twice."

Matthews said the resulting Fare-Free Busing program would help improve accessibility to the University.

"It's just not feasible to build 1,000 parking decks," Matthews said.

Candidate Matt Martin said students he had spoken to stressed that parking should be a major part of his platform.

"The students have put it (high on my agenda)," he said.

Martin said he would fight for a student parking deck to be included on UNC's Master Plan, a blueprint for campus growth during the next 10 years.

Martin said that while off-campus parking lots such as the PR lot were beneficial, they were not as significant to students as campus parking.

BOG

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raise their tuitions.

On Tuesday, Jeff Nieman, a UNC-CH student and nonvoting BOG member, made his own proposal reflecting many of the same concerns.

In preparation for the discussion, Brad Wilson, chairman of the BOG Budget and Finance Committee, solicited comments on Broad's recommendation from every BOG member and compiled them in a memorandum.

Broad said she fully expected that changes would be made to her plan. "The proposal was not intended to be the exact wording of the plan. It was meant to come under debate and discussion," she said.

The portion of Broad's proposal that denied tuition requests at three of the five schools drew criticism from board members and representatives of the institutions. Broad said UNC-CH and N.C. State were the only schools with urgent faculty salary needs, and there-

fore, the only schools that should raise their cost of attendance. But other board members cited unreasonable price divisions between system schools and the need for competitive salaries as reasons to include the smaller schools in the recommendation.

"Some of the board members believe that we should respect what (ECU, UNC-C, and UNC-W) have asked for and shouldn't second-guess them," said BOG member Robert Warwick.

"Personally, I agree with them."

The BOG meeting will be held today and Friday at The Carolina Inn.

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these professors parking on campus."

Candidate Preston Smith said his plan to empower students to take control of their finances, the key part of his platform, would solve all long-term parking problems.

"There's not enough parking, and already it's getting worse," he said. "With student revenue, we could build our own parking structure."

Smith said he also opposed night parking and said no such policy would get through his administration.

He said his plan to improve campus accessibility also involved getting a P2P shuttle or U-bus route to the Finley Golf Course, an area of campus that houses many UNC students who he believes are being abandoned.

"What good is that to the community," he asked.

Candidate Erica Smiley said she was also opposed to late-night parking restrictions but said she would support a small nighttime parking lot for faculty seeking to return to campus after 5 p.m.

Smiley said she also planned to improve late-night campus accessibility by making sure any late-night bus route had a stop at the Undergraduate Library or Student Union.

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USSA

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tion day.

Two representatives from the Washington-based group will also be on campus to push for student support until election day.

Even if the referendum gains voter backing next week, the University's membership in USSA must also be approved by the Board of Trustees or the Board of Governors before membership can take affect this fall.

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LICENSING

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landlord information available would help in her neighborhood. "On Davie Circle, the garbage can be really bad, cars are parked in all kinds of various places - it's not very pleasant," Capper said. "If we had a licensing program, it would help me solve these problems."

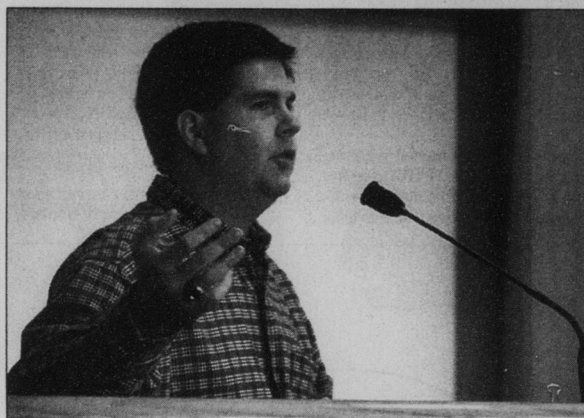
Conner said if student tenants were well-informed, the conditions would improve. "If a tenant is clearly told what their responsibilities are, then behavior will respond accordingly," he said. "But

it's important to remember too that this is a college town and that is just the way it's going to be sometimes."

The council decided that possible legal issues surrounding the addenda to leases needed to be examined by the town's attorney and manager. Mayor Rosemary Waldorf added that representatives from neighborhood communities were also going to be included before the issue proceeded.

"As a council, we are not on the verge of any particular decision."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.



Lee Conner, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, speaks at a Town Council session regarding rental licensing.

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For further information, contact the UNC-CH Study Abroad Office at (919) 962-7001, send an email to abroad@unc.edu, or consult our website at <http://study-abroad.unc.edu>

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