

Local

International project set for summer

By CATHIE FEIGHL

Battalion Reporter
This summer Texas A&M University students will participate in the first international service project co-sponsored by the Texas A&M Office of International Services and the Memorial Student Center Travel Committee.

The students chosen to participate in the project will be living and working in poor and rural areas of the Dominican Republic from four to five weeks.

"We're going to be living on a lower level — the level of the people — and we are going to work and participate and experience what the third world is all about," said Dr. Donald Boucher, director of International Services, and one of the project initiators.

Boucher said the students will be performing social services such as teaching or cooking meals for small children in an orphanage. They may help construct dwellings for the poor and give vaccinations; and they may have the opportunity to work with the National Forestry Service of the Dominican Republic in trying to improve land growth.

Interviews to select the 15 students for the project are being conducted this week by a panel of MSC Travel Committee chairmen and Boucher. Julie Drewry of the MSC Travel Committee said they have received more than 20 applicants so far. They are interested in students who want to do service projects, and who also have a sincere interest in other people.

Boucher said the idea of the service project began last October when students asked why A&M did not have any project of this type.

He said there are many foreign students on the Texas A&M campus getting involved in American life, but Texas A&M is behind other schools in getting its American students involved internationally.

"The purposes are to enable the student to learn more about a country by experiencing that country, and to do some project in



Photo by Linda Warinner

Leah Huddleston, a sophomore psychology major, plays a requested punkrock album for a customer at Music Express.

that country that would contribute to the development of the country," Boucher said.

Boucher said they chose the Dominican Republic for the project because of its extraordinary ties with Texas A&M. There are 147 former Texas A&M students living and working in the Dominican Republic, and the Texas A&M Agricultural Extension Service has done work there, he said.

Students participating will pay their own travel expenses, but the MSC Travel Committee is seeking support for some of the other expenses. Drewry said the MSC Overseas Loan Fund will be available to students in the project.

Punkrock catching on here

By Catherine J. Thomas

Battalion Reporter
Riddle: What has pink hair, shredded clothes, lots of chrome trim and jumps up and down?
Answer: A punkrocker doing the pogo.

The next question is: what's the pogo?
The June issue of Life magazine says the pogo is a dance that makes the person look like he's jumping on a pogo stick, except there is no stick.

It's easy to do. Just jump with your legs together, or apart, and flop your arms up and down to a song like "Crack That Whip" by Devo.

But punking is more than pogoing. Punkrock is more complex than it seems. What most people think is punkrock, may really be ska or new wave.

Life says ska music is: "bouncier than younger brother reggae, blended with a strong dance beat" and a Jamaican influence.

Examples of ska bands are the Specials, Madness, the Selecter and the Beat.

The line between punkrock and

new wave isn't quite as distinct.

"Both of them are still in transition," Roger Wieting, a disc-jockey for KANM said. New wave is what "fits the transition."

He said, on the other hand, punk is a "heavier form of new wave."

Bands like Blondie, the Cars and the Police are considered new wave because "they're not screaming about how messed up the world is," Music Express's Eddie Potter said.

Doug Welch, the manager of Music Express, said about 15 percent of the records they sell are punkrock or new wave. "They surpass what we sell of soul, easy listening or classical music. It's a respectable chunk."

He said the store is expanding its punk-new wave selections three-fold. "It's really catching on."

The reason for new wave's recent popularity, he said, is its return "to the roots of rock and roll."

Welch said the music in the '70s was white men concentrating on imitating black men with rhythm-and-blues.

But, new wave is "very white," he said.

Doug Jones, a sophomore political science major and a new wave enthusiast said there is no real punk-new wave scene in College Station. "There's not even a (night) club, how can you say there's a scene?" he said.

Jones said when the Skunks (a band from Austin) came last semester the big crowd showed there was an interest.

"But when there's a new-wave party in College Station all they play is the B-52s, the Police, the Cars and Devo," Jones said.

New wave has good lyrics, he said, "usually there's a political, religious, or a life-in-general message in them."

"Punk is more of the safety pins and the pink hair," Jones said. "The Sex Pistols, the Damned and the Clash are some of the more

popular punk bands."

To understand punks it is also important to know the history behind them.

Punk started in England around 1976 as a working-class revolt against unemployment and living conditions. These young and usually untrained musicians wanted their own identity. So that's why punks proudly sport rainbow-colored, closely cropped hair and torn T-shirts.

Jones said being a nonconformist in College Station has its hazards. "When I pierced my ear people just looked at me like I was strange. After a couple of weeks I took it out."

With punkrock band names like the Vomit Pigs, the Legionnaire's Disease, the Cramps and the Mydolls, their desire for nonconformity is obvious.

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