

# Local Bands

Continued from page 7  
each other in mock agony.

"Texas Twist," a blues song Wilson wrote, has not been gleefully accepted by all members of the band, but with a little compromise and a lot of work, they manage to polish it a little bit more this time.

Even songs that the band picks up from other artists don't always go smoothly.

"Whenever we pick up someone else's song," Wilson says, "we work with it a lot—we take it and, in our own way, massacre it or bastardize it or whatever."

"We all listen to really different kinds of music," Wilson says of the members of Four Hams. "We're a rockabilly and R&B (rhythm and blues) band, but Erik Kline, the bass player, likes heavy metal and plays part-time with a country band. Scott Oldner (guitarist and lead vocalist) originally played classical guitar, but now he's into punk, rockabilly and R&B."

Once stabilized as a group, the musicians must do battle

with nightclubs and the public to get their foot in the door. And if they succeed, and if they're lucky, they might make a little cigarette money in the process.

The first few times Four Hams appeared as a group, Wilson says, they appeared for free.

"The first profit we made was only about \$50," he says. "That broke down to about a case of beer a piece."

And even when a group starts to get booked regularly, problems will arise.

After Four Hams declared a Monday rehearsal was over, they sat down for a cash-flow pow-wow. Their last show had netted them about \$400 — their best profit so far, but they decided it should have been more.

"They (the management at the nightclub) deducted about 20 percent from the door receipts," Hank Allen, the drummer, said.

Four Hams was supposed to receive all of the door receipts for their show.

"Yeah, they took 10 percent to pay the person they had sit at the door and take money," guitarist Oldner said.

"The other 10 percent was to pay for a radio commercial," Wilson told the others.

The band decided that the club would have had paid for a person to be at the club, whether he worked the bar or the door, and the band shouldn't have had that money taken out of their pay, so next time Hank's girlfriend could help out at the door since she doesn't like the loud music.

As for the commercial, the band decided that they didn't ask for it to begin with and they didn't want it anyway since the crowd that showed up to hear Four Hams play doesn't listen to the station that ran the commercial.

The band had a final opinion on the situation:

"Well, all I've got to say is we've sure paid our dues in this town," Kline said — the others nodded in agreement.

Even the few musicians who reach that a pinnacle of success aren't guaranteed a long stay at the top.

John Sebastian, who was a member of the enormously popular '60s group the Lovin' Spoonful, has been out of the spotlight for some time, but has continued to make music his life.

Sebastian has gone from headlining a rock group to writing movie soundtracks and playing the nightclub circuit.

He says he still makes most of his living from live performances, but his movie score

work has been a big supplement.

"If you're gonna do this for a living," he says, "once the tide of fashion turns away from you, you find out what the music business is all about."

"I gain a lot from both areas, but performing is still my favorite. The road is a wonderful place to test new songs — the audience will tell you how your new song is, better than any record company could. The road is very valuable to a musician."

But, regardless of the struggle facing every would-be musician, dreams die hard and even the battle to see that dream come true can be rewarding, not to mention unforgettable.

"We love what we're doing right now," Dru Wilson says, "but all of us want to go on to bigger things."

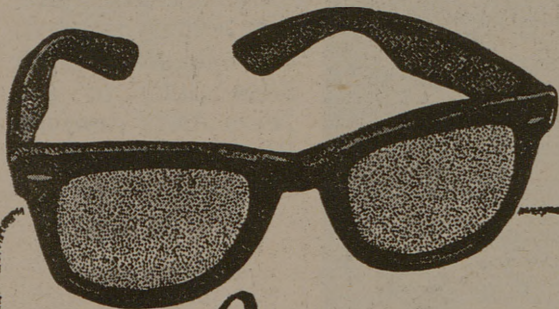
## The Home Winery

Wine, Beer and Cheese Making Kits Available

"Brew Your Own At Home"

3906 Old College Rd. 846-9600

OPEN Tues-Fri 12-6 p.m. Sat 10:30-4 p.m.



**Ray-Ban**® Sunglasses  
from Bausch & Lomb

All Ray-Ban Sunglasses protect your eyes from the damaging rays of the fierce Texas sun with distortion-free, optical quality, ground lenses.

Our large selection of Ray-Ban Sunglasses includes green, gray or amber lenses, mirror finishes, and photochromatic, light-sensitive lenses.

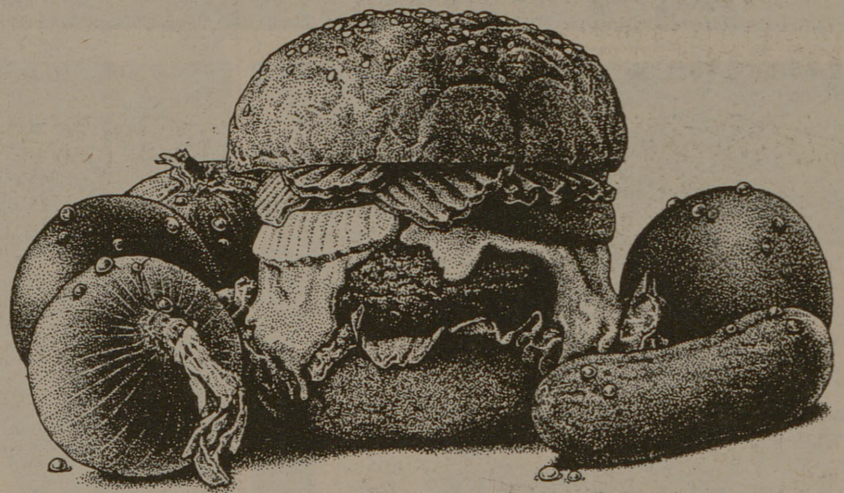
Styles range from the classic Buddy H./Blues Bros. image of the Wayfarer to the aviator-styled Outdoorsman.

Stop by soon for our free "Choosing Sunglasses" info sheet. You'll have it made in the shade with Ray-Bans.

**Whole Earth Provision Co.**

105 Doyett College Station 846-8794

# Get fresh in College Station.



Everything's fresh at Fuddruckers™.

Our burgers are made with fresh, ground steak. In fact, you can watch our butchers cut forequarters of beef and grind them into huge hamburger patties. Then we cook 'em anyway you want—rare, medium or well-done.

Our buns are fresh, too. We make our buns from scratch and bake them right before your eyes.

And to top off your burger, we give you truckloads of farm-fresh lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and sweet onions that you can pile on to your heart's content.

So, if you'd like to get fresh, come on over.

Nobody's as fresh as Fuddruckers.

**FUDDRUCKERS™**  
Get fresh at Fuddruckers™.

2206 South Texas Avenue. On Texas Avenue just south of the water tower. In Brazos Square Shopping Center.