

Younger set

Matter of Fact gravitates to blues, Southern rock

Norman Nights

By Sam Boykin
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With the oldest member being only 21, the band Matter of Fact is hardly a bunch of grizzled veterans of the music scene. But the group is far from just some kids tinkering around in the garage. In fact, the band, which formed about a year ago, has played gigs to a growing fan base at locations all over the Lake Norman and Charlotte area, including Feelin' Lucky Tavern, Main Street Pub, Jays @ the Lake, J.B. Frogs and the Double Door Inn in Charlotte.

Lead singer Bryan Olson, originally from Illinois, explains that his dad was in a bluegrass band, so he grew up around music. "Then I heard Stevie Ray Vaughn for the first time, and it just blew me away" says Olson, 18. "I had an old Gibson guitar, and I just started playing."

He joined his first band at age 14, and for years reveled in the hard-edge sound of heavy metal. But then he started to develop a taste for the blues and Southern rock, which now defines the sound of Matter of Fact. The rest of the band includes Jon Norcom, bass; Tim Ferguson, drums, and Alex Giles, keyboards.

The band has shared the stage with several well-known local acts, including Skintonz and Fortified Underground. The group has been fortunate enough to strike up a friendship with members of the Part-Time Blues Band, which has been playing gigs around the Lake Norman area for about two decades.

"They play the kind of music we like, and we really look up to them," says Olson, who is taking guitar lessons from Rusty Barkley, the lead singer of the Part-Time Blues Band.



Matter of Fact plays Big Al's in Mooresville on Feb. 9 and Shooters in Denver on Feb. 23
Photo courtesy of Matter of Fact

While Olson says Matter of Fact still performs mostly cover – including tunes from the Allman Brothers Band, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix – they’re starting to develop their own sound and have been writing more original material. You can check out “Train Station Blues,” the group’s first original song, along with several live song recordings, show dates and other band information at <http://www.Matteroffactnc.com>.

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