

Joyful jazz

Preservation Hall Jazz Band shares music

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Staff

Jazz. It is a term synonymous with Louie Armstrong, Bourbon Street and New Orleans. Texas A&M University received a sweet taste of jazz Wednesday night as New Orleans' Preservation Hall Jazz Band shared an evening of music with a large, enthusiastic crowd in Rudder Auditorium. The performance was, in a word, entertaining.

Demond, trombone; Cie Frazier, drums; Percy Humphrey, trumpet; Willie Humphrey, clarinet; Allan Jaffe, tuba and James Miller, piano.

Members of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band played from their hearts — truly the only way jazz can be played. Whether they were playing solos or as a group, they played with feeling. They created a togetherness that filled the auditorium. Using a little imagination, the listener could have been sitting on the wooden floor of a crowded Preservation Hall enjoying the heartbeat of the Crescent City.

blues tunes and even a little piano boogie woogie. It did not matter to the audience that many of the songs were unfamiliar; all were enjoyed as evidenced by the frequent standing ovations the band received.

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Vocal numbers including "Hold That Tiger" sung by Percy Humphrey and "Lisa Jane" sung by Willie Humphrey also added to the band's appeal. The best vocal was sung by Kimball on a song called "Memories." The banjo player's quivering voice was reminiscent of the singers heard on the Victrola in movies like "The Great Gatsby."

Twice during the concert Willie Humphrey performed a soft-shoe dance much to the delight of the audience. The audience, however, was waiting for the inevitable. They had come to hear the one song that is the trademark of New Orleans jazz. And the Preservation Hall Jazz Band ob-

liged with "When the Saints Go Marching In."

As Percy Humphrey sang the familiar tune, Willie Humphrey led other members of the band off the stage and into the audience, where he invited a standing, clapping crowd to join in a march through the aisles and onto the stage with the band. The audience was indeed in the number when the Preservation Hall Jazz band went marching in.

As was printed on the cover of the band's program, "The effect upon the audience is devastating."

When banjo player Narvin Kimball broke a string on his instrument during the concert, there were no back-up banjos. Kimball simply sat down and fixed his banjo while the other members of the band improvised around him.

And the Preservation Hall Jazz Band did play the music. Interspersed within the toe-tapping jazz numbers were a variety of lazy riverboat melodys, slow-moving

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It was entertaining because there is a simple purity to jazz that is not found in other forms of music. It is a head-clapping and toe-tapping purity. A straight-legged trousers, white shirt and necktie purity. Jazz is simple, honest music.

Marine bacteria possible pollution-control agents

GALVESTON—Preliminary reports from marine biologists at Moody College are suggesting that marine bacteria isolated from the north Texas outer continental shelf may be effective oil pollution control agents.

"Species isolated have exhibited a marked growth in the crude oil," said Dr. J.R. Schwarz. "After the bacteria have attacked and broken down the oil, we analyze the remaining oil to determine which reactions have been utilized."

"The bacteria we are using were isolated from an area of the Texas coast not influenced to date by oil production. The results help us know that natural bacteria are capable of dealing with minor oil pollution, if it should occur in the future," he said.

Knowledge of the degradation of oil is important to marine biologists and the oil companies interested in beginning production in that part of the offshore area," added Steve Alexander, another member of the research team.

The Moody College team is headed by Schwarz and includes Alexander and Steve Schropp. Bacteria used in the study were isolated from sediments taken from the outer continental shelf in 1977

during research expeditions funded by the Bureau of Land Management. The isolated bacteria have been kept in a laboratory at the Fort Crockett campus of Moody College for future studies.

The laboratory studies have attempted to duplicate the Texas offshore environments — temperature, salinity (salt content) and nutrient content.

It appears that bacteria deal with oil rather quickly in laboratory culture, Schropp said. The degradation of the oil can be accomplished in a matter of days, but Schropp noted the crude oil is not completely destroyed. The bacteria will use a certain portion of the oil's chemical makeup. The rest will be utilized much more slowly.

The researcher said studies such as these all add to a better understanding of the effects of oil on the marine environment, in which man is basically a stranger. Many new areas of the Texas offshore seas are being considered for oil production, and there is no reason to go in blind, he said.

Texas A&M University's Organized Research Funds were used to conduct the laboratory study. Organized Research is a state approp-

riation to fund practical research of benefit to all Texans.

This is the first bacteria study of this kind at Moody College.

"We expect the development of hydrocarbon analysis capabilities at the college to allow further research in this area. It opens up a new area of study for the college," Schropp said.

All crude oil is not the same. Crude oil from Louisiana is different from crude oil from Texas. The bacteria native to a particular part of the sea environment will react differently with varying types of oil, the scientists emphasized.

Another three plead guilty to GSA gift fraud scandal

United Press International
BALTIMORE — Three more of the 18 men indicted on fraud and kickback charges involving the scandal-ridden General Services Administration have pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud the federal government.

Tuesday's appearances by two former GSA managers and a Navy department official brought the number of those who have pleaded guilty to eight in charges involving the GSA's self-service stores.

Last week five other men — two executives of Hill's As-

sociates Inc. of Westminster, Md., and three GSA store managers — pleaded guilty to charges listed in the September indictment of the 18 men.

The latest guilty pleas were made by former GSA managers Roger Wilt of District Heights, Md., and Johnnie Sykes of Oxon Hill, Md., and Eugene Proctor of Washington, an official with the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Arlington, Va.

Federal prosecutors recommended a maximum six-month prison sentence for Wilt, a nine-month term for Sykes and

60 days in jail for Proctor in plea bargaining arrangements. No sentencing dates were set.

Prosecutors said Wilt and Sykes received gifts from Hill's after billing the government for folders never delivered by the company. They said Proctor signed receipts for 40,000 hanging folders that were never delivered in return for gifts.

The indictment named current and former managers of the GSA's self-service stores and other federal employees who purchased supplies for their agencies at GSA stores.



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