

# The Elation

■ Local band strives for fame

ANNE ROBERTSON  
STAFF WRITER

With a potential booking at Warped Tour, a professionally produced CD, a summer tour lined up, playing shows with *Spitalfield*, and even signing with a record label, *The Elation*, a young band from Homewood, is really getting things done. The group has played 27 shows, and at their last show in Homewood more than 230 people came to support them.

*The Elation* has been together for a year and consists of Junior Kyle Fasel, bass and vocals, Senior Spencer Birkner, guitar and vocals, Junior at Marian Catholic High School Dan Pizzoferrato, guitar and vocals, Sophomore, Ross Birkner, synthesizer and keyboards, and Sophomore Austin "Sticks" Neely, drums.

"We got our name from the dictionary. We wanted something positive, and 'elation' is defined as 'the state of well-being' which I think means happiness. It was catchy, and we liked it so we just threw 'the' in front of it; that is how we came up with our name, *The Elation*," said Fasel.

At the end of last May, *The Elation* started to piece their band together. "We started off in separate bands, I was in *Scream Out Of The Fire*, Spencer was in *The Dying Moment*, Austin was still in *Lifeline*, and Ross was just starting to pick up the synthesizer. We started *The Elation* as a side project, and soon we realized that the styles of our other bands were not what we wanted, so we quit, and *The Elation* became full force," said Fasel. They asked Ross Birkner to play synthesizer with them, and when they heard that Austin also played in the percussion band at H-F, they recruited him. "We started to really click well together last

May," said Fasel.

Their captivating lyrics and high energy sound are leading to a boost in scheduling shows and bringing the band closer to making it big. They are booked for a summer tour from July 14 to July 27. Their tour will take them to various parts of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Half of their shows will be played alongside the band *Cardboard Cutout* from Highland, Indiana.

They recently signed a contract with a small label called Delphine Records, who handles booking their tour, merchandise, CDs, and helps them out financially. They meet with the record label weekly to discuss goals for the year. "We are just going to shows and trying to build connections. We know two guys in *The Audition*, all of the members of *June*, and *The Junior Varsity's* drummer and synthesizer player," said Spencer Birkner. *The Elation* also has ties with *Spitalfield*, who they played with in February. "It was a real blast. They are



real nice guys. It was a lot of fun, and they are very talented musicians," said Fasel.

*The Elation's* CD, *The Elation EP*, will be released May 27 in Highland, Indiana at the Bean Counters Coffee House, where

## Meet the Band: (from left to right)



**Ross Birkner:** Sophomore- Synthesizer and Keyboards

**Dan Pizzoferrato:** Junior- Vocals and Guitar

**Spencer Birkner:** Senior- Vocals and Guitar

**Kyle Fasel:** Junior- Vocals and Bass

**Austin "Sticks" Neely:** Sophomore- Drums

they will also be sharing the stage with *Cardboard Cut Out*, *The Honor Recital* and *Best Days Behind*.

"There is a lot more on the CD [than on the previously released demo]," said Fasel. The group believes that they have matured since their demo. "We have been playing a lot tighter, and we prepared a lot. We do not even play our first songs anymore. We got more ideas, and our songs and lyrics are more intricate. We changed our song structure, and we try to make it different every time," said Fasel. The CDs are professionally done and will be on sale at the shows and online for five dollars.

One thing *The Elation* truly prides themselves in is their original lyrics. "Everyone thinks we are an emo band that writes about girls, but our songs are about various things. A lot of them have really basic ideas.

One is about the basic idea of regret. We have one called 'Lifetime Would Make a Movie about This,' and it is about a girl who wants to be an actress and her struggles. We think of our lyrics as

storytelling. We like them to tell a story and not just be about heartbreak and girls. When we started the band, we promised that we would never write about things like heartbreak and girlfriends," said Fasel. They like their lyrics to be memorable and relate to their fans. "My favorite lyric is 'this could be the soundtrack to the end of our lives' because it is such a catchy line," said Spencer Birkner.

As well as making CDs and connections, *The Elation* is also attempting to be put on the Warped Tour's bill for Chicago's local band this summer. "We will not find out until the end of May. I think we have a decent chance," said Fasel. To try out to be on Warped Tour, you register on the Warped page, [warpedtour.com](http://warpedtour.com), and upload your music. The band that is picked to be on Warped Tour is not decided by how often it is listened to on the site, but by the staff of Warped Tour who make the final decision, but they will listen to the ones that were played the most first "I hope a lot of people listen to ours songs," said Fasel.

*The Elation* will be playing May 19 at the Calvary Assembly of God Church in Flossmoor at 7 pm.

## Tales From the Crib Answers on page 7

**Baby A** is the News Editor of *the Voyager*. He will attend USC next fall to study music industry and is one of the conductors of White Choir.



**Baby B** will be attending Illinois State University next fall. This baby drives a silver Honda Accord and enjoys playing soccer.



**Baby C** is the Editorial Editor of *the Voyager*. When this baby is not playing badminton, she is driving around in her silver Honda CR-V.



**Baby D** writes for the Feature section in *the Voyager*. She plays guitar in Jazz Band I and works at Plaza Pet and Hobbies.



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