LOCAL SPOTLIGHT: CAM WHEATLEY

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WRITING MUSIC? I started writing songs five or six years ago with my friend Dylan. We wrote these crass, crude acoustic diss tracks about the people we knew. My music was definitely fueled by fury back then (he said, as if his music wasn’t still fueled by fury)

WHAT HAS YOUR BBURG MUSIC JOURNEY BEEN LIKE? I am a meek person with an aversion to self-promotion and I was lucky that I had supportive people who helped me get out and play. The first show I played was with Paper Anthem @XYZ and the only the bands were there. I played twice as long as I should’ve and got very emotional and made the six person audience uncomfortable. I’ve come along way since and I’ve opened for artists like St. Lenox and Mannequin Pussy--critically acclaimed acts. It’s really cool that the Blacksburg DIY scene can attract those kinds of artists and that locals artists like me are given the opportunity to develop and grow.

HOW HAVE YOU TRANSITIONED BETWEEN WRITING MUSIC AND WRITING POETRY? I think there’s a greater divide between poetry and songwriting than most people realize. With songwriting you can patch together social observations, internal processing,