

# Funnel has had a whirlwind of a year

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CONTRIBUTING MUSIC WRITER



## **Funnel/C.O. Jones**

9 p.m. Saturday at Millenium. \$3.

Few local bands have gotten down to business faster than **Funnel**.

Formed just more than a year ago, one of the quintet's first orders of business was to submit a tape of new songs to WKQQ-100.1 FM's Decent Exposure contest. A month later, they won.

So we're talking roughly six weeks between leaving the starting gate and bagging top honors in one of the region's top talent showcases.

"It's been a whirlwind," bassist **Phil Weisenberger** said. "The first day at Decent Exposure was actually our second show as Funnel."

There were a few things in Funnel's favor, though. The band's members — including guitarist **Matt Weisenberger** (Phil's younger brother), drummer **Jamie Eades**, vocalist **Allen Case** and guitarist **Kevin Rexroat** — have been friends for several years and had previously played in a band called Lancelot. Four of the five went to high school together. Three still live under the same roof — in a house that just happens to include a recording studio.

"We had no idea how people were going to respond to what we were doing," Phil Weisenberger said. "We were writing the music downstairs and enjoying it, but what was everyone else going to think?"

After winning Decent Exposure, Funnel started recording new songs, and the music quickly surfaced on a debut album called *Wide Open*. The band is hesitant to classify or categorize its pop-conscious guitar rock tunes, though.

"Our music is old to people and it's new to people," drummer Eades said. "We've been compared to everybody from Van Halen to Matchbox 20. Nobody can quite seem to pigeon-hole us."

While Weisenberger and Eades said each member brings his own styles and influences to the group, the band's spirit, built on a longstanding friendship, continues to be one of the

driving forces behind Funnel's music.

"We're like family," Weisenberger said.

For information on Funnel's Saturday show at Millenium, call 225-9194.

LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER  
Friday, Jan. 22, 1999



Soon after becoming a band more than a year ago, Funnel's tape of songs won WKQQ-100.1 FM's Decent Exposure contest. The musicians, who are also friends, will play Saturday.