

# Local bands: those that folded

by Angel Stokes

Battalion Staff

Several local bands called it quits over the summer and members are going separate ways. The reason most often cited for the groups' demise is lack of places in the area to play professionally. But, time also played a factor in some groups' decisions. College or full-time work doesn't always mix well with practicing and performing.

Fusion disbanded during the summer after playing together since November 1981. The group played at Backstage Restaurant and the Grove several times, and it also performed at All Night Fair. The group won a Battle of the Bands competition at the Grove in April. Members of the group were: lead singer Adam Gaither, lead and rhythm guitarist Len Carlton, bass guitarist Bryan Foster and drummer Mike Maloney.

Maloney, a senior agricultural economics major, has joined the Warren Archer Band, formed this summer after Archer won second place in the June MTV Basement competition. The band's manager is negotiating with recording companies at this time.

Gaither moved to Austin after Fusion broke up, Carlton says.

Foster and Carlton may resurrect Fusion. They have a new

drummer — David Feagan, a student at Sam Houston State University. But the group still needs a singer. The band practices on the weekends, Carlton says, and may be ready to perform in a month.

OZ is "in limbo" at the moment, Wade Myatt says. He says OZ is looking for a drummer and will be back.

OZ has been playing successfully in the area for almost three years, Myatt says. The band folded, he says, because the drummer and lead vocalist — Walter Boone — found a better deal in Dallas.

Members of OZ were: singer/guitarist Myatt, bassist and singer Peter Williams and Boone. Terry Dossey played guitar for OZ until six months before Boone left the group. Dossey, who says he left the group because of mutual disputes, is playing in Rackitt.

Baggy Trousers broke up after playing at the Carabana — a reggae club in Houston — every Sunday night during the summer.

Members of Baggy Trousers were: lead vocalist Doug Jones, Mike on trumpet, Greg Mauser on bass, Bryan Palazzo on drums, James Phillips on saxophone, Eric Presswood on guitar and Chris Simon on percussion.

Because members were in summer school, Jones says, prac-



photo by Peter Rocha

Albatross performed for the last time at the Grove in the spring.

ticing and performing became too much with school work and tests.

"If we weren't doing it right," Jones says, "we just wouldn't play at all." He also says that no reunion is planned in the near future.

Albatross, listed as one of the top 10 Texas rock bands last year, also folded this summer. During the 10 years of its existence, Albat-

ross played gigs ranging from Harlingen to Odessa to Oklahoma.

The last performance of Albatross was at the Grove last spring. Members were: Danny Cherry on lead vocals and rhythm guitar, Steve Hufford on drums and vocals, Mike Ferlisi on bass, Dru Wilson on lead guitar, rhythm guitar

and vocals and Don Hutchko on lead guitar and vocals.

Wilson says Albatross disbanded after Hutchko accepted a job with the Warren Archer Band.

Wilson says he and Ferlisi are looking for work with a band, but Cherry and Hufford each have found work in other bands.

## SunRise

by Ann Ramsbottom

Battalion staff

It's Saturday night at Baker Street and there's standing room only. All ears are tuned in to the feature of the evening: jazz by SunRise.

Pat Sadberry, lead vocalist for the group, focuses on her audience.

"I have to really relate to people while I'm on stage," Sadberry says. "I can't ignore my audience, I can't look at the ceiling and call myself an entertainer."

Sadberry is a member of the five-piece group which has been together for one year. Although the group will soon be celebrating its first birthday, experience runs deep. Members of the group combine over 75 years of professional entertaining experience.

The band is made up of local residents; both businesspeople and students. Sadberry sings under the stage name Sunny. She is a former A&M student and is employed by the University. Jeff Zwolinski, the drummer, is a graduate student in forestry. Rick Moses, bass, is a history major. Steven Sheon is the pianist

and Dee Sharp plays saxophone.

Sharp, who has played over 20 years professionally, is the only member with a formal music education. He received his degree in music from North Texas State.

"The rest of us struggled through our childhood piano lessons," Sadberry says. "I think I've developed some poise over the years, but basically I sing straight from the heart."

"I couldn't tell you how I learned a lot of things musically," she says. "After awhile you just know what to do and how to do it."

SunRise doesn't restrict themselves to jazz. The group also plays some rock, rhythm and blues and contemporary music.

Though all of the band members write their own music, SunRise doesn't play any of its original music.

"It's really hard to do original music on stage before it's published," Sadberry says.

But SunRise does add their own touch. "We treat our songs differently," Sadberry says. "We never copy,

"We never play our songs like they are on the radio," Sadberry says. "We deliberately alter them to a different style. I take a song, and when I get through with it, it's my song."

As far as music selection goes, the members of SunRise have very similar tastes.

"In a stange way, the band is very democratic," Sadberry says. "Someone might say 'there's a tune I think you really ought to sing.' We either try it or it's pushed aside never to be seen again."

But whatever the style, SunRise puts a very emotional touch to their music. The band members get extremely involved.

"My mother always told me that you couldn't sing the blues until you'd lived," Sadberry says. "You couldn't translate the hurt and disappointment of the blues until you had experienced it."

But performing isn't always a positive experience.

"I dread getting prepared when I don't feel good," Sadberry says. "But once the mike switch is on, I know what I'm out there for and I have a good

time in spite of myself."

SunRise averages about one performance a month, doing both indoor and outdoor gigs. The group began by doing live KAMU broadcasts from Baker Street restaurant and bar. Since their first performance as a group in October, they have made numerous other appearances.

SunRise has performed in Central Park, Rumours in the MSC, the Stanford Court grand opening, at the Calvert historical festival and at several parties and dances.

The most exciting performance for the group so far has been a segment for a Disney series. Linkletter properties produced the Disney network show which featured talent on college campuses. The segment was recorded in the MSC lounge in April before a live audience. The production, which was the groups first actual recording, should be completed soon.

As for the future for SunRise, long-range plans are uncertain.

"We're an unusual group in that we get along unbelievably well," Sadberry says. "But

we're living it a day at a time as a group. I think we all have some plans musically, but I don't know if the group will be a part of our future endeavors.

"We sing because it's an outlet for us all," she adds. "We dare fantasize, but we have to be realistic. We all have families, jobs and other careers going. No doubt, if it were 10 years ago — when we were younger — we would have been on the road by now."

Although band members are faced with the expense of their instruments, the group's biggest investment is time.

"Actually our time isn't a big investment at all," Sadberry says. "It's something inside...entertaining is just something we have to do."

In addition to sharing their musical talent with others, SunRise often gives other musicians an opportunity to share their music with others:

SunRise has acted, on more than one occasion, as a forum for others to share their talent.