Surprises abound at Jars of Clay show

Josh Pratt

Prior to the Jars of Clay concert on Friday, December 5, I had forgotten how much I loved hearing live music played well. Coming of age at a time when bands like Audio Adrenaline and DC Talk were playing in warehouses in Bartlesville, and Oklahoma had much to offer to the indie alternative scene, I could look to any number of stages and imagine myself up there.

Throughout the years, I’ve continued to replay Burlap to Cashmere songs in my mind while the musical world has moved on. Molly’s Yes, the Flaming Lips, and Garbage seldom play in the streets or jury-rigged stages of Bricktown any longer. Oklahoma seldom draws big-name acts anymore, and even the smaller performers they draw have seemed to offer hyperscripted and overpolished shows. Even such Christian-themed shows feel overpriced and under-emoted. Forgive me if I’ve grown jaded by such concerts.

Seven notes into open-act maestro Stephen Delopoulous’s “Another Day,” all that cynicism was forgotten. Delopoulous’s grace was simple, and his easygoing charm kept the audience asking for more. When he made repeated appearances throughout the concert with the other two acts, he received a welcome befitting of any rock superstar.

Having only experienced Caedmon’s Call prior to the show through their numerous hits on the radio, my expectations for them were limited. Before the show, one long-time Caedmon’s Call fan and his wife told me that Caedmon’s Call was the band that would shine the brightest on stage this night.

Much to my surprise, they were right. The audience remained standing throughout the lengthy set as Caedmon’s Call delivered a powerful religious message through equally powerful singing and songwriting. The lead singer was losing his voice to a cold, which meant that more obscure songs replaced the band’s hits on the set list. Regardless, covers like “Mary” brought out the very best in the group. The finest song performed at the concert all night, “High School Band,” was sung by their guitarist and likely would never have reached audience ears if Caedmon’s Call had been at full health. Had I closed my eyes during the chorus, I would have thought Billy Joel in his River-of-Dreams years was crooning Christian alternative in Norman, Oklahoma.

Caedmon’s Call may have deserved a headline billing for their performance, and many of the concertgoers I spoke to said that Caedmon’s Call was the reason why they came. The main draw, Jars of Clay, failed to rise above the other two acts and build upon the energy of the arena. Songs like “Lonely People” and “Frail” rose above other, less-seasoned tunes.

Like any quality show, it ended at a peak, with Stephen Delopoulous joining Jars of Clay for an inspiring rendition of “I’ll Fly Away.” In doing so, it gave the audience and me something to look forward to next time, something to come back for. This time, I know it won’t be long before I come back.
Norman, OK
Friday, January 30th, 2004
7:00 PM ~ Doors open at 6:00 PM
Lloyd Noble Center
For More Information Call:
(405) 325-3838
Editor’s choice Websites

Do you have a desire to know more about God, grow in your relationship with Christ, or learn more about what Christians believe? The Bible is the primary source to turn to. Here are some favorite internet links of mine that may help in your personal studies. I may not agree with the full content of the web-sites, but they have some awesome free resources that I believe would benefit everyone. I know that you will be amazed by the content of www.christiananswers.com which has more resources than I could ever list and they include a lot of videos on-line.

www.icr.org, www.ou.edu/css, and www.drdino.com include a lot of evolution and creation research.

www.biblegateway.com is a searchable Bible on-line with a concordance and many translations available.

www.crossministry.org is a ministry that reaches out to those struggling with temptations of homosexuality.


www.livingwaters.com includes Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort, ministry stuff, videos, and audio links.

www.wallbuilders.com and www.presidentialprayerteam.org has some great stuff about America’s Godly heritage.

www.higherpraise.com has early church writings for free on-line. You can get a free CD with church reformers writings at this ministry’s website: www.FreeBibleSoftware.com or by calling 1-866-66-BIBLE.

www.ou.edu/beaconou has all of the past editions of the BeaconOU on-line, information about future events, and web links to other campus ministries. May Truth Increase!!!

Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the University of Oklahoma or its student body. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from or with a Christian perspective. Our personal relationship with Jesus compels us to share this treasure and the “Truth” with the world. This edition is funded by the USOA. Our source of funding is God, “Jehovah Jireh”. His Holy Spirit moves on His people’s hearts to give financially in order to support printing. We hope to get 15 more people who will make a dedication to give $10 per edition. There are 8 editions per school year. If this is you, send an e-mail to beaconou@ou.edu with your intentions. If you have an upcoming event that you think we might be interested in, send us some details. If you have any questions, suggestions, or opinions to the editor about any articles, you can contact us at beaconou@ou.edu. Visit our web-site at www.ou.edu/beaconou. It includes info. about our organization, upcoming plans to show spiritually educational films, and all of the past editions on-line. We will not print vulgar articles. We are an open forum to discuss how Christianity fits within our world today. President: Ricky Thomas, Vice-President: Chase Parsons. Secretary: Ashley Gibson. Treasurer: Ketiesha Brown. All articles and content Copyright 2004 held by individual authors or otherwise the BeaconOU.
Intelligent Design and Evolution Awareness Club @ OU

The Intelligent Design Evolution Awareness Club is a student-run organization devoted to promoting open, friendly discussion over issues related to Intelligent Design Theory, the scientific status of Evolution, and the proper relationship between Science and Religion. The IDEA Club at the University of Oklahoma holds Bi-weekly seminars discussing various issues relating to the above topics\(^1\).

**Who is OU IDEA?**

A lot of people generally think two things when they hear the name Intelligent Design and Evolution Awareness Club: these people are dorks and/or these people are just trying to use science to promote religion. To dispel the first myth, we are not dorks. Evidence? Well, although the OU IDEA club has a lot of science majors, we also have one or two business majors to balance the dork factor! But I guess that we will have to confess that everyone in the group likes to read science books for fun.

Now, to dispel the myth that we are merely using science to promote a religion. Well, we aren’t. The IDEA club takes a semi-objective stance towards Christianity and other religions\(^2\). We never have proposed that science can be used to say which Designer did the designing, and we only suggest that Intelligent Design is detectable in the universe.

At most IDEA club meetings there are usually one or two biology or zoology professors. One would think that these professors would attempt to argue the science behind Intelligent Design, or argue that naturalistic Evolution is true. This simply doesn’t happen. Instead, evolutionist faculty and graduate students usually ask for proof of who the Intelligent Designer is and why the Designer created a world with pain and suffering. We always kindly explain that the point of IDEA Club is not to promote any particular religion and that science is unable to follow or answer the problem of pain and suffering; both questions are questions of philosophy, not science. Intelligent Design theorists come as Muslims, Christians, Agnostics, etc. We stress that science can’t tell you which religion to follow or how to answer questions of philosophy, but that doesn’t mean those questions are invalid or illegitimate.

**What does OU IDEA do?**

Historically, OU IDEA brings in lecturers to speak on Intelligent Design and Evolution. We have brought in scientists from fields ranging from Physics to Molecular Cell Biology. Also, some of our student members will give lectures throughout the semester. OU IDEA Club will continue these lectures this semester and we also plan on adding some book studies, ID movie and discussion groups, and round table discussion events.

**How to get involved in OU IDEA**

- Come to our meetings! We will have our meetings posted on our website: [www.OUIDEA.com](http://www.OUIDEA.com). There should also be some chalkings and flyers around campus.
- Email us. [ideaclub@ou.edu](mailto:ideaclub@ou.edu) We can give you the information for our meetings and we can put you on our email list so you will be notified of our movie nights, round table discussions, and other events.
- For resources about Intelligent Design and Evolution, check out our website: [http://www.ou.edu/css/resources.html](http://www.ou.edu/css/resources.html)

(Endnotes)

\(^1\) OU IDEA Club Mission Statement

The purpose of the Intelligent Design and Evolution Awareness Club is to:

- Promote, as a scientific theory, the idea that life was designed by an Intelligent Designer
- Educate people about scientific problems with purely natural explanations for the origins and evolution of life
- Challenge the philosophical assumptions of Darwinism, naturalism, and materialism
International Student Friendship kicks off the semester!

Wayne Edwards

We are starting our Monday night meetings again at 7:30PM at RomeXII just above Papa John’s Pizza. We will be having games to get to know each other and conversation circles in which you can practice your English. It will always be fun. :) As for events, we will have a lot more this semester.

Jan 23, Friday – Ice Skating – We will be renting a rink in OKC from 10PM to Midnight. ISF, several other International Student groups, and maybe even some people from ISF in other Oklahoma universities will be coming together to skate and play broom ball (field hockey on ice but without ice skates). The cost will be $6 per person and we will be meeting to carpool at about 9.15PM at RomeXII.

Jan 24, Saturday – Chinese New Year – ISF is helping the Society of Chinese Students and Scholars with their annual celebration. It will be 6PM at Trinity Church. Tickets and further information will be available starting Wednesday at the SCSS table in the Union for $6 each or two for $10, or $8 each if purchased at the door.

Jan 26, Monday – Potluck – This will be during our normal ISF meeting at RomeXII. Please bring food and we will all share in our wealth of cultural delicacies.

We will of course be having even more events coming up this semester so give us a visit.

Wayne Edwards, OUISF 413-3713
Visit our site! http://www.ou.edu/student/isf/

My Friend by SMW

He entered my life when I was a boy
I was proud of my new found friend
And in the beginning I was filled with such joy
Then soon it would come to an end

The world around me had come into play
There were important things to do
I could visit with him some other day
Maybe while feeling blue

Thinking that once in my heart He would stay
I could live as I chose and move on
But as years passed by I slipped farther away
With the presence of Him, all but gone

The life I was living seemed to be well
Outside pleasures were getting me by
But my heart was becoming an empty shell
I was living an everyday lie

As things would go wrong I was quick to give blame
Where was He when this happened to me?
The anger I felt, would soon turn to shame
For I knew He was still walking with me

At times I would ask a favor for myself
I would think of my friend now and then
But when the day passed, He was back on the ‘shelf’
Until I would need him again

He has so much patience, He sees through it all
He was waiting when I hit the dead end
He filled me with love, picked me up from the fall
My Lord and Redeemer... my Friend

IDEA cont.

- Hold, through other arguments, that the identity of the Designer is consistent with the Christian God.

2 Although intelligent design theory itself is not a religious theory, IDEA itself does have a religious affiliation. Our mission statement says that we hold that “the identity of the Designer is consistent with the Christian God”. Our claim that life was designed by intelligence is a “scientific” claim, while our claim that the Designer is the Christian God is a religious one. For this reason, we promote intelligent design “as a scientific theory” but “hold, through other arguments, that the identity of the Designer is the Christian God”, with those “other arguments” being logical and rational, but typically philosophical, historical, and religious in nature.

We believe the God of the Bible to be consistent with the most current scientific evidence. However, our promotion of intelligent design theory is strictly scientific in nature, and makes no reference to God, religion, or any religious texts. Though there are philosophical issues surrounding our defense of intelligent design theory, the theoretical workings of the theory itself are comprised purely of science.

The fact that IDEA has a Christian affiliation does not negate the scientific nature of intelligent design theory, or make intelligent design “religious” in nature. Many have argued that because many theists promote intelligent design theory, it must be religion. However, to attribute characteristics to something just because those affiliated with it have certain characteristics is to commit the genetic fallacy or to make an ad hominem argument, neither of which are valid lines of argumentation.
Weekly and Special Events

Mondays

 OU Christian Faculty and Staff LUNCH: OU Christian Faculty and Staff only, every other Monday, 12:00 pm. Alma Wilson Rm., OMU and prayer in the weeks between the discussion meetings. For info. contact kstephenson@ou.edu www.ou.edu/faculty/organizations/ouchrfas

ISF - International Student Friendship
Meets at 7:30 PM at Rome XII in Stubbeman Village Mall. For info. Wayne 413-3713 http://www.ou.edu/student/isf

Tuesdays

Chi Alpha XA XAlive meets at 8:00-9:30 PM. at Rome XII above Papa John’s in Stubbeman Village Mall. Come check it out! For info. 325-1377 OUXA@aol.com www.romexii.com Greg & Susan Tiffany OU XA Campus Pastors

Wesley Foundation:
Meeting time: Vespers - 8:00 PM. Web site: www.wesleyou.org Info. Rev. Brad Humphrey 321-6266 wesley@wesleyou.org Bible Studies: 15 different opportunities. Mission opportunities throughout the semester. Frosh Fellowship Sundays 6:30 PM

Christ On Campus: meets at 8:00 PM here at the house at 824 Elm Ave. Contact number is 364-2703 - Todd or Tonya.

CRU: Meets at 9:00 PM at Common Ground (Main St. & University) Info. 473-1387 www.oucru.com shawn.mcgurath@usc.edu

Wednesdays

R.U.F. - Reformed University Fellowship meets at 9:15 PM. Dale Hall Tower Lounge, 9th floor Teaching on Song of Solomon: Dating, Sex and Marriage this semester. Doug www.ouruf.org

Thursdays

Sooners For Christ meets at 7:00 PM for Worship Service 1001 Elm Ave. (405) 321-4474 www.soonersforchrist.org

Baptist Student Union:
Vespers meets at 7:00 PM at 43S W. Boyd For info. (405) 321-2810 www.oubsu.org mailbox@oubsu.org

Jacob’s Ladder Bible Study:
“The Gospel according to Moses.” A Messianic Bible Study in the Book of Genesis meets from 7:00-8:30 PM at 1311 Jenkins Ave. on the corner of Lindsey and Jenkins under Padthai.

LifeStream meets 9:00 PM at Journey Church which is the old Buy for Less building on 12th and Alameda St. Info. Brad Baker- College Pastor 217-8700 Brad@journeyonline.tv www.oulifstream.com

Fridays

African Christian Fellowship meets at 7:30-9:30 PM in the Henderson Tolson Cultural Center. We invite anybody to come and worship with us. Info. tititeriba@yahoo.com

Intelligent Design Evolution Awareness I.D.E.A. club
For more information contact. ideaclub@ou.edu or www.ou.edu/css

BLEACH and JOHN REUBEN with THE FERNS
Join us on Wednesday, February 4th for Bleach and John Reuben. Cost is $5.00 at the door. Doors open at 6 pm. Don’t miss it at Journey Church!

Are you out of the saltshaker?

Jesus teaches us in Matthew 5:13, “You are the salt of the earth,” yet many of us have failed to get out of the saltshaker and become a light to the world. On Saturday January 31st, the OU Wesley Foundation and McFarlin United Methodist Church of Norman will be teaming up to host a one-day conference, “Out of the Saltshaker,” featuring author and speaker Rebecca Manley Pippert. Author of “Out of the Saltshaker and Into the World,” Mrs. Pippert has become world renowned for her innovative ideas and methodology for evangelism. She has been training people in evangelism for over 25 years and has done so on nearly every continent. This will be her first visit to Oklahoma since she was an undergraduate student nearly 30 years ago in our state.

Are you unsure of how to begin sharing the good news with someone? Do you fear offending others or being rejected? What if you are asked a question you can’t answer? All of these questions and more will be answered at this one-day conference which will be geared toward lay leaders, pastors & staff, men & women, collegians & seminarians, and anyone who desires to reach out to neighbors, co-workers, family, or friends.

There will be a Jan. 30th, Friday night seminar held at the OU Wesley Foundation just for college aged young men and women. Friday night’s seminar will last from 7:00-9:30 PM and is free to all students. Saturday’s conference, which is open to all people of all ages, will be from 8:30 to 5:00 PM in Fenn hall at McFarlin United Methodist Church in Norman. The cost for this event, which includes a free catered lunch, is $10 per person. Scholarships are available if needed. Reservations must be made to attend this event. If you would like more information on this great event, publicity packets for your church, or you would like to reserve a spot for you and your friends and family for either Friday or Saturday’s event, call the Wesley Foundation at 321-6266 or email at wesley@wesleyou.org.

Jan. 30th, Friday night seminar could be a great event, publicity packets for your church, or you would like to reserve a spot for you and your friends and family for either Friday or Saturday’s event. If you would like more information on this great event, call the Wesley Foundation at 321-6266 or email at wesley@wesleyou.org.

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By the Grace of God

Aaron Adair

When death comes knocking at one’s door, he or she runs in fear from the problem at hand. This young woman keeps fighting with her faith in the Almighty.

Ashley Wilson is an OU junior who has seen the light of God work in her life. At the age of 17, she was diagnosed with a kidney disease, nephrotic syndrome, which damages the kidney’s filters and causes them not to work.

“The doctors treated me like a guinea pig,” Wilson said.

Wilson’s disease is very rare and hard to treat. She was just waiting for her kidney’s to give out. Her doctors put her on different medications that didn’t work to try to fix her disease. One of her medicines, prednizone, caused her to gain large amounts of weight, but it did little to help her disease.

Then her life took a turn for the better. With severe fatigue from anemia in her blood and nearly failing kidneys, someone sent her to a woman named Glenda Lomax who healed with prayer. Besides healing the body, she also helped heal the mind.

“After I met with her (Lomax) I began to see things clearly,” Wilson said.

It was a real turning point for Wilson as she began to depend on God as her faith and prayer increased tremendously.

“I learned to trust God, and He would take care of it,” Wilson said.

Wilson was able to live life on a normal level without worry because she knew that God was in control.

Wilson waited for her kidneys and her life to give out, now with her life in the hands of God, she began to live with Him in control. A kidney transplant was needed for the brave woman to survive, but the Wilson family could not find a match. The doctors didn’t want Ashley to go to school in the fall of 2002, but the Lord gave her a will to live as she went to school instead of waiting to die. At one point in time, Ashley’s kidneys were working at 6%, and her doctors made her come home and put her on dialysis, which is a process where a machine does the work of the kidneys, for four hours a day.

As her family fell apart in this time of need, Wilson kept her faith in God. She had to be the strong one to help her family. It took two and a half years of waiting to get Wilson a kidney. When the donor was found everyone was happy. She was in and out of school here at OU. The transplant was November 12, 2002, a day that will stick in her mind forever. The transplant went off without a problem.

“She has the greatest attitude about her situation,” said Catherine Fitzell, family friend.

The brave woman even went back to school in the spring of 2003. When she came back, one of her roommates was Faith Ree.

“Ashley is a strong individual,” Ree said, “who really learned to take care of herself,” because of her situation. Ree and the other two roommates made sure all the girls had a clean bill of health when Wilson moved in with them in the spring of 2003. Wilson had to go through post operation testing to make sure the body would accept the kidney because a reoccurrence happens quickly. The situation was under control for a while until Wilson developed some unpleasant discomfort.

Wilson’s blood was not working right. She had to have blood and plasma transfusions in the fall of 2003. The growing of her high level of faith helped Wilson through her difficult times in her situation, Ree said. She said Wilson really trusts God in her journey because Wilson could not do it alone. Ree commented that Wilson is a much stronger person because of her disease. Wilson does not call her situation a disease, but instead she uses it as a way to minister to other people.

She soon found out her disease was back in her new kidney, and she has to go through the whole cycle again. Wilson now waits again for a new kidney. All she can do now is trust and be faithful to God. As she waits, she lives her life to the fullest and enjoys it. The doctors told her the disease will make her life shorter, but what the doctors didn’t know was it has made her life so much better.

This young woman is full of faith and courage. Wilson gets her courage from her faith in God.

“God takes care of us,” Wilson said, “I wouldn’t be here without my faith.”

My New Year’s Resolution is to keep my New Year’s Resolution...

Kaylan Lytle

There is something about a fresh year that evokes people to change. As the clock strikes midnight on January 1st, the desire to better one’s self rings through the halls to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne”. The majority of these resolutions involve depriving yourself of a guilty pleasure, such as junk food or Val Kilmer movies. Studies conducted by this author have proven that the most effective resolutions are not ones that take away from your life, but that add to your life. Therefore, in 2004, I embark on a New Year’s resolution to reinvent my attitude towards life.

I am hereby resolving to acknowledge God more often in my everyday life. The inspiration for this comes from Proverbs 3:6, “In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight”.

At the writing of this article, 2004 is still 2 weeks young. Nevertheless, I have noticed a substantial difference in my mindset. Things that could be written off as a ‘coincidence’, I now see as God’s little love letters to me. It’s the smile in a stranger’s face. It’s the beautiful flower sprouting from weeds. From the smallest blessing of a prosperity parking spot to the answered prayer of a job interview, God’s love and mercy is encompassing the earth.

Not only is this resolution improving my quality of life, it is also strengthening my relationship with my Heavenly Father. I admonish you to find your own resolution to begin tomorrow. Be a rebel; don’t wait for January 1st, 2005! A nice way to start is to look up and watch for God. It will make your heart smile. I’ll be the girl smiling right back at you. It’s a God thing.
Impact of Journey

Aaron Adair

When I went home for the Christmas holidays, I had to go back to the church that I had gone to for so many years before I came to college. I just accepted it before. I am not going to name any names or churches, but here is what happened.

I went to my old church the first Sunday, and I got nothing out of it. It was so rigid and uptight as it seemed like everyone only cared about what everyone thought of their appearance. All of the men wore a suit and a tie like it was a formal event. Doesn’t the hymn say “Come Just as You Are.” The Music had no feeling to it. It seemed so rehearsed. I am sure that it was since there were tens of thousands of people who were in attendance that week.

The preacher got up to the pulpit, and he elevated himself as he spoke down to the people.

I told my mother that I couldn’t go to this church anymore. I had to get back to Norman, Oklahoma to go to Journey Church.

When I sat in my chair at Journey, I looked at all the people in the service, and I saw real people. People were dressed normally: jeans and a collared shirt and so on.

When the music began, I felt people playing with a passion. I felt the presence of God. People weren’t performing, they were worshiping. I could feel the passion of the music leaders as it spread through the building.

When the pastor got up on the stage, he came down to our level. He talks about himself, and he talks about real things. He is there for his congregation. He doesn’t preach and to promote himself, he is there on a real level to help his people.

I was always made to give an offering when I was growing up. I did it begrudgingly for years. When my father passed away three years ago, I quit giving because of all the heartache my father gave me about it for years. The pastor talked about the finances of the church this current Sunday, and the way he talked about it was so passionate. He made me see that giving back to the church would bless my ministries as I helped others. For the first time in my life, I willingly opened up my wallet to give back to God. The Lord has blessed me with a wonderful church.