

Students record two songs

Jim Earl, Armin Friedli, and an expensive ukelele started making music together in 1969 in San Antonio, Tex. Seven years later and minus the ukelele, they have made a 5 r.p.m. record and are sending copies of it to various recording companies in hopes that one will be interested in their talents.

Earl is a junior environmental design major and a member of the "Fightin' Texas Aggie Band" at Texas A&M University. Friedli is also a junior and is majoring in veterinary medicine.

"The whole thing snowballed," Earl said. "Right now we have the 'I want to be famous.' It's really past the hobby stage," he said.

Earl and Friedli frequently perform at the Basement Coffeehouse in the Memorial Student Center at A&M. Earl recalls the first time he played there.

"I knew I'd have a tremendous

fear of being up in front of people but we played at 5:30 in the morning in front of about three drunks," he said.

"It's a lot of fun up there, to get up and play—you really lose your stage fright," Friedli said.

Earl said the Coffeehouse has given them valuable practice for making their record. Both play the guitar, sing and compose songs.

Earl sings melody and Friedli sings harmony.

The songs on the record are "The Song That Ginger Missed" and "Kichkinet".

"We were playing for some girls to

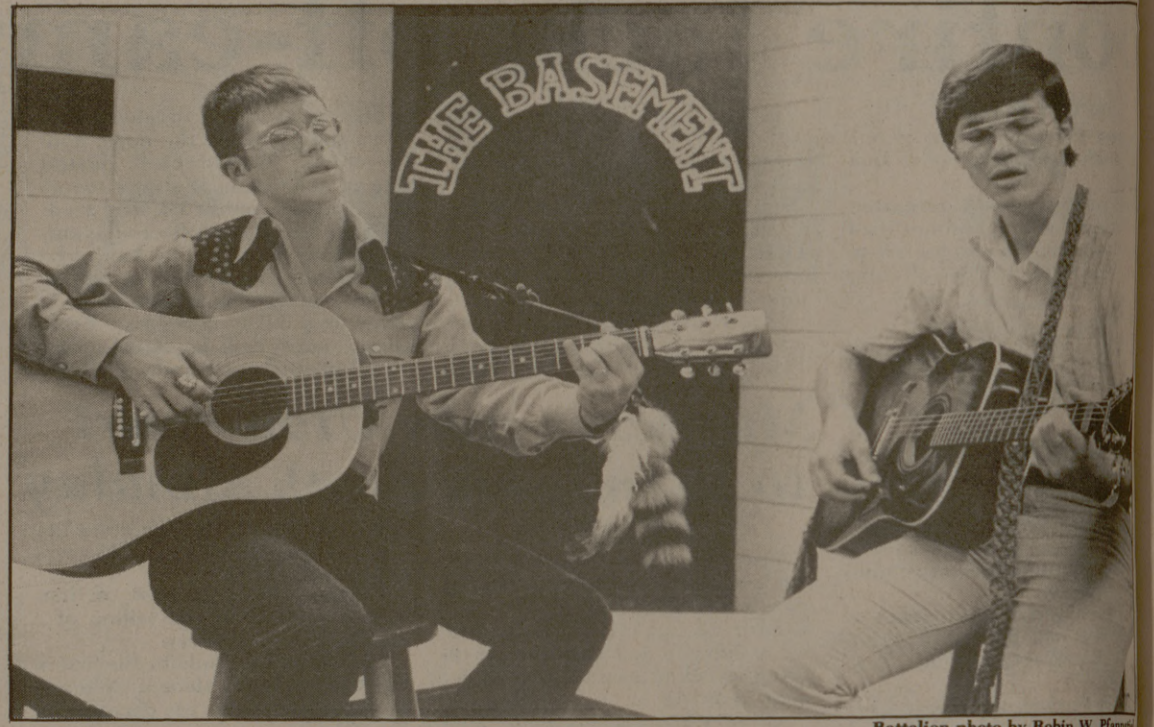
get some chocolate chip cookies and one girl went to the powder room and missed that song," Earl said. "She came back and they said to play that song—the one that Ginger missed. That's how we named one of them."

"Kichkinet" means 'the guide', Earl continued and is a tribute to the Delaware Indians.

"They had an almost perfect society. It was called the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. They were annihilated by the white man; I've always had compassion for them," he said.

A song needs support and backing from influential recording companies to really become popular, Earl said.

"I don't care how raunchy a song is," he said, "if you have the backing you can make it. A little money on the side makes sure the song gets played a certain number times every day," he explained. "You've got to admit 'Disco Duck' just doesn't do it."



Battalion photo by Robin W. Pannas
James Earl (left) and Armin Friedli rehearse their act in The Basement in the MSC.

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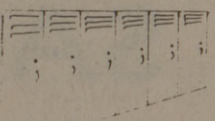
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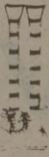
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Fatties learn to think 'normal'

BOSTON—A psychologist says he's helping fat people lose weight by showing them subliminal images of slender people and insects crawling through calorie-filled treats.

"We are trying to make fat people think 'normal,' which they don't know how to do. They think 'fat,'" said Hal C. Becker, director of the clinical and behavioral engineering lab at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Becker yesterday said his patients attend 90-minute sessions each week, during which they watch videotaped messages on diet and nutrition. During the tapes, background images are flashed on the screen too quickly to be consciously noticed.

The images are of slim, handsome men and women in attractive surroundings, interspersed with others of insects and devils scampering over

foods the dieter is supposed to avoid. At the end of each dietary message, the background images become clearly visible. Becker told a convention of the Alliance for Engineering in Medicine and Biology.

Dieters also are videotaped from the neck down and as they lose or fail to lose weight are shown the tapes of themselves, he said.

This, Becker said, offers "significant reinforcement when they have done well and powerful aversive conditioning when they have done badly."

Becker conceded that some psychologists might disagree with the effectiveness of the subliminal techniques, but he said he was convinced they work.

Of 42 persons who attended at least half of the sessions between September 1974 and March of this year, 29 lost between 11 and 20 pounds, he said. In most cases, Becker added, they maintained the new weight or had lost still more six months later.

He said the program costs \$150 a join.

Gambling fever fills Reno, pawn shops; empties pockets

RENO, Nev. — Pawnshop owner Ron Mack says he's seen patrons jerk out their gold teeth with pliers to hock for \$10 to gamble with. But he says that's not the best

story. "One guy hocked his glass eye in a pawn shop here — the store owner bought it as a joke."

This city of 120,000 is built around gambling. Last year more than 8.5 million visitors poured into Reno and many contributed to Nevada's reported gambling earnings of \$193 million.

Reno's downtown casinos only take money, but the six nearby pawnshops take television sets, jewelry, guns, tools and more in exchange for money. And much of that money, shop owners say, goes immediately into the casinos.

His shop is filled with musical instruments, appliances, jewelry, sporting goods and perhaps the less marketable items such as a stuffed bear (small), a moose head (large) and a stuffed goat (medium size).

"It's funny. Sometimes people come to Reno with \$500 to lose. They lose that and they can't stop playing. They lose a sense of value and maybe hock a diamond ring and play some more. Maybe they win and come back for the ring, maybe they don't," Mack said.

He emphasized that not all his patrons are gambling losers who would hock their last possession for money. But he also made it clear there are times when people come to Reno and leave behind most, if not all, of their belongings in pawn shops.

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