

FUNNEL VISION

Listen to Funnel once
and you'll swear you've heard them
on the radio. They have a sound so
commanding and so immediately

appealing they must be national act. Well,
not just yet. But that's not for lack of talent
or lack of trying. While earning a reputa-
tion as one of the most dedicated bands in
town, Funnel has proven themselves to be
one of the better examples of young talent
this area has to offer.

Funnel's own blend of music is hard to
pinpoint. Relying heavily on classic rock
and pop influences, their music has been
compared to that of several bands includ-
ing Van Halen, Creed, and Collective Soul.
In an attempt to describe their music, Phil
Weisenberger, Funnel's bass player, uses
words like "melodic guitar rock," "power-
ful hooks," and "strong vocals"—though
he is hesitant to limit their sound to just
these few phrases.

For a band that's only played together
formally for just over a year, though they've
known each other for much longer, these
five guys—Allen Case (vocals), Matt
Weisenberger (lead guitar), Kevin Rexroat
(guitar), bassist Phil Weisenberger and
drummer Jamie Eads—have already put
their mark on the map.

Early last year, they released their self-
produced debut CD *Wide Open* to very posi-
tive response. An impressive record that
was recorded in just two weeks in Phil and
Matt's basement, *Wide Open* offers what
Phil calls a "good representation of what
Funnel is all about." He also adds that "the
CD feels very much like our live show. It's
fun and full of energy."

A recording engineer, Phil had much
to do with the sound that Funnel achieved
on *Wide Open*. But all songs on *Wide Open*
are credited to the band collectively. "After
we got together," Phil says, "the songs just
flowed out. Everyone ended up putting in
their own ideas, some more than others.
Allen writes the majority of the lyrics and
Matt comes up with a lot of the music, but
a little bit of all of us went into these songs.
So, we decided to credit everyone with the
writing. Besides, we're all in it together.
There's no time to worry about those types
of things. We'd rather devote our time to
making our music better."

In 1998 Funnel managed to win first
place in WKQQ's "Decent Exposure" com-

petition, a feat accomplished while the band
was only a few months old. Opening for
such national acts as Third Eye Blind, Bet-
ter Than Ezra, Candlebox, Spacehog, Drivin'
N Cryin', Antheneum, and Dokken, they've
also managed to present their music to a
large and diverse audience.

This May, Funnel will have yet another
opportunity to play their music for a big
audience. They've accepted an invitation to
play at the 1999 Jammin' On Main Music
Festival in Cincinnati. A two day event, this
festival typically features an assortment of
music ranging from folk to alternative. This
year, Peter Frampton will be in attendance
and Lexington's own Funnel will warm up
the crowd. As of now, Funnel is the only
unsigned act to be appearing on the main
stage. Last year, this festival attracted ap-
proximately 20,000 music fans.

Having already built a solid reputa-
tion in the Lexington area as an impressive
live act, Funnel is looking forward to such
a large audience. "We like to perform," Phil
comments. "We really have a good time.
And we want other people to come to our
show and enjoy themselves too. We feed off
the crowd. If they're into it, we're into it
that much more."

Aside from continuing to expand their
fan base, Funnel is currently working on
new material for their second album which
they hope to release by the end of the year.
"The newer songs are definitely different
from the ones on *Wide Open*," Phil points
out. "They feel more complex to me, more
focused. They're going in a slightly differ-
ent direction... just a natural progression."

"Our future comes up a lot," Phil says.
"We've played together for a while now
and we've known each other even longer.
We feel really comfortable now and I be-
lieve we'll keep playing for a long time.
We're keeping our fingers crossed and we're
working really hard. It all comes down to
the music and I think the music speaks for
itself. We'll keep playing and maybe some-
body will hear what it's saying. We'll just
have to wait and see."

Funnel will play Cincinnati's Jammin' On Main Music
Festival on the Budweiser Stage on Saturday, May 8
at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster
outlets. For more information about Funnel, visit
www.funnel.net. ■

LOCAL BAND KEEPS THEIR EYES ON THE ROAD AHEAD