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Life & Times

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People

Gilbert-Brinkman
stars in new series

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Melissa Gilbert-Brinkman said she wanted to do more than just play a foil to comedian Rosie O'Donnell in their new Fox-TV series.



Gilbert-Brinkman

"I was afraid of that, to be honest," Gilbert-Brinkman said. "But they gave me an opportunity, so I proved myself able to do comedy."

In *Stand By Your Man*, Gilbert-Brinkman and O'Donnell portray sisters who move in together after their husbands are imprisoned for bank robbery.

Boesky wants wife
to pay him alimony

NEW YORK — Ivan Boesky, the Wall Street speculator who served two years in prison for insider trading, is suing his wife for \$1 million a year in alimony, a newspaper reported Monday.

The case was filed in civil court last month asking \$20,000 a week for "interim financial support" for Boesky, the *New York Post* reported.

Seema Boesky sued earlier this year to end the couple's 30-year marriage.

"I should not be forced ... to incur further debt while (she) redecorates the marital estate and her penthouse apartment ... and has personal expenses of almost \$42,000 per month," the *Post* quoted Boesky as telling the court.



Boesky

Boesky as telling the court.

Douglas celebrates
102nd birthday

MIAMI — Marjory Stoneman Douglas, who has spent her adult life fighting to preserve the Florida Everglades, is celebrating her 102nd birthday.



Douglas

Plans were for a quiet observance for Douglas, who remains weak after being

hospitalized for a week in February for fatigue, her secretary, Martha Hubbard, said Monday.

Douglas led the successful push in 1947 to designate 1.6 million acres of the "River of Grass" as Everglades National Park.

Brady: Stadium
very accessible

BALTIMORE — Jim Brady said designers have done a great job making Baltimore's new baseball stadium open to people in wheelchairs and with other physical hardships.

"This is a place that's friendly to me

Blind Melon

Lafayette's
Shannon Hoon
catches
a new buzzBy DAVE BANGERT
Journal and Courier

Shannon Hoon just keeps tripping into the things he dreamed about when he left Lafayette for Los Angeles less than two years ago.

Picture in *Rolling Stone*. Regular exposure on MTV. Thousand pieces of fan mail after he appeared in the Guns n' Roses video, "Don't Cry." Choice opening slots on tours for his band, Blind Melon. A major record company pushing Blind Melon as "The Next Big Thing."

Everything's happening so fast for the Blind Melon lead singer. Almost too fast.

So Hoon figured he'd sober up and take it all in.

Hoon hasn't had a drink in 5 1/2 months. But what better buzz could he ask for than the music industry buzzing about Blind Melon's out-of-nowhere career.

"That's surprising, because the lifestyle that appealed to me when I was younger doesn't appeal to me now," Hoon says. "It's easy if you want to come into this business and party every night. I would rather have people take notice of me rather than take notice that I'm at some pathetically put together heavy metal party."

"And right now, everything's coming together the way I dreamed for it to. It's more rewarding being coherent through it."

Hoon comes to Chicago for two sold-out shows on the MTV 120 Minutes Tour this weekend. It'll be the closest thing to a homecoming since he joined Blind Melon. He comes back feeling better than ever.

"It feels good to feel better," Hoon, 24, says. "There were a lot of times that I didn't feel good."

When Hoon left Lafayette in the spring of 1990, he was in trouble with the police, in trouble with drugs, in trouble with booze. Looking up at fellow Lafayette native and Guns n' Roses lead singer, Axl Rose, Hoon headed for Los Angeles. He wanted to parlay the local success as lead singer of heavy metal cover band Sayf Kytten into a success of Hollywood proportions.

He didn't figure on such a dizzying ride.

In Los Angeles, Hoon hooked up with Blind Melon — Thomas Rogers Stevens (guitar), Glen Graham (drums), Christopher Thorn (guitar) and Brad Smith (bass).

Within a year, Capitol Records signed Blind Melon to a recording contract. Hoon also farmed out some backup work for the multi-million-selling Guns n' Roses *Use Your Illusion* discs.



Photo illustration by John Metzinger / Journal and Courier

MTV 120 Minutes Tour

Big Audio Dynamite II, Public Image Ltd., Live and Blind Melon play Saturday at the Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. The show is sold out. Blind Melon, featuring Lafayette native Shannon Hoon, plays first and plays for 40 minutes. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Show starts at 7:30 p.m.

A Friday show is for Northwestern University students only.

But the distractions of Los Angeles were too much for Hoon and Blind Melon. The best analogy Hoon can come up with is that dealing with people in Los Angeles is like kids meeting at the 4-H Fair.

"I remember when I was a kid and I'd come into the city for the 4-H Fair, man," he laughs. "The two big events of the summer — the 4-H Fair and the Colt League World Series. You'd come in and you'd have this premeditated identity."

"You would be Mr. Cool and you were going to be the country kid who was going to pick up the city girl. You

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Misconception about friendship
with Rose bothers Hoon

OK, so Shannon Hoon was the mysterious flannel shirt guy singing with Axl Rose on the Guns n' Roses video, "Don't Cry."

And OK, so Hoon and Rose are from Lafayette. So don't make it my career, Hoon says.

"You know, it's funny because I developed a good relationship with him, obviously," says Hoon, a McCutcheon High School graduate and lead singer of Blind Melon. Rose attended Jefferson High School.

"It's just a matter of two people getting together and singing a song, man. And I swear to God, man, that was it. It's amazing what the people in the media can conjure up. It's definitely left a sour taste in my mouth."

Hoon says he thinks the media's infatuation with his friendship with Rose and the rest of Guns n'

Roses will end when Blind Melon's first record comes out.

"I think once people hear what our music sounds like, they're going to understand we don't sound anything like Guns n' Roses," Hoon says. "I'm not saying we're better or worse. I'm saying we're a totally different kind of music."

The target date for the Blind Melon record is August. Hoon says that seven songs are ready now. He expects to have 12 songs on the first record and hopes to release a five-song EP after that. The first video, "Dear Ole Dad," is playing on MTV.

"We want to take advantage of the buzz," Hoon says. "But we want to make sure it's all for the right reasons."

— Dave Bangert/
Journal and Courier

NOW ON TOUR, FROM OUTTA NOWHERE

Blind Melon has been together for two years. The band is: (from left) Thomas Rogers Stevens, Glen Graham, Christopher Thorn; (standing) Shannon Hoon and Brad Smith.

Hoon

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were never really the 100 percent, relaxed you."

He says that's the way everyone acted in Los Angeles. All of the time.

"We're all from Small Town, America, anyway," Hoon says. Three of the Blind Melon members are from Mississippi. Another is from Pennsylvania.

"So what better thing to do than to stay true to our roots and pick up to another small town somewhere. And we just said, 'How about Chapel Hill, N.C.?' I figured it couldn't drive me anymore crazy than Los Angeles, Calif."

The band bought a house and started writing material for a new record.

Hoon says being couped up together and playing the college bars in North Carolina helped untangle the rag-tag Blind Melon sound.

The music doesn't fit neatly into any one category, but falls along the rock spectrum somewhere between Nirvana and Jane's Addiction.

Even away from the bright lights, big city, Hoon says things have been intense.

Without the benefit of an album out on the record shelves, Blind Melon has toured with

Seattle favorite Soundgarden. The six-week MTV 120 Minutes Tour — a sort of mini-Lollapalooza alternative tour — easily has been selling out 3,000-seat venues. It's the kind of exposure any new band dies for.

"You know what, we've had to turn down things, actually, to let it all grow smaller and slower," Hoon says. "It seems like when things are exploited, they kind of get screwed up."

Once this tour ends April 27, Blind Melon flies to Seattle to finish work on its debut album. The band is working with producer Rick Parasher, who did work on critically acclaimed records by Pearl Jam and Temple of the Dog.

Capitol hopes to have the record out in August.

"I think our timing couldn't be any more perfect, with the success of Nirvana and Pearl Jam," Hoon says. "I really can't wait to get the album shipped back home. I went through some really weird phases when I was in Lafayette and a lot of them were destructive to a lot of friends."

"I want to try to find a peace of mind and let these people know that I finally got myself together, where I don't think they would have ever thought I would."