

Austin-based trio will perform here

By LYLE LOVETT

"Where's the Indian? Check, Mike check."
"Who knows?"
"Check, how's that?"
"Sounds pretty good. Take a little off the bottom and add some on top."

The soundman looked bewildered. "Can you guys do the check without him?"
"Sure, it's not important, he's only the lead singer. Check."
"Do it once without the guitar. Now do it with the guitar. That's fine."

The sound check was over and the soundman still looked bewildered. "Just adjust his about where mine's set. He's easy to work with."

The two put away their guitars and bounced off the stage. Their names are David Lloyd and John Fannin. There was still no sign of "the Indian," Tom Elskes. When the three are together they become Kiwi, an acoustic trio comprised of three voices, two guitars and a set of spoons. The trio, based in Austin, books with Moon-Hill Management.

The setting was the National Entertainment and Campus Activities Association National Convention held last week in the New Orleans Hilton. Kiwi was preparing for the final event of the convention, the Coffeehouse Showcase. They were one of six acts to present their music in a 20-minute set to coffeehouse representatives from colleges across the country.

Kiwi will perform Friday and Saturday at Texas A&M in the Basement Coffeehouse. The trio also will perform Friday at 1 p.m. by the Rudder Fountain. They will conduct a workshop in the Basement Coffeehouse Saturday at 3 p.m. Kiwi's "Austin City Limits" performance is being shown throughout the week by the MSC Video Tape committee.

Fannin suggested going to the bar for the interview. They ordered beer from the cocktail waitress in short shorts who explained that people in New Orleans all sound like they are from New Jersey. They left her a big tip.

Fannin spoke up first. Fannin always speaks up first. "We're terrible at interviews," he said. "I slandered the hell out of Moon-Hill one time. What would be a good question?"

Lloyd began to help. "How long have you been playing guitar?"
"No, that's boring," said Fannin. "My goal in life is to marry Annette Funicello and clean up my room every Wednesday."

About that time a fellow in a T-shirt and faded blue jeans wandered in with a girl. The fellow was Elskes. Kiwi was now complete.

Around the table the three discussed material for their set and seemed relaxed, considering a short 20 minutes would make or break their convention appearance. They weren't worried. An air of looseness surrounded the trio. Fannin joked some more with the cocktail waitress.

The history of Kiwi goes back to Albuquerque, N.M. Lloyd and Elskes went to the same high school and Fannin attended one across town. The three are in their mid-20s and have been playing together for about two-and-one-half years.

Fannin had been in the army and Lloyd was a waiter. They began as a duo and were soon joined by Elskes, who said, "It was either that or go to Iowa and frame houses for the winter."

The trio's first gig was in Vail, Colo. After that they moved to Austin because they found the most responsive audiences were made up largely of people from the South. "If it hadn't worked there, we would have moved to Memphis," said Elskes.

Their first gig in Austin was at the



Kiwi, an Austin-based group who will "be on the brink of success for 10 years," will perform this weekend at the Basement Coffeehouse. From left are Tom Elskes, John Fannin and David Lloyd, who make up the group.

Texas Chili Parlor playing for tips. A chili parlor employee convinced some Moon-Hill people to listen to Kiwi. Texas folk artist Steven Fromholz financed a demo tape and Kiwi became a Moon-Hill act.

Much of Kiwi's material is its own. One of Lloyd's songs, "Early Morning Riser," was recorded by Steven Fromholz on his second album. The group also performs songs by the Beatles, Taj Mahal, James Taylor, Crosby, Stills & Nash, and Little Feat.

Although in no hurry to sign a recording contract, Kiwi does enjoy thinking of titles for prospective albums. Their current favorite is "Too Stuffed to Jump, Too Stewed to Play" to go along with a new composition by Elskes called "Too Fat to Fly."

Fannin says one of their biggest accomplishments in the past 18 months is traveling in a 1968 Ford Fairlane. They took out the back seat to have room for the equipment and they pile in front.

Lloyd's beer was about gone. Fannin just knocked his over and Elskes sat quiet.

"Do you have enough stuff there?" Fannin asked.

"Just tell 'em we'll be on the brink of success for ten years," Lloyd said.

Elske added, "Yeah, the best garage band to come out of Pojoaque, New Mexico."

Energy problem topic for UT prof's speech

Americans face an energy crisis much worse than any effects of the coal strike that is closing parts of the East and Midwest, one expert says.

Dr. John J. McKetta, professor of chemical engineering at the University of Texas, will speak March 7 at 8 p.m. in 601 Rudder Tower.

The topic of his program, sponsored by Great Issues, is "The Energy Crisis Grows Worse and Worse."

McKetta is the E.P. Schoch professor of chemical engineering at Texas and has received several awards for excellence in teaching. He was appointed in 1970 by President Nixon and Secretary of Interior Walter Hickel to chair the National Energy Policy Committee and has published more than 255 technical articles covering his research.

McKetta has been engaged in environmental work most of his professional life. In 1939 he was the chemical director of the C.B. Schmeible Co., one of the world's

largest environmental concerns. He served as chairman of the National Air Quality Control Commission for the National Academy of Science and Engineering from 1970-1975.

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Outdoor theater plans new concessions area

Texas A&M University President Jarvis Miller has authorized expenditure of \$32,000 for the first phase of a project to improve facilities at the Grove, summer entertainment area for the University.

The money will be primarily used to build a new concessions area and purchase new seating for the outdoor movie theater.

The concessions area is essential

to the Grove's operation because it provides the major financial support of the summer movies project, University officials said.

The new seating will include 150 new benches and six new bleachers.

Construction will begin immediately and is scheduled for completion by the first of June.

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