

FALL

BOOGIE CHILLEN

2006

THE SUPPLEMENT

# THE ONE EYED CATS

DAN LATZMAN

**T**he One Eyed Cats are slowly gaining recognition in the rock world with their new hit “Let Her Cry”, a cover version of Hootie and the Blowfish’s classic. This diverse foursome of talent have collaborated their ranging abilities to create an instant hit single. Living together in Hewitt Halls, they are able to constantly practice and hang out together.

Tyler Byrne, hailing from a northern New Jersey just outside of New York City, is the 19 year old lead vocalist and guitarist front man who has catapulted this young group into stardom. Drawing inspiration from musical gods such as singer songwriters Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen, Byrne is the freshest face in contemporary rock and roll.

“We decided to do our own version of the song ‘let her cry’, to create a commentary on the dating scene/sexual frustration that is often found at Wesleyan”, Byrne commented.

Byrne wrote the lyrics for the song, and also arranged and produced it. Without his band members, though, their success would just not be possible. Spike Malangone is the backup guitarist and the heart throb of the group. His Elvis Presley-like looks have the girls screaming from Middletown down to Long Island, his place of birth.

When asked about his musical experience, Malangone said, “After picking up guitar at age 15, I realized that I was a prodigy. I mean, sure, I’m not playing lead guitar here, but sometimes you have to let others have the spotlight. I’m not selfish.” Malangone added that, “There’s no I in band”.

That is correct, Spike, there is no I in band.

Jason Ben-Eliyah is on the keyboard and

provides backup vocals for Byrne. His musical influence is from his idol, Burt Bacharach. Despite no previous band experience, Ben-Eliyah’s musical experience began at a young age. He said, “When I was 10 my older brother and sister were taking lessons and I heard what they would play and I would go to the piano and try hard to play something. The more I tried, the worse it sounded. My mom asked if I would like to take lessons and I agreed. I stuck with it up until 9th grade and still mess around from time to time at home.”

The final member of the band is tambourine extraordinaire Russell Follansbee.

“Russell Follansbee shakes a pretty mean tambourine,” Malangone said when asked about his band mate and friend.

These college lacrosse superstars have taken their talents for the arts, and have created an instant classic with ‘Let Her Cry’.

Their song is a narrative that tells the story of a boy who seeks out love, in the form of a freshman girl, but always comes up short in his efforts.

To describe his hit song, Byrne said that it “touches the hearts of both guys at Wesleyan who feel dejected, and girls who feel like they are being pursued from every possible angle”.

Critics have attacked the One Eyed Cats for sexually offensive language towards women. The band rejected to comment on the issue, and, instead, boasted about their climbing record sales.

With only one song recorded, the One Eyed Cats still have a lot of music to produce. The Wesleyan community and thousands of fans around the country are anxiously waiting for the next work of magic by the young foursome.

# THE BEASTS OF BURDEN: PREPARING YOU FOR THE UNPREDICTABLE

JAKE LEHRHOFF

**“Our name is Johann Sebastian Rach [rok]? When did that happen?”**

The Beasts of Burden may not agree on much, yet somehow they manage to not disagree on much either. The bandmates are all completely on the same page. That page might be a blank leaf in a notepad, but that’s exactly what they want to be, because who knows, it might have been written on in invisible ink or lemon juice. They might just be marketing gurus—everyone loves a mystery.

The Beasts of Burden are as fresh as the food at Vegan Café, as hot as Atomic Fireballs, as edgy as a Michael Moore film (but not as pretentious). Their name is new. Their lyrics are hot off the press. Their style is being redefined at this very moment. There could not be more speculation or anticipation surrounding this newly formed group, and, if all goes as planned, more hysterically screaming and crying fans will appear simply because of the band’s refusal to be defined, pigeonholed or labeled. As drummer Dustin Brock-

ner laughed, “That’s the key to our enigma.” Sitting in on their brainstorming session, the current form, style and vision of the band was coalescing in front of my eyes. Their latest idea is as unexpected as the Spanish Inquisition: kazoos. “That’ll be our edge,” said Swenson as she pointed at me and smiled approvingly.

That breakthrough came right after considering song topics including, in no particular order, Tonka Trucks, Honkey Tonk Ze’s, and Donkey Kong. Their next move is anybody’s guess, but if our expectations have taught us anything, we can all be sure that it will be the next big thing.

There are some facts that we do know about The Beasts of Burden. They are comprised of five friends: drummer Dustin Brockner ’09, guitarist Schuyler Swenson ’09, guitarist Ben Castanon ’09, guitarist/bassist Jeff Wong ’08, and tambourinist/kazoo extraordinaire Becca Dorey-Stein ’08. Also, the topic of their song, a cover of



The Rolling Stone's "Honkey Tonk Woman" that will hit the shelves in late October, is chalking on campus.

Originally imagining themselves as a blues/rock band, their first single follows in the tradition of early folk music: political activism. The band praises free speech on campus with the zeal of Dylan promoting social awareness, "I came to Wes when chalking was still restricted/But someone thought that chalking was our right...So now the campus has gone chalk-full crazy." The hottest topic on campus now has a unified voice to rally behind—The Beasts of Burden.

In an attempt to explain themselves, the

bandmates related their individualism to the members of the Beatles. Castanon is Paul McCartney "because he is the cute one," explained Swenson. Wong is John Lennon for his sideburns, sarcasm and political activism. Swenson is George Harrison because she's the unsung hero. Dorey-Stein is Ringo Starr for her goofiness and, as she explains, "because I found myself in the right situation at the right time, and because I was on Shining Time Station." That leaves Brockner as Pete Best. He declined to explain the connection. They may not make much sense, but Wesleyan University, I am pleased to introduce to you: The Beasts of Burden.

**CHALK ON!**



# YO LA TENGO AT TOAD'S PLACE

JEREMY MARKS

# SEPTEMBER 25TH

Without a word to the audience, Yo La Tengo began to play at Toad's Place, kicking off their North American tour in support of their new album, "I Am Not Afraid of You and I Will Beat Your Ass." Listening to Yo La Tengo is always an educational experience, and the concert proved to be no less so. The trio of vocalist/guitarist Ira Kaplan, bassist James McNew and drummer/vocalist Georgia Hubley traversed their large body of work, incorporating pop, jazz, extended guitar solos and solid rock into their set. With all three members contributing vocals and demonstrating their proficiency with every instrument onstage, the constant exchange of roles was amusing and produced some great and musically varied results.

After months in the studio, it was clear that they were ready to shake off the dust and have some fun. Rather than warming up with one of their more pop-oriented tunes, Yo La Tengo opened with the sweeping 12-minute finale of their new album. Titled "The Story of Yo La Tengo," the track was a great introduction to the rest of the evening and to Yo La Tengo's diverse body of work. Kaplan attacked the song's opening guitar section, toying with his guitar and producing his distinctive haze of feedback. The track slowly built into a driving song anchored by Hubley's drumbeat and McNew's baseline.

The band continued to play songs off of the

new album, slowly moving from the more experimental tracks to the shorter, poppy songs. They powered through “Pass The Hatchet, I Think I’m Goodkind,” which again has Hubley and McNew supplying the backbone for Kaplan’s wandering guitar. 25 minutes into the set, yet only on their fourth song, it looked as though Kaplan might not make it through the concert. Luckily the band then switched gears to the fast-paced and significantly shorter “Mr. Tough.” Sung by McNew, who I swear taught me science in middle school. The highlight was watching the dorky and endearing McNew strut his stuff while talking about bullies. With plenty of cowbell to complement McNew’s falsetto and his aloof mannerism, the band and the audience seemed to enjoy the change and the song’s humorous tone.

The show got more frenzied with “Watch Out for Me Ronnie,” an aggressive, distorted piece that explodes from the opening notes. Harkening back to Yo La Tengo’s edgier, punkish days almost two decades past, the song’s catchy chorus had members of the audience singing along with the band, unusual for a band in which lyrics frequently seem to be serving the music rather than vice-versa.

The band then appeased their fans and played “Autumn Sweater,” their best-known track. However, the starkness and sensitivity of the album version was replaced by a louder, less unified sound. The interplay of Hubley and Kaplan’s vocals did not produce the stream-of-consciousness effect as in the album version, but, instead, seemed contradictory. As with much of Yo La Tengo’s material, they were at the mercy of the sound engineer, and in the awkwardly configured concert hall at Toad’s, the delicate song didn’t come together.

But the band made up for any shortcomings by playing two encores and soliciting a suggestion from the audience and playing “I Heard You Looking” off of their 1993 album “Painful.” The band then finished up by dedicating a song to “the next senator from Connecticut,” Ned Lamont, wishing the audience a Happy New Year as it was close to Rosh Hashanah and closing with a cover of “Burnin’ For You” by the Blue Oyster Cult. Kaplan assured the audience that he had racked his brain thinking of an appropriate song for the Holidays and this was it. A solid cover with the Yo La Tengo touch, it was a fitting end to the evening, demonstrating both their musical prowess and their love of performing.



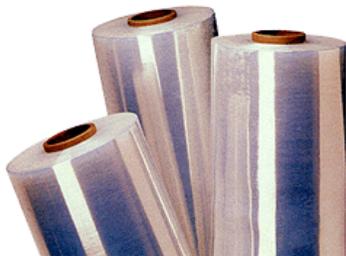
# Don't be caught without protection.

Using the right protection is crucial when it comes to your iPod. That's why we at Saran Solutions are proud to introduce



**iCling**, an **ultra-thin** sheet specially developed to protect your portable music collection from scrapes and scratches.

Unlike other brands, **iCling** means no sticky residue and no hassle. Don't be fooled by Glad or Reynolds imitations—no iPod **cover version** compares to **iCling**! Even better yet, our special polyvinylidene chloride formula is **100% transparent**, so you'll know whether you're jammin' to Hank Ballard or Chubby Checker.



**iCling** is designed for **one-time usage** and is available exclusively in **bulk rolls**. And for a limited time only, you'll get a **free\*** pair of **mini-scissors** when you buy **iCling** at your local retailer—so you yourself can cut **iCling** to fit your Nano or your shuffle! Available in stores everywhere.\*\*

\*With minimum purchase of 30 rolls and a \$50 roll dispenser.

\*\*Just ask your local retailer for the plastic wrap aisle.



by Kira Mandella

# MESSING WITH THE CARDS

JOHN ESHELMAN

From the moment I climbed into Chris Graceffa's Black Explorer, I could tell that the CPC's, a rap trio composed of Chris Graceffa, Ryan Hendrickson and Will Bennett, were all business. The beat for their new single, "Messing with the Cards" was playing over the car stereo, and Chris was practicing his lyrics along with it. "He's been practicing nonstop for weeks" commented Ryan Hendrickson, who provided background vocals. The first thing I noticed about the CPC's was that they were, in fact, quite good. Despite minimal music backgrounds (Will Bennett's fifth grade trumpet playing was the only formal music training that any of the group members had experienced) the CPC's were talented lyrically.

The CPC's (hort for "Chris Potter Chillin'," the now infamous name of hockey coach Chris Potter's I-Pod playlist) are all talented athletes. Will Bennett and Ryan Hendrickson are both captains on the men's hockey team, and Chris Graceffa is a member of both the hockey and baseball teams. The inspiration for "Messing with the Cards" came from a variety of sources. This summer, Chris was chosen to play in the Cape Cod Baseball League, one of premier summer leagues for college players in the country. While playing on the Cape, Chris met Mitch Canham, a catcher for the national champion Oregon State Beavers. Mitch informed Chris that the OSU

baseball team had made a rap song before the season entitled "O State Ballaz" in which they prophesized their impending run to the national title. The rap turned out so well that it was played during Beavers' home games. Graceffa liked the idea, and decided that Music 108 offered the perfect opportunity to compose a rap about the Wesleyan Cardinal's hockey team. "Basically," said Graceffa, "the goal is to make a rap that we can come out to for warm-ups and play in the locker room".

Graceffa, Hendrickson and Bennett had big shoes to fill in composing this rap. Two years ago a group of hockey players including Brian Maynes and Craig Badger recorded "Fuck the Tech," a hard hitting rap critiquing the Wesleyan community. When asked to explain the lyrical content of "Fuck the Tech," Ryan Hendrickson commented that "The Tech was a term coined to refer to the dynamic at Wesleyan. At a technical school, there are a lot of very smart people and few, if any, good looking girls." He went on to say that "the tech" is simply "a term made popular by athletes due to their frustrations with the students at Wesleyan." Although they did not draw inspiration from the subject matter of "Fuck the Tech," the CPC's did mention that it inspired them because while they were freshmen, "Fuck the Tech" was often played in the hockey locker room before games.

Will Bennett stated the bands aspirations as follow: "Our goal with 'Messing with the Cards' is to leave a legacy. We want to come back five years from now and hear people talking about it. We were inspired by "Fuck the Tech" and hopefully we can inspire someone in the future."

The song "Messing with the Cards" chronicles the transition of the Wesleyan hockey team from perennial conference doormat to a force to be reckoned with. The title implies that other NESCAC hockey programs do not take Wesleyan seriously. Clearly, the Cards intend to make them pay for their transgression. The song also involves shout outs to most of the players, and a not so subtle jab at Amherst College's mascot, the Lord Jeff.

When we arrived in the studio, there was a nervous energy flowing through the room. It was clear that all of the group members were eager to lay down their tracks. However, no one had ever been in a recording studio before, so everyone was a little unsure of what to expect. All fears were eliminated when Chris Graceffa stepped up to the mic. Though Chris, primarily a defenseman, has yet to score a goal for the Wesleyan hockey team, he certainly lit the lamp in the studio. He tore through the song like a seasoned veteran and left ev-

eryone watching breathless. "I really appreciate when people come in here prepared" commented the studio technician, "and that's what you did; came prepared." After Graceffa broke the ice, Bennett and Hendrickson seemed to relax, clearly realizing that their vision was going to be realized. Hendrickson and Bennett laid down the chorus flawlessly, and, with a little bit of editing, the final product turned out so well that the group members decided to put it up on the website EJB.com. "It turned out awesome" mentioned Graceffa. "At first I didn't want people to hear it, but then it caught on and people liked it. Hockey teams all over the NESCAC have heard it through the website; so has the West Virginia hockey team."

With the popular success of "Messing with the Cards", the future looks bright for the CPC's. They are confident that they will be able to play the single in the locker room during the season, and even come out to it for warm ups. And with hard work and a little bit of luck, they are hopeful that they too will claim their league championship (just as one of their influences, the O State Ballaz, did last year).