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Rockin' locals rock the bowl

Sital Sanjanwala
Layout Editor

Local band Questions in Dialect is set to headline at Rock 'N the Bowl on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2007, from 4:30 until 11:30 p.m.

The line-up in order of performance is: Armor and Effect, Red Hill City, No Means No, The River Company and Questions in Dialect.

Senior Rob Stephens, heading the event with the Rock 'N Roll club, says that the goal of this project is that of the club itself: to revitalize music on campus.

Last year, Stephens and the Rock 'N Roll club came up with the idea of a back to school music event. With funding from SAPS the idea grew into a reality.

The estimated number of students attending is approximately over 200 as reported on the Facebook event.

"With barbeque and live music scheduled in the bowl, I believe that people will come out and enjoy it and hopefully look forward to seeing it as an annual event," Stephens says.

Questions in Dialect, an instrumental band that explores new concepts in its music, will headline the event at Millsaps. Forming in 1999, Questions in Dialect has stayed an innovative sound in the musical community. "Music is the most important thing to all of us," says Daniel Guaquita, percussionist, drummer and electronics tinkerer. The band uses both analog and digital electronics in their performances.

"We explore very new ideas. Music is what we feel and how we think," Guaqueta states. "We're a very innovative group, and we set our own standards."

Armor and Effect will open the show with guitarist Wes Hill, senior.

Following is Red Hill City, an indie band, is noted for its use of synthesizers.

No Means No, a group who played at Millsaps' Battle of the Bands, is primarily blues oriented.

The fourth band is the heavily rock influenced group The River Company with Millsaps alumnus Travis Scharr and former Millsaps student Alex Scharr.

"They've done a couple of The Beatles shows on the coast," recalls sophomore Beth Fossen, from the band's native Ocean Springs, Miss.

Overall, the Rock 'N Roll Club is hosting the event to "bring music to campus," says Stephens.

"When you listen to music, you should forget about what you're thinking about. Be happy you're alive and celebrate life," says Guaqueta. "I've seen people who will close their eyes and lie on the floor and meditate. On stage is our only time to play and be our real selves, and on Saturday we are going to freak it out."

Graphic by Thomas Richardson
Major Millsaps prepares for Millsaps' first annual Rock N' the Bowl, featuring local bands Questions in Dialect, Armor and Effect, Red Hill City, No Means No and the River Company.

Group supports, inspires young artists

Catherine Schmidt
Managing Editor

Let's get one thing straight: Clay Hardwick does not promote vandalism. He just happens to live for the creation and enjoyment of what you might call "street art." And, no, this is not synonymous with graffiti.

"Art students generally create work for a gallery space, to hang on a white wall," Hardwick says. "MixedCORE is all about street art, all about making art a lifestyle, a day to day interaction whether it be literally on the street or in your car or on the internet. We shouldn't have to go to a specific location to see art because so many people are creating it."

Hardwick, a Millsaps junior from Jackson, conceptualized mixedCORE (mC) as a group that would promote art for the people, by the people. In particular, Hardwick envisioned the group as a forum of information and inspiration for young artists.

"MC is geared toward the under 21 crowd that is not necessarily accepted at a lot of places—bars and venues," Hardwick says. "It's mainly to represent that voice that can't speak as easily for itself … and to offer an outlet and a source of education."

One goal of mC is for "young artists to collectively inspire each other through shared resources and art."

Greg Gandy, a senior at Mississippi School of the Arts, became interested in the group as he began to explore street art.

"I was looking for like-minded friends to motivate and inspire me," says Gandy.

Always interested in art, Gandy felt his desire to learn more about art was not well met at Madison Central High School, where he attended until his junior year.

"There weren't many people in my high school who were really interested in art class," says Gandy. "Everyone just took it as an elective. Those who were really talented got all the attention from the teacher, but those who were still trying to learn, like me, were overlooked."

At Miss. School of the Arts, Gandy takes art classes on top of the staple curriculum, attending classes from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

"It's a long day, but I'm willing to do it because that's what I enjoy," says Gandy.

Gandy describes the art he is creating now as "mixed-media, underwater scuba diving with text and watercolors."

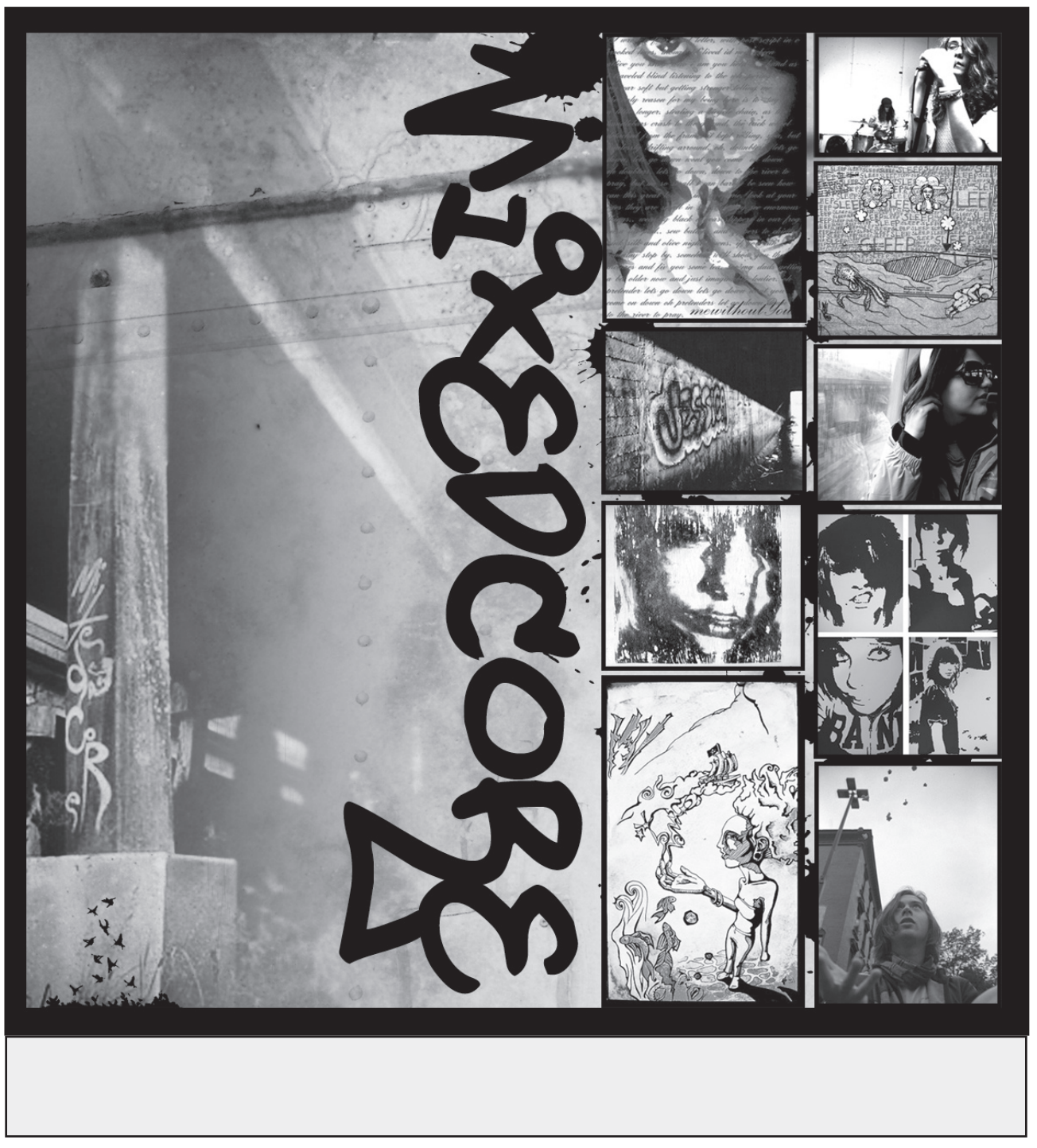
"It sounds hokey," Hardwick says of the origin of the name "mixedCORE." "But 'core' refers to an urban group, a city, a community, and 'mixed' implies diverse mediums and different types of people."

The group introduces the young artists to alternative processes of urban art that are not generally taught in high school classrooms, such as transferring printed images on to canvas, wood, fabric or other recycled materials.

In the future, Hardwick wants to set up studio visits in which the young artists watch more established artists in their studio, having the opportunity to learn a bit about their art form and the process involved.

The young artists are then expected to give back to the Jackson community through sharing their art or knowledge.

Hardwick and cohorts Greg Gandy and Morgan Welch, both high school students, are looking for a student at each high school to represent the group. Several representatives are in place now, but Hardwick hopes to gain more interest and support from public school students as the majority of those involved thus far attend private schools.

About 30 individuals contribute to mC either as artist, venue or promoter. The web site mixedcore.com features the work of the young artists, most heavily concentrated in digital art and photography at this point. The site also offers "how to" guides on certain urban art processes.

The group is planning an exposition for early October at the Icon Gallery in Fondren in which artists from mC will exhibit their work.