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Aggie sees life in CW band as a high-paying business

By DAVID STEEL
Reporter

At 9:02 p.m. on a humid Saturday, an impatient redneck yells at the band to get started. Four drumsticks click later the opening double lead of "Forget About Me" fills the smokey dance hall.

The restless roper is happy now and his eyes scan the stage, observing what, at first glance, appears to be a typical, uniform group of six musicians.

But as his eyes glance toward the right, a tall guitar-toting figure wearing shorts, high-tops and a London Fog overcoat catches his eye by dancing and hopping around in his left stage cage.

This performer is Robert Lytton. Lytton, a junior business analysis major, has been a semi-professional musician since his freshman year in college and has learned that the economics of playing music are sometimes more important than one's own artistic preferences.

"In order to play in a band, which takes a lot of time, and pay for your own education you sometimes have to compromise your musical tastes," Lytton says. "In my case, I play country music. C&W is definitely the highest-paying music scene around here and that speaks for itself."

Lytton is a guitarist for the Texas Unlimited Band, a three-year-old local group that plays rock and soul music but specializes in country.

"TUB is merely a commercial organization," Lytton says. "It's a product, a business and I think everyone in the band looks at it like that."

"That attitude is most obviously reflected in the music we play. I mean, we choose a song not because it is artistically significant but because everybody will dance to it."

Lytton, who began playing the guitar four years ago, is noted for his sharp wit, mischievous grin and his musical talents.

He ventured into the local music scene while attending Bryan High School, where he and some friends formed a rock band, Warehouse.

"Warehouse was the first real band I played in," he says. "I remember we were so excited when we got our first gig playing at S.F.A. (Bryan's junior high school)."

After high school graduation, Lytton says he formed a heavy metal band called Prizner.

"If we would make, say, \$200 we would consider it a very profitable night. Now with TUB we can clear over \$1000 a night pretty regularly."

After playing with the Texas Unlimited Band for almost 19 months, he admits he gets a little bored at times.

"Sure, it gets old playing the same



Robert Lytton

Photo by DAVID STEEL

old tunes every weekend, but I try to keep myself entertained by dressing wildly from time to time and acting wild regularly," Lytton says.

When asked if his antics on stage ever get him in trouble, he replied:

"Sure, there are a few country fans who get upset if you don't act, like George Strait. But I play what they want to hear and keep paying to get in and out of what's important to me."

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