

Local

# 'Nuclear polka' blasts A&M



Photo by Dave Einsel  
Carl Finch, lead vocalist for the Brave Combo, changes the nuclear structure of a polka in the Grove Friday night.

By KATHLEEN McELROY  
Battalion Staff  
Boy, it was real neat. Everybody was outside in the Grove pogo-ing their punk sunglasses off, bebopping in their skinny ties to the electric sounds of "The Beer Barrel Polka."  
(Back up — try again. "The Beer Barrel Polka.")

Until Friday night I — who would only two-step under life-threatening conditions — had

bers of the entire evening.  
But Brave Combo was only the opening act for Friday's doubleheader — after all, everyone was really punked out to see The Skunks, an Austin New Wave band that sold-out two performances last semester at Texas A&M University.

Luckily, after the Combo's strenuous jam session, everyone in the packed Grove had time to rest and enjoy the night breezes because the Skunks didn't appear for another 30 or 40 minutes.

But when they got started, it was exercise time for New Wavers once more.

The Skunks play pure New Wave music — they're not as accessible as the Cars or as commercial as Blondie. In fact, all their songs basically sound alike — but all sound good. The three-man group plays with as much energy as their fans use dancing.

And thanks to the MSC Basement's good wisdom, there was enough room for everyone to dance. The benches — where sat the calm and unsweaty or the totally pooped — were far from the stage leaving a large open space. The Basement, which sponsored this concert and Brave Combo's solo show on Thursday, was blessed with a beautiful night filled with music until the midnight.

So the evening was a success — with Brave Combo providing the fun of nuclear polka, and the Skunks jamming on the funk of New Wave.

### Review

never considered dancing a polka. That was until I experienced Brave Combo — the world's only nuclear polka band.

The Denton-based band plays legitimate polka, tango and rumba music. But Tim Hendrix's saxophone adds a bizarre twist — behind those sunglasses and candy-striped jacket, lives a man who could turn "Home on the Range" into a punk polka. Don't believe it?

Would you believe "The I Can See For Miles Polka," a mutation of the classic Who number which became one of the evening's big songs?

Who knows. Maybe one day "The Hey Jude Waltz."

Sure, any good nuclear polka band can play polka, tango, waltz and rumba music. But what have they done for rock music lately — can they play New Wave?

The Combo had the Grove bouncing to "Shopping at the K-Mart," one of the best num-

# Runners of all ages stride in marathon

By NANCY FLOECK  
Battalion Reporter  
The restlessness was almost as high as the humidity Saturday as 413 runners gathered under cloudy skies for Texas A&M's Fifth Annual Marathon.

Two hours, 40 minutes, 28 seconds and 26.22 miles after he took off, Tinker Murray sailed across the finish line, to make running a marathon look as easy as crossing the street.

Murray, a 29-year-old doctoral student, said winning Texas A&M's full marathon was no big deal — he's done it three times. Without even having to catch his breath, Murray said Saturday's cool weather made the run pleasant.

The run also appeared easy as 22-year-old Christopher Dean finished. Smiling broadly and holding up his arms in victory, Dean finished 16 minutes after Murray.

But perhaps most impressive of all was 61-year-old John J. Calvarese, who ran the 26.22 miles in four hours and 23 minutes. This was his 82nd marathon.

"I've been doing it since 1966," he said. "It keeps me out of mischief."

Although most of the runners were college students, several kids under 14 entered, as well as many men old enough to be their grandfathers.

"Did you see this 60-year-old come in?" one man said proudly of himself, after completing the half-marathon first in his age group.

Pride was evident all around G. Rolfe White Coliseum, where the running began and ended.

Yelling and laughing as they started the race, the runners waved and grinned for a small group of spectators, most of whom toted cameras.

And running furiously those last few yards, the runners finished amidst cheering and bursts of applause from spectators and other runners who had finished but lingered to cheer on their slower comrades.

Bits of conversation represented the moods at the marathon: "Pace yourself, pace yourself — don't burn out."

"I'm going to be stiff for weeks."

"And I said, 'By golly, I'm not going to let him pass me by!'"

"Why was my time so bad?"

Gallons of water and many showers later, the runners met at the Texas Hall of Fame where they ate barbecue, compared times and honored the winners.

The best times were:

— 1/4, male: 0:36:51, Kirk Baird, 20.

— 1/4, female: 0:47:37, Peggy Glikin, 26.

— 1/2, male: 1:21:00, Bruce Glikin, 32.

— 1/2, female: 1:39:24, Julie Currey, 22.

— full, male: 2:40:28, Tinker Murray, 29.

— full, female: 3:26:50, Frances Torres, 26.

Medals were given to the top three male and female runners in each age group — under 14, 15-20, 21-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and over 60.

About 175 runners finished the 1/4 marathon (6.55 miles), about 150 the 1/2 marathon (13.10 miles) and about 40 the full 26.22 miles.



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.71	3A	1785	1610	.28	4A	625	565	.24	3A+	550	495	.38	3A	825	745	.49	3A	1225	1105
1.06	3A+	5500	4950	.33	3A+	710	640	.25	3A+	550	495	.38	3A+	875	780	.51	3A+	1425	1285
				.44	3A+	1071	970	.33	3A+	760	685	.49	3A+	1370	1235	.64	3A	1600	1440
				.61	4A	1950	1755	.43	3A+	1050	945	.58	3A+	1700	1530	.75	3A	1725	1555
				.66	3A+	2075	1870	.44	3A	1050	945	.72	3A+	2350	2115	1.06	3A	3390	3050
				.74	4A	2200	1980	.44	3A	1050	945	.72	4A	2400	2160	1.18	3A	3700	3330
				.143	3A+	7200	6480	.45	2A+	975	880	.82	3A+	2750	2475				
								1.02	3A	3450	3105								

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.25	2A+	390	325	.37	3A+	890	800	.61	3A	1890	1625
.27	3A	410	350	.41	3A	1050	950	.62	4A+	3400	2200
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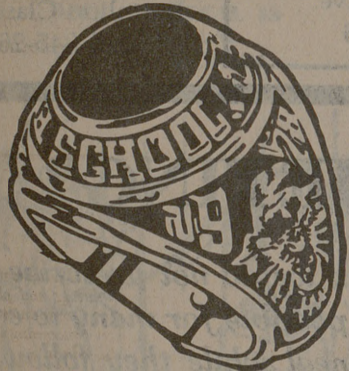
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