

# Review: Kerouacs rock local club

## Review

By Staci Finch

Reviewer

Going to see a local band play in a college station nightclub often means hearing the same old band play the same old songs. With few local places offering live music and only so many good bands, you figure you've heard it all before, right?

Wrong. Those at Eastgate Live Thursday night got a dose of a different medicine.

College Station's newest band, The Kerouacs, played at Eastgate Thursday night and gave a show that proved the band has stretched and grown in the few months it has been around.

Although only about 100 people were present to see the performance, the band went through three sets with style and a few surprises for the audience.

Although it started off a little slow, and more tunes in the first set dragged than didn't, the band played a different show.

Guitarist/vocalist Dru Wilson, bassist Brian Lippman and drummer Jeff Zwolinski put a twist to some familiar tunes and introduced some facets in the performance.

With Lippman assisting on some harmonizing vocals, old songs suddenly got a facelift for the better. Songs like "Boomtown" had a depth that really sounded good.

The band also has added some cover tunes to its repertoire. From the Smithereens "Only a Memory," which was passable, to Warren Zevon's "Detox Mansion," which was good, to Jimmi Hendrix's "Let Me Stand Next To Your Fire," which really cooked with some especially nice work from Wilson's guitar, the band showed a versatility that reflects its talent.

The boys from College Station



Dru Wilson and Brian Lippman of the Kerouacs perform at Eastgate Live.

also performed some new originals which, judging from the crowd's reaction, will become as favored as the old ones. The song "Chains Around My Heart," when compared to some older originals, really reflected the growth of the band, both in vocal and musical style.

And speaking of new styles, the song "Quite Like You" had a definite pop country feel, with strong vocals adding a lot to the tune.

Aside from hearing your favorite songs, however, one of the best rea-

sons to hear your favorite musicians play is for the solos.

And The Kerouacs didn't disappoint anyone.

Actually, they came through with an instrumental piece, "Dorothy," that really showed off the talent in the band. Wilson's solo simply cooked.

And Lippman and Zwolinski were right there with solos on Jeff Beck song "Jeff's Boogie." Lippman's bass mixed some old and new licks for a class-A solo performance, and

Zwolinski's work on drums was memorable.

There were a few forgettable tunes throughout the show, where the vocals were a little off and the timing was a little wrong. But the audience easily forgave that and the few technical problems that arose.

The overall effect was polished and professional.

Additional work on vocals will help the band grow even more, but the performance was tight and strong and well worth seeing.

Photo by Scott D. Weaver

# Researchers say forgetting problems can help people come up with answers

By Kelly S. Brown

Reporter

Got a problem? Forget it and chances are it will solve itself.

Such a method of problem-solving is being researched by Dr. Steven Smith, a Texas A&M cognitive psychologist.

"When people have a problem where they somehow get stuck, for example, trying to remember a name, a student trying to do a math problem or a doctor trying to find a cure, they shouldn't bang their head against the wall trying to remember or figure out what is being blocked," Smith said.

"Stop thinking about it and return to it later because chances are the solution will pop into the head when least expected."

When thinking about the problem is stopped, Smith calls this period of time "incubation."

"Incubation in human memory is like incubation for a chick in an egg," he said. "Something is

going on in there but you don't see it."

Smith, along with doctoral student Steven Blankenship, conducted four experiments dealing with problem-solving where the participants were shown picture-word problems called rebus.

Examples of a rebus include "you just me" (just between you and me) and "at the . . . of no" (at the point of no return).

Some of the rebuses had a misleading clue given in order to frustrate the problem-solving process. Before being retested some were given simple tasks to perform, while others were retested immediately.

Those who were interrupted with a task forgot more misleading clues than those without a time between testing.

Smith explained that often problem-solving continues at some unconscious level when attention is diverted from the problem.

"Oliver North did a good job of this during the hearings last summer," Smith said. "He diverted the process of the investigation by throwing at-

tention elsewhere and people failed to come up with the right solution."

Overcoming the frustration, Smith said, consists of forgetting inappropriate information so that correct information will surface.

"To do this you might have to go for a walk, go on a vacation or whatever it takes for each individual," he said.

Smith's research includes experiments done with Dr. David Jansson and Garrett Mauldin in the mechanical engineering department, where engineering students were asked to design a bicycle rack for a car.

One group was given an example of how to do it, while the other was not. The group shown the example designed racks similar to the one they saw, whereas the group that did not see any example had a wider variety of ideas.

Smith said, "Your memory suggests less creative solutions because the tendency is to go with solutions that have already been tried before. Creativity is blocked by too much memory of the way things have already been done."

## World briefs

### Eight feared dead in helicopter tragedy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Navy helicopter on a mine-detection exercise exploded over the sea Monday, and officials feared all eight crew members were killed, a Coast Guard official said.

A search was under way in the area, 11 miles west of the Golden Gate Bridge, but a Coast Guard spokesman said rescuers did not expect to find survivors.

The cause of the blast was not known.

The crew of a private vessel, the Northern Lights, reported hearing two explosions about 11 a.m. and then "saw the helicopter disappear from the sky," Coast Guard Petty Officer Thomas

Cowan said.

"There were eight people on board. We expect no survivors," he said.

Cowan said seven helmets were found but no fatalities had been confirmed.

Three helicopters joined the Cutty Blackhaw, two smaller Coast Guard vessels and the Northern Lights in the search.

Cowan said searchers were hampered by fog that reduced visibility to 150 yards.

Navy spokesman Virginia Felker said the helicopter was attached to Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15, based at Alameda Naval Air Station.

### Staff: EPA bowed to political pressure

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Environmental Protection Agency administrators caved to political pressure from oil state senators and the Interior Department when they decided not to regulate any oil and gas drilling wastes as hazardous, two staff members said.

The majority of an EPA working group that studied the issue had recommended a small volume of drilling wastes come under stringent regulation as hazardous. But administrators went against technical staff recommendations.

Agency administrator Lee Thomas and J. Winston Porter, EPA's assistant administrator for solid waste and emergency response, issued a June 30 regulatory determination to Congress

that all oil and gas drilling wastes would remain exempt from hazardous waste rules.

Staff say the low volume wastes or so-called "associated wastes" account for 1 percent of the total volume of drilling wastes and contain highly toxic elements such as heavy metals and corrosive acids that are regulated as hazardous in other industries.

The technical staff concluded the wastes pose a threat to the environment if not handled properly and that states are largely doing a poor job of enforcing existing regulations.

The technical staff, in its draft report, said the cost to the industry of regulating the associated wastes as hazardous would have ranged from \$200 million to \$500 million a year.

### Report: Meese probably broke laws

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Edwin Meese III probably broke two tax laws and violated a criminal conflict-of-interest statute, but won't be charged with a crime, independent counsel James McKay concluded in an 814-page report unveiled to the public Monday.

An attorney for Meese, Nathan Levin, called the assertions "a very cheap shot."

In a report which concluded his 14-month investigation, McKay wrote that "A trier of fact would probably conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Meese violated" a section of the Internal Revenue Code by filing "a materially false tax return."

McKay added that Meese probably also violated a section of the Internal Revenue Code for "willfully failing to pay tax at the time required by law."

Meese announced July 5 that he will step down as attorney general later this month or in early August. He said then that McKay's report, which he had not read at the time, "completely vindicated" him. The report originally was filed under seal that day with a three-judge court.

Richard Thornburgh, named by President Reagan to succeed Meese, has said he will pursue any evidence against Meese wherever it may lead.

### Petition divides convention delegates

ATLANTA (AP) — An Arab-American Jesse Jackson supporter and a Jewish backer of Michael Dukakis sounded the only divisive note Monday at the first meeting of the Texas delegation to the Democratic National Convention.

Jackson delegate Ruth Ann Skaff of Houston urged fellow Texas delegates to sign a petition calling for "a policy which supports the Palestinians' right to self-determination and indepen-

dent statehood and which supports Israel's existence and security within internationally recognized borders."

The petition, being circulated among all delegations here, will be presented to the next president, she said.

The policy merely calls for "equal rights for the Israeli people and the Palestinian people," Skaff told Texas delegates.

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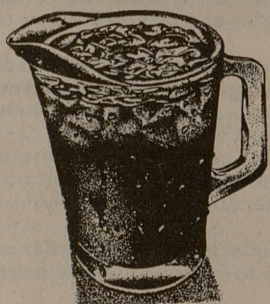
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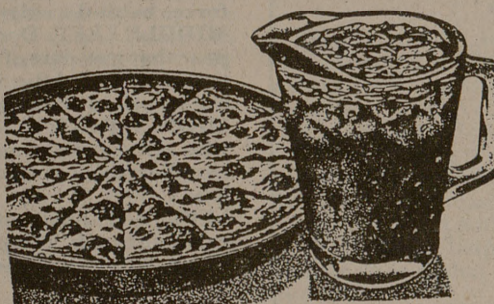


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