

# State and Local

Saxophonist radiates 'cool' heat

## Whalum 'wails' to win A&M crowd

By Karl Pallmeyer  
Staff Writer

The temperature outside may have been real cold last night, but the temperature inside Rudder Auditorium was real "cool," thanks to the music of Kirk Whalum.

Whalum, master of the saxophone, and his four-man band, Group Session, had the audience of over 900 people clapping and snapping and whooping and hollering to the sounds of jazz.

The MSC Black Awareness Committee, the organization that sponsored Whalum's appearance, outdid itself by bringing the best musical program to grace this campus this semester.

It took only ten seconds of the first number before the audience began clapping. From those first few bars it was obviously going to be a good night.

Whalum switched from soprano to alto sax and led the band through "Don't Look at Me in That Tone of Voice," a song Whalum wrote for his one-year-old daughter that will be on his next album, due to be released in March.

"Don't Look at Me in That Tone of Voice" and "Kyle's Smiles," a song Whalum wrote for his three-year-old son, are amazing in the way they sound. You can almost see a child playing when you hear them.

Bassist Don Patterson thumped out the intro to "Playing House," a tune from "Floppy Disk," his first album, as Whalum talked about his upcoming album. During the course of the song, Whalum imitated Patterson's fast and funky bass licks on sax.

Tod Vullo's guitar solo drew yells of approval from the crowd.

After "Playing House," Whalum expressed concern that the program had been titled: "An Evening of Sophisticated Jazz" because his tennis shoes — pink and purple with rhinestones — did little to lend an air of sophistication.

Whalum dedicated the next number to the Arkansas Razorbacks.

"You'll see why," Whalum said cryptically, then went into the theme from "Mission: Impossible," which got faster and faster, and then slowed down and died. (A musical prediction perhaps?)

The audience snapped its fingers in time to the beat of the "Pink Panther" theme, the next number the band played.

Keyboardist Rick Jackson threw in some good jazzy licks. The "Pink Panther" turned into an uptempo piano solo that led into a hot guitar solo. Sax and synthesizer duelled it out with the "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" theme. The whole band joined in, ending the piece with the theme from "Get Smart."

"Glow," a slow, bluesy number, was dedicated to all the women in the audience. The song ended with Whalum playing a note that seemed to go on forever.

After that incredibly long note, he played a slow and soulful version of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." The audience listened to the song in reverent silence.

Whalum introduced the members of the band and then, in French, introduced their next song. Group Session traded solos as Whalum took a short break. Steve Summer's drum solo was incredible.

The band and Whalum then performed "Afterthought," a much slower and mellower tune from "Floppy Disk."

Whalum demonstrated his awesome lung power by stepping away from the microphone so that his sax was not aided by amplification. Without the help of electronics, the music still filled the auditorium.

After a couple of songs, Whalum and the band left the stage, only to be called back for two encores. The crowd was standing, whooping, yelling and screaming for more.

Backstage after the show, Whalum



Photo by Greg Bailey

Saxophonist Kirk Whalum jokes with the audience between numbers Thursday night in Rudder Auditorium.

lum said he was thrilled at the size and response of the crowd. He said that he and his band usually play at all the schools in this area about

three or four times a year and would like to add A&M to their list. Let's hope we'll get to see Whalum and Group Session again real soon.

## City Council OKs 5-year increase in CS utility rates

By Craig Renfro  
Staff Writer

The College Station City Council Wednesday accepted a new rate schedule from Gulf States Utilities that will reflect a 7.6 percent wholesale rate increase during the next year for the city, City Manager William Cole said.

The city will pass the increase on to consumers in the form of a 4.2 percent retail increase, Cole said.

He said the agreement still must be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission before it can take effect.

The contract, which is for five years, is retroactive to Aug. 25, Cole said. However, consumers' utility bills will not reflect the rate change until December, he said.

Five years from now the average College Station consumer will pay 10 percent more for electricity than he currently does, Cole said.

However, the agreement will not rescue GSU from its current economic strain, GSU spokesperson Sharron Englade said.

On Nov. 6, GSU filed bankruptcy documents with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission saying it needs \$100 million in emergency rate increases from Texas and Louisiana, Englade said.

Englade said the new contract with College Station will help ease the economic burden, but won't do away with it.

"Maintaining College Station as a customer is very important," Englade said.

"We can't survive without rate relief and we were glad to reach a compromise," she said.

Englade cited economic depressions in Texas and Louisiana as a major factor in GSU's financial troubles.

"Because of the economy we are in dire financial straits," she said.

Englade said GSU will ask the state of Texas for an additional \$150 million in relief aid early next week.

The agreement follows 12 weeks of negotiations with GSU. Negotiations began Aug. 25 when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted GSU an interim 40 percent rate increase.

If the increase had taken effect, College Station would have had the highest electricity bills in the state, Cole said.

After GSU's wholesale customers complained about the proposed 40 percent increase, GSU proposed a slightly lower increase, he said.

The council held a special session Sept. 11, and proposed the 7.6 percent increase, he said.

College Station and three other cities — Caldwell, Newton and Kirbyville — buy electricity wholesale from GSU, then resell it to their residents.

Cole said the city is pleased with the settlement because it shortens the contract period from 10 to five years.

After five years, College Station will be free to purchase its electricity from another company, he said.

"Everybody is extremely pleased," Cole said. "It just gives the city more options."

## Diamond Embargo Takes Effect In New York

Rapaport Diamond Report, Nov. 7: US Embargoes - rough diamonds that are owned, controlled or subsidized by South African Government. All rough Imports now require certificate of origin. Debeers substantially increases cost of stones. As much as 20%.

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### ROUND

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.26 pts. \$245.00	500.00
.26 pts. 245.00	490.00
.27 pts. 270.00	500.00
.28 pts. 325.00	525.00
.30 pts. 340.00	670.00
.34 pts. 395.00	750.00
.42 pts. 680.00	1275.00
.43 pts. 550.00	1100.00
.45 pts. 695.00	1375.00
.46 pts. 585.00	1200.00
.46 pts. 595.00	1250.00
.49 pts. 785.00	1550.00
.50 pts. 765.00	1400.00
.52 pts. 810.00	1575.00
.52 pts. 875.00	1695.00
.53 pts. 845.00	1575.00
.54 pts. 695.00	1495.00
.54 pts. 875.00	1650.00
.55 pts. 865.00	1650.00
.55 pts. 895.00	1625.00
.56 pts. 795.00	1600.00
.56 pts. 895.00	1750.00
.56 pts. 735.00	1450.00
.59 pts. 930.00	2000.00
.58 pts. 850.00	1700.00
.58 pts. 695.00	1300.00
.57 pts. 695.00	1300.00
.56 pts. 735.00	1450.00
.59 pts. 930.00	1800.00
.60 pts. 945.00	2000.00
.61 pts. 975.00	2100.00
.61 pts. 775.00	1400.00
.61 pts. 975.00	2100.00
.61 pts. 715.00	1390.00
.61 pts. 725.00	1390.00
.61 pts. 750.00	1450.00
.61 pts. 695.00	1500.00
.60 pts. 695.00	1400.00
.61 pts. 675.00	1250.00
.65 pts. 815.00	1800.00
.67 pts. 1600.00	1600.00
.67 pts. 1500.00	1500.00
.67 pts. 760.00	1400.00
.65 pts. 785.00	1500.00
.63 pts. 715.00	1390.00
.62 pts. 695.00	1300.00
.62 pts. 715.00	1390.00
.67 pts. 1075.00	2150.00
.67 pts. 1295.00	1600.00

### ROUND

Our Price	compare at
.70 pts. \$895.00	1900.00
.70 pts. 1145.00	2000.00
.70 pts. 650.00	1200.00
.68 pts. 795.00	1500.00
.70 pts. 345.00	2200.00
.71 pts. 1725.00	2300.00
.72 pts. 1145.00	2200.00
.75 pts. 1095.00	2000.00
.74 pts. 985.00	2000.00
.76 pts. 1125.00	2350.00
.76 pts. 1465.00	2900.00
.80 pts. 750.00	1500.00
.86 pts. 1850.00	2900.00
.96 pts. 1950.00	3450.00
.97 pts. 1585.00	3200.00
.97 pts. 1520.00	3000.00
1.00 cts. 2095.00	4000.00
1.00 cts. 2150.00	4300.00
1.00 cts. 3750.00	8000.00
1.01 cts. 1725.00	4000.00
1.02 cts. 1950.00	4950.00
1.02 cts. 2760.00	5200.00
1.06 cts. 1825.00	3700.00
1.08 cts. 2795.00	4800.00
1.08 cts. 2395.00	4700.00
1.09 cts. 2825.00	5600.00
1.09 cts. 2825.00	4900.00
1.17 cts. 1295.00	2650.00
1.29 cts. 2385.00	5000.00
1.33 cts. 3495.00	7000.00
1.41 cts. 3900.00	7000.00
2.02 cts. 7900.00	14,000.00
2.04 cts. 7695.00	14,250.00
2.59 cts. 7295.00	14,000.00
2.87 cts. 7985.00	14500.00

### MARQUISE

Our Price	compare at
.27 pts. \$325.00	650.00
.30 pts. 365.00	700.00
.33 pts. 395.00	700.00
.35 pts. 425.00	800.00
.47 pts. 625.00	1200.00
.50 pts. 895.00	1800.00
.55 pts. 995.00	1850.00
.62 pts. 795.00	1500.00
.71 pts. 2900.00	5000.00
.72 pts. 1275.00	2500.00

### MARQUISE

Our Price	compare at
.96 pts. \$2295.00	5000.00
.97 pts. 1485.00	2900.00
.90 pts. 2160.00	4200.00
1.01 pts. 1485.00	3000.00
1.01 pts. 1595.00	3000.00
2.14 pts. 4950.00	10,000.00

### PEAR

Our Price	compare at
.30 pts. \$350.00	725.00
.47 pts. 1050.00	2000.00
.52 pts. 665.00	1250.00
.51 pts. 695.00	1300.00
.54 pts. 1195.00	2400.00
.60 pts. 785.00	1600.00
.62 pts. 1395.00	2500.00
.80 pts. 1275.00	2500.00
.85 pts. 995.00	2100.00

### OVAL

Our Price	compare at
.81 pts. \$1160.00	2300.00
.78 pts. 1650.00	3200.00
.64 pts. 850.00	1700.00
.83 pts. 1650.00	3200.00
.90 pts. 1335.00	2600.00
1.03 cts. 1295.00	3500.00
1.04 cts. 1495.00	2800.00
1.15 cts. 2495.00	4900.00

### EMERALD

Our Price	compare at
.52 pts. \$950.00	1900.00
1.02 cts. 2495.00	4900.00
2.62 cts. 6675.00	14,000.00

### HEART

Our Price	compare at
1.36 cts. \$1750.00	\$4,100.00

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