

# B-CS receives reggae sounds with open arms

By Mia B. Moody  
Reporter

Reggae music has been around since the 1700's, but it wasn't until recently that it became popular in the Bryan-College Station area.

Edison Arnold, a senior aerospace engineering major from Trinidad, said that what people call reggae in the United States is actually "scarr," a European version of reggae.

Groups like UB40 and The Killer Bees play forms of scarr. Edison said he believes people are becoming more interested in reggae because of scarr's popularity.

"Scarr has a new wave sound combined with a lot of rhyming," he said. "Traditional reggae is more upbeat with a lot of bass and chanting. Music from artists like Peter Tosh, Bob Marley, and Jimmy Cliff would all be examples of traditional reggae."

Monica Banks, a junior mathematics major from Austin, said she believes that the rise in the popularity of reggae music in this area is just a fad.

"A lot of my friends who used to dislike reggae music are now going to concerts and buying reggae records," Banks said. "I think they are beginning to listen to it just because it's the 'in' thing to do. I don't think people could suddenly start liking music that they used to laugh at."

Sean Smith, an ex-disc jockey for radio station KANM, said he thinks people are beginning to listen to reggae more because they are getting tired of top 40 music.

He said he believes that reggae will increase in popularity because once people start listening to it, they often become hooked.

Jonas Abraha, a senior mechanical engineering major from Ethiopia, said that people are attracted to reggae music because it allows them to express their individuality.

"When the punk rock movement started, people began dyeing their hair and wearing mohawks," Abraha said. "Now people are wearing dreadlocks and multicolored ankle bands. People like reggae because it makes them feel a part of something that is different."

Glen Goode, manager of Eastgate Live, said that reggae music always has been popular there, but its popularity has increased dramatically in the last 18 months.

He said that at first, people come to reggae concerts because their friends dragged them there, but then they get hooked on the music and start coming to concerts on their own.

Goode said The Killer Bees is the most popular reggae band that performs at the club.

Eric Beatty, a junior engineering major from Austin, said that when The Killer Bees perform, there is hardly any room for dancing.

John Bosey, who used to do public relations work for Eastgate Live, said that even though very few people showed up at the Wazobia concert a week ago, reggae is still popular in this area.

He said that only a small crowd turned out for the concert because of the fact that Wazobia is not well known in this area and that people tend to see the bands that they know they like.

"Reggae is popular because people are getting more exposure to it and they like what they hear," Bosey said. "They like it because it has a lot of bass and is easy to dance to. People who don't know how to dance can stand still and the bass from reggae music will make them move because it sounds so good."

Hugh Stern, manager at The Brazos Landing, said reggae is the biggest attraction at the club. When blues or rock bands perform, it is not certain that they will draw a crowd, but when reggae groups play, they are guaranteed to have a large audience, he said.

Lisa Jarrard, assistant manager at The Record Bar, said that Ziggy Marley, the late Bob Marley's son, is the reason that reggae has become so popular.

Jarrard said Marley's album is receiving so much air play that people who aren't normally exposed to reggae are now hearing his songs on the radio. Marley's album is the biggest-selling reggae album of all time, she said.

Listeners like what they hear of Marley's work, so they start listening to many different reggae groups, she said.

# A&M economist: Housing demand improves for state

By Ellen Nolen  
Reporter

The Texas economy has passed a turning point, and the state's economic future is beginning to look brighter, Dr. Jack C. Harris said.

Harris, associate research economist at the Texas A&M Real Estate Center, said current housing and real estate demands show the first evidence of an upswing in the economy.

"When the economy picks up there is a greater demand for family homes, office space and buildings for industry," Harris said.

Texas home sales in the first quarter of 1988 were 7 percent higher than in 1987. Other oil-producing states — Louisiana, Oklahoma, Colorado, Alaska and Wyoming — suffered declines during the same period.

"Texas is demonstrating that it can lead a recovery in the Southwest," Harris said.

An oversupply of homes exists on the market, he said. In Texas, an upswing in sales may not push prices too far up, which is encouraging for buyers.

The poor showing in home prices of the Southwest stems from overbuilding in the early 1980's, he said.

As the economy continues to grow, more people will move to Texas, which continually will feed the economy, he said. Newcomers will purchase new homes and residents will buy better-quality, higher-priced homes.

"The years 1979 and 1980 were unusual in Texas," he said. "The oil prices were up, and rising inflation encouraged people to rush out and buy homes. While the nation as a whole was in a recession in 1981 and 1982, Texas was still on top."

As the nation entered a period of general economic recovery, Texas lagged behind, he said. From 1985-1987, most regions of the country experienced home-buying activity stimulated by falling mortgage interest rates.

California's economic expansion helped the West lead the nation with a 19 percent growth in home sales. New England and the states in the farming Midwest ranked second with a 14 percent increase in growth.

Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas also showed increases in home sales.

Texas and the Southwest trailed the nation during these years with a growth in home sales of 4 percent.

"Available 1988 data suggests that the years of declining housing in Texas are over," Harris said.

Houston already has seen improvement, and employment rates are rising statewide, he said.

The Texas economy is on an upswing, he said, but unlike 1980, the state will not thrive unless the whole nation continues its economic growth.

"We've been down, and now it's time for Texas to come back," he said.

# Bandits elude police after robbery attempt

DALLAS (AP) — Two would-be bandits eluded a police tactical team Monday after a botched robbery in which a cafeteria manager was shot at twice and a baker hid in a freezer.

Gus Simon, a baker in his 40s, fled unharmed from the rear of a Wyatt Cafeteria after hiding in a food freezer and store room 2.5 hours, police said. The suspects, who had weapons, escaped. Capt. E.R. Walt of the police tactical section, said.

The gunmen apparently fled from the rear of the restaurant before a police tactical squad entered the South Dallas business about 10:30 a.m., Walt said.

One employee told police the sus-

pects, in their 20s or 30s, were seen crossing the restaurant parking lot shortly before 8 a.m.

The manager, Clarence Hart, told an employee to lock the rear door, but one gunman entered the cafeteria before the door was latched. The other assailant entered the front door after asking a window-washer for directions to the manager.

"As he walked up to me, he pulled this gun out near the register," Hart, 32, said. "I went into the kitchen. I was trying to duck and get out of there."

Hart said one man pulled a gun from his waistband and fired two shots, but no one was hit.

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