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## Natty Boh says, 'Oh boy, what a band'

08/17/05

By **MARY T. ROBBINS**

A local rock band has officially teamed up with that one-eyed man with the big black mustache.

Whisky Train, composed of Perry Hall resident Mike Walsh, 26, his brother Dave Walsh, 33, of Parkville, and Nathan Frangowlakis, 32, of Havre de Grace, recently was invited by Pabst Brewing Co. to promote its National Bohemian beer.



The newest pals of Natty Boh get down. Whisky Train, which has partnered with the Pabst Brewing Co. to promote National Bohemian beer, include, from left, Mike Walsh, Dave Walsh and Nate Frangowlakis

The beer, called Natty Boh for short, has long been known as "Baltimore's beer."

Natty Boh was once brewed in Canton and reigned supreme as "the brand of beer in Baltimore," Mike Walsh said. The brand's logo has been a much-loved man with one eye and a black bushy mustache.

Whisky Train has been playing its mix of hard and classic rock throughout the region for three years. In the northeast part of Baltimore County, gigs are frequent at places such as the Emerald Tavern and the Shamrock Inn.

The Walsh brothers grew up in Gardenville, in a home where Elvis and the Beatles were popular. Their father loved everything from Glenn Miller to Led Zeppelin.

"I think that's why we like all that stuff," said Mike Walsh.

The brothers graduated from Calvert Hall College High School, where both were active in the music department. Dave, a drummer since the age of 5, went on to study music at Towson University.

Mike began playing the saxophone in the fourth grade, then took up bass guitar in high school. He studied music at Loyola College and now attends graduate student at University of Maryland-Baltimore County, where he is an academic adviser and teaching assistant while he works on his dissertation in policy history.

It was actually through Mike's graduate studies that Pabst came to learn about Whisky Train. His dissertation is on Prohibition in Baltimore. In doing research, he studied all about old breweries, including the National Brewing Co. Today, bottles of the beer are brewed in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and cans are brewed in Eden, N.C.

Six months ago, on a whim, Mike e-mailed the offices of Pabst Brewing, based in San Antonio, asking if there would be an interest in sponsoring a local band with an eye on revitalizing the Natty Boh brand.

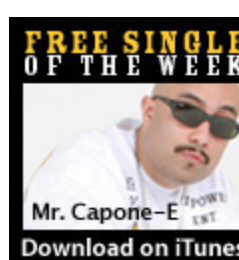
Drinking Natty Boh, "is a chic thing to do now," Mike said. "There are many restaurants serving Natty Boh again. So we figured why not take a chance and see what happens? It was really a shot in the dark. They were more than happy to do it."

A day after the e-mail was sent, Mike received a response. Pabst was interested in a partnership with the band to promote Natty Boh.

"We will cook up some promotional nights where we will give away Natty Boh T-shirts, that type of thing, just to get the name out there," Mike said. "A lot of people view it as and older beer."



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But my friends and I always have Natty Boh on hand."

Arthur Westbrook, division director for Pabst Brewing, said being involved with Whisky Train is part of an ongoing campaign the company has of being involved with the local community.

"We do a lot of things of this type," he said. "It could be a rugby team. It could be anything."

The National Bohemian brand has been around since 1885, according to Pabst.

Westbrook said part of the appeal of Whisky Train to Pabst is that they were big Natty Boh fans and they play at local venues where Natty Boh is served.

"It was an excellent opportunity for both of us," Westbrook said.

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