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Band brings techno-folk sound to local music scene

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Labels don't work very well for local Baton Rouge band Anachronauts, but at Sound Warehouse and its ilk, musical categories come in handy. Go in and say, "I'd like some rap, Mr. Sound Warehouse man" and he'll point you to the back. Say "Country, please. I love Tanya Tucker." and you'll hear: "Over to the left. Please don't trip over the stacks of Garth Brooks CDs."

But one day, when and if Anachronauts make it big with their CD, you'll be able to go to that same blue-vested clerk and ask, "How about some techno-folk." And then just as quick as the person with the vest can stutter it out, you'll hear: "Oh, you want Anachronauts. That's it over there with the cheap, one-of-a-kind, crayon-written divider."

Anachronauts consists of Stacey Hathaway Burright, vocalist and bassist; Scott Burright, Stacey's husband and the band's guitarist, vocalist, second bassist and main song writer; and Jeff Wood, the band's second guitarist and third bassist, who has been with the band only three weeks.

The band plays its first Baton Rouge show at 9 p.m. tonight at Chelsea's Cafe, with no cover charge.

According to Webster's Dictionary, techno-folk is defined as ...okay, there is no such word according to Webster's. So the members of the band can make up their own definition.

Stacey described the band as "the bastard child of Devo and Peter, Paul and Mary."

Scott said, "We're kind of west of the Seattle Sound, we're more Puget Sound."

Jeff said they're creative.

Well, anyway, they're techno, not because they use synthesizers (they don't), but because they sing about science and the future. And they're folk not because they sing about social causes and the working blue collar man, but because their music is simple in the folk tradition: they each play only guitar and bass, with their drum machine, "Al," thrown in.

"I'd rather play with a drum machine," Jeff said. Stacey agreed: "He doesn't drink all your beer."

In one of their songs, "Perpetual Motion," Scott sings about inventing a perpetual motion machine in his garage while "Shell, Esso and Chevron are out to get me."

In the chorus he sings the word

"perpetual" and Stacey follows with "motion." Their voices mix like Devo and a really good Baptist church choir soloist singing a rousing song to help beef up collection plate donations.

Scott and Stacey met one night while drunk in New Orleans. Stacey started singing show tunes and Scott liked the way she sounded.

Eventually, Scott and Stacey were married on the third floor of the LSU Union by the founder of the Church of the Great Green Frog, who in turn had been married by the founder of the Church of the Subgenius. "My father did not approve," Stacey said.

Anachronauts are nothing if not confusing. Their slogan is "Remember the future. Welcome to the present. Proceed to the past."

What the hell?

"The future never came," Scott explained. "They promised us back in the '50s and '60s hover cars and machines that you press a button on and it would make whatever kind of food you want, but that never happened."

"I think the future will be a lot more like the Flintstones than the Jetsons."