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**In Advance**

**Prof to discuss U.S. entry act**

The Texas A&M chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union will sponsor a speech by an A&M philosophy professor on the consequences of the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act at 7 p.m. tonight in 203 Zachry.

The McCarran-Walter Act gives 33 reasons for excluding individuals from the United States. Of the two political sections in the Act, one permits the exclusion of individuals associated with the Communist party or affiliated organizations. The other section can be used to exclude individuals considered a danger to the "welfare, safety, or security of the United States," or whose entry is deemed "prejudicial to the public interest."

"The way it is being applied now restricts the information and the access information we have as American citizens in a way that is antagonistic to the notion of a democracy," said Larry Hickman, an associate professor in the philosophy department.

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*Rock 'n' roll, glitz mix works for band*

**Poison music sounds sweet to fans**

By Staci Finch  
Reporter

"What we call our band of music is 'glam-slam rock 'n' roll.' Glam is our image, slam is our attitude and rock 'n' roll is the music we play."

Rikki Rockett, drummer for the rock group Poison, describes the band's music as pure rock 'n' roll.

"It's not really heavy metal, but at the same time it's sure not easy listening," Rockett says. "It's high energy — we don't pull any punches."

Poison, currently touring the country as the opening act for the rock group Ratt, is a new arrival to the glam-metal rock 'n' roll scene — glam-metal referring to the glitz and glamour of the group's stage appearance, in which the members sport heavy makeup and wild costumes.

The group, which was formed in 1983 in Harrisburg, Pa., moved to Los Angeles in 1984 with hopes of getting a record contract, but Rockett says the band found life in Los Angeles a little tougher than it expected.

"There is so much competition out there," he explains. "There are something like 10,000 bands within the first 100-mile radius of L.A. County. There are only so many clubs and everyone is competing for the best night."

But competition was not the only problem the band encountered in Los Angeles, he says.

"There are a lot of politics that go down," he says. "But we didn't do anything through politics — we did it through hard work. See, we weren't from L.A. so no one was going to give us a break until we proved ourselves. Once we did, though, the breaks started coming."

"But once you start getting breaks you have to outdo yourself every time you play. People in L.A. get bored with you really fast because there is always a band playing somewhere. You have to be a little special or people won't come to see you."

Special, indeed. Vocalist Bret Michaels, guitarist C.C. DeVille, bassist Bobby Dall and Rockett all wear enough makeup to keep Maybelline in business for years. And that image



Members of Poison, currently touring in support of the album "Look What the Cat Dragged In."

complements the band's wild stage shows and hard, driving lyrics.

"We never really came out to make a statement with the makeup," Rockett says. "We just wanted to come out and look as good as we could onstage."

"When we put this band together we sat down and asked each other what had always bugged us about other bands we would see," Rockett says. "Maybe a singer didn't look cool, maybe you couldn't see the drummer or maybe the bass player didn't move. We put a band together where everyone looked cool, everyone played well and everyone raised hell onstage."

However, Rockett says, it took more than just being good and looking cool to make it in Los Angeles. It took personality, too.

"Back in Pennsylvania the clubs you play in are usually small," he says. "There aren't always dressing rooms, and you have to use a bathroom to get dressed. After the show, you have to go out and talk to the crowd to keep them coming back."

You have to let them know you're real and not some person up there just trying to make some money.

"Well, no one in L.A. does that. The clubs usually have dressing rooms and a lot of the bands have limousines. So, when our band came out after a show, talked to people and invited them to parties, well, that would help our popularity a lot. People could see that we were not only a good band but also a really cool one."

If personality and a flashy image make up the formula for success, Poison is making it work. The band's debut album, "Look What the Cat Dragged In," is climbing the charts and bringing the band national attention.

"The critics are being a little more generous with our music, now that we're doing so well," Rockett says. "At first they were saying that Poison was nothing new or special. But after they heard the record and saw us live, they realized that there was something different here. They saw that we're four guys marketing our-

selves, each of us putting our personality into making this work."

"The critics are also starting to realize that since there are so many heavy metal and new-wave bands out, it's good to see a band come and be a fun-lovin' party band. It's a change, a band that really isn't trying some kind of deep message anything. We're making people happy — and now a lot of the critics are on our side."

Poison also is attracting a growing number of fans, Rockett says.

"I think there's a little bit of a rebellion in there for everyone," he says. "Rock 'n' roll usually draws either a rebellious reaction or a sexual reaction. If you get either of the two, you're doing pretty good, and lucky you've gotten both."

"We've also got a lot of fans following us around. That is so interesting because you know you are doing something right. When the critics aren't there anymore, you know it's time to make a change."

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