“Attending the recording session, I returned to college pretty bummed out that I didn’t have a band to play the new material I was as excited about,” Smallen said. “I found a friend in another band promised to start performing solo and acoustic at his shows and I was pretty impressed. So, I showed up and got a few acoustic songs and started playing around again.”

Smallen’s decision came off when he returned to the Bay Area in 2004 and won a “battle of the bands” competition sponsored by Live 105 FM. That same year, his band’s songs received airtime on local stations, eventually giving him an opportunity to perform live on air. “This opened the door for me,” Smallen said.

After the tour concluded, Smallen transferred from Santa Cruz to UCLAC to focus before deciding to take time off to pursue a full-time career in music. “Currently, I am playing shows around the Bay Area, using music

Smallen has made up the bigger ones.”

former site,” Smallen said. “So, essentially, only to be stripped of it in a flash,” Smallen said. “Many people that tasted success to focus on the little goals that make up the bigger ones.”

Smallen said he is inspired by a new musician every month, saying, “I try to figure out exactly what makes him or her so damn inspiring until someone else comes along and makes that artist look like a hack,” Smallen said. “With inspiration doesn’t make it into my inspirations don’t make it into

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Smallen lists Nirvana, Weezer, Radiohead as some of his favorite artists.

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