

EVERMORE

On Track With High—Energy Special Effects

Multi-media show to fill arts center

By Nancy De Gennaro

Lifestyles writer

From visual effects to an artwork display, harmonious vocals to space-like sounds, local band Evermore say their goal is to produce high-energy, encapsulating shows for their audiences.

"We really get into everything, even if it's a quiet song," says band member Chris Rueger.

On Saturday night, old fans and new show-goers will get a chance to experience the special effects of the band at the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts.

The arts center's larger stage and sound and lighting systems will allow Evermore to produce a multi-faceted show, says main vocalist Jeff Germscheid.

"It's very diverse, not the same old thing," asserts Blake Smith, who plays a variety of instruments, as do the others in the band.

At a recent band practice in Nashville, a wide-open warehouse provided an ominous backdrop for rehearsal of the upcoming show.

Sitting on a cold, concrete floor, Germscheid is silhouetted by dim lighting. Almost murmuring, he begins the words to a somewhat dark song, accompanied by a haunting guitar rhythm. Wild, nearly unidentifiable sounds flow from percussionist Vinnie Alibrandi's instruments.

Phrases such as "icicles frozen" and "thoughts decay" paint a dim portrait of the song title's focuses, "Gas Attendant."

The song was written by Rueger and Germscheid, both former em-

ployees at an all-night gas station booth.

"The song is about the kind of thoughts that enter your head when you have a fever at 3 a.m. and you haven't had a customer in three hours," says Rueger.

"We do aspire to do something a little different," says Germscheid, grinning. "It's like we're playing the soundtrack to a movie that's never been made."

But the unique approach to subject material is only part of what makes Evermore distinct.

From classical vocal and percussion training to a variety of musical tastes, each member leans toward a different genre, bringing different styles to the collective whole.

All four met through connections to MTSU, but their experience goes much deeper than a common bond shared by schooling, says Smith.

"Although we have obviously all come from different backgrounds, we share enough to make this work," says Smith, a native Southerner who brings a hint of bluegrass and Southern-style flavor to the group.

As far as writing material, each band member has his own style, too. Then they bring songs back to the group and incorporate an Evermore sound, explains Germscheid.

"We kind of piece all our stuff together," adds Germscheid. "We don't try to worry about genre."

Although Germscheid is the main vocalist and had vocal training, fellow band members Smith and Rueger provide harmony for many songs on the group's two

independently released CDs, "Absinthe" and "Research Among The Ruins."

Alibrandi offers synthesized drum, electronic and percussion flavors for the group's overall sound.

"It's a mishmash of electronic equipment," jokes Alibrandi.

But the computerized equipment is minimal, he says.

"A third of the songs I use electronics," says Alibrandi, adding that he uses various types of drum sounds from around the globe, including East Indian and Mexican-style drums. Through computerization, he can store and reproduce these many sounds without having to lug around all the equipment. "You can get neat stuff with them when you play them backward, or synthesize it."

"We try to do as much as we can high tech, but handmade," says Germscheid, who also will be playing a grand piano at the Saturday performance.

In conjunction with the performance, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, and art show with pieces created by local artist Sarah Neuman will be featured.

"It's a presence that will be made know on the set," explains Smith.

The decided to use Neuman's artwork because they felt it helped convey the meanings and intensity of their music, says Germscheid.

And because having an art show inside a musical performance is a little unique, adds Rueger.

"I think when other bands say they are different," says Rueger, "well, we really are."