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Welcome Aggies!

**Tesla**

(Continued from page 5)

Kix has been kicking around the concert scene for about 10 years, so they know a thing or two about entertaining a crowd. And Great White has a couple of catchy tunes that can set a crowd to dancin', most notably "Once Bitten, Twice Shy," a fun little ditty with a bunch of piano and a sing-along chorus, and a killer version of Led Zeppelin's "The Immigrant Song," which they used as part of their encore.

But it was Tesla that was the star of this show.

A clean-cut guy in his mid-20s, standing with arms folded across his chest at the back of the crowd, said that he hadn't been to a concert in four years, but had come Saturday night just to see Tesla.

He shouldn't have been disappointed.

Taking the stage to "Lady Luck," a song from their second and current album, *The Great Radio Controversy*, Tesla turned on the power and didn't let up until their tight, although brief, set was finished.

This band is fortunate to have two guitarists and a vocalist who seem as if they were predestined to perform together. Vocalist Jeff Keith has the sort of rough, powerful voice that is as tough and domineering as the guitar work of Frank Hannon and Tommy Skeoch.

Keith writes all of Tesla's lyrics, making it all the easier for him to belt them out with an exuberant conviction. When he raises his voice, it doesn't descend into the annoying falsetto that many hard rock singers seem to specialize in.

While performing, the wiry singer calls to mind a younger version of Aerosmith's Steven Tyler. Besides looking like Tyler, Keith bounds around and transfers his emotion to the crowd in Tyler-like fashion.

All this raving about Keith isn't meant to diminish the rest of the band's contributions. On songs such as "Cummin' Atcha Live" and "EZ Come, EZ Go," Hannon and Skeoch demonstrated that they can both hold their own on guitar, but can be even stronger working together.

And drummer Luccetta (who turned down a job with Eddie Money's band to join Tesla) and bassist Wheat anchored Tesla with a solid rhythm section.

Tesla gets extra points for not saving all their "hits" for the end of the set (as Great White did). "Hang Tough," was the second song of the show, and "Heaven's Trail" and "Little Suzi," two of their other popular songs, were in the middle.

They used the familiarity of these songs to build crowd momentum, and then carried it over to some of their lesser known songs, such as "Yesterdaze Gone."

**AROUND TOWN**

**Live Music**

Information is provided by the individual nightclubs and is subject to change.

**The Bistro**

In the College Station Ramada at 1502 S. Texas. 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served. For more information, call 693-9891.

Friday and Saturday — **Sundown**. Easy listening. Starts at 8 p.m. No cover.

**Cow Hop Annex**

Next to the Cow Hop at Northgate. 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served. Call 696-5522 for more information.

Thursday — **David Span**. Saturday — **Big Al & the Saints**.

**Emiliano's**

In Bryan at 502 W. 25th St. Alcohol served. Call 775-9539 for more information.

Thursday — **Ted Lopez y Cartago**. Variety. Starts at 7 p.m. \$3 cover for guys; ladies free.

**Excalibre Club**

In Bryan at 1803 Greenfield Plaza (behind Dairy Queen). 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served. For more information call 846-6262.

Thursday — **Sundown**. Easy listening. Starts at 8:30 p.m. No cover. Saturday — **Borrowed Tym**. Top 40. Starts at 9 p.m. No cover.

**Flying Tomato**

At Northgate at 303 University Dr. All ages admitted. For more information call 846-1616.

Saturday — **Sneaky Pete** with his **Neon Madmen**. Starts at 9 p.m. \$2 cover.

Wednesday — **Sneaky Pete**. Sing-along. Starts at 9 p.m. \$1 cover.

**Frank's Bar and Grill**

In College Station at 503 E. University Drive. All ages admitted. Alcohol served. Call 846-5388 for more information.

Saturday — **Robert Bos**. Jazz pianist. Starts at 10 p.m. No cover.

**Gallery Bar**

In the College Station Hilton, 801 East University Drive. 21 and older admitted. Call 696-7500 for more information.

Friday and Saturday — **Dove**. Pianist. Starts 6 p.m. day; 8 p.m. Saturday. No cover.

**Kay's Cabaret**

At Post Oak Mall. 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served. For more information, call 696-5522.

Thursday — **Hank Towne**. Easy listening. Starts at 9:30 p.m. No cover.

Friday — **Sneaky Pete** along. Starts at 9:30 p.m. No cover.

Saturday — **For Cryin' Loud** with **Pathetic Sketch**. Original rock. Begins at 9:30 p.m. No cover.

**The Mercury Bar**

At 313 S. College (Skaggs shopping center). 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served. For more information, call 846-ME (846-6372).

Thursday — **Zen Archer**. 40/variety. Starts at 10 p.m. No cover for 21 and older; \$4 for minors.

**Parthenon**

At 815 Harvey (Woodstone Center). 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served. For more information call 764-8575.

Tuesday — **Guillotine**. Street Pizza. Thrash. Starts at 8 p.m. No cover.

Wednesday — **Lippman**. No cover.

**Texas Star Tavern**

In College Station at 4410 College Main. All ages admitted. No BYOB — call 846-3497 for more information.

Friday — **Alan Haynes**. Blues. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$5 cover.

Saturday — **Spy vs. Spy**. Rock. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$5 cover.

They also took advantage of their songs that start off gently and then suddenly erupt (case in point: "Gettin' Better").

Closing out the 12-song set was "Modern Day Cowboy," Tesla's first release from their debut album *Mechanical Resonance*, and the song responsible for setting Tesla on the road to back-to-back gold albums and a whole lot of critical acclaim.

Tesla has the potential to be one of the truly great rock bands of the 1990s. Their success has proved a band doesn't need gimmicks to hit song to succeed: solid songwriting, talent and a fiery live show are what it takes.

And they are also proving nice guys don't always have to last.

**Texas Tavern lands fine musical fish**

By Keith Spera

ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

"Masochism Tango" is not your typical song title.

But then again, Trout Fishing in America is not your typical band.

Performing Friday night at Texas Tavern (which is located where Morganstern's used to be and run by the people who brought you Brazos Landing), Ezra Idlet, 35, and Keith Grimwood, 37, known collectively as Trout Fishing in America, had a capacity crowd raving over their blend of humor and skill.

The crowd's enthusiasm was more than justified. Trout Fishing in America (the name comes from a book by beatnik author Richard Brautigan) is about the most entertaining band I've seen in four years in College Station.

The Trout are a study in contrasts. Grimwood stands 5'5½" and has short, frizzy hair. Clad in a button-down shirt and slacks, he generally scowled at the crowd while plucking at his bass guitar or bowing his standing bass and relating tales about his ex-wife.

Guitarist Idlet, on the other hand, is 6'9" and sports shoulder-length blonde hair ("my wife loves it long — she told me, 'no hair, no sex,'" said Idlet after the show). High top tennis shoes, a tie-dyed T-shirt and jeans were his attire, and his facial

expression of choice was closed eyes and a big ol' smile.

During TFA's three long sets, the crowd was taken up, down and onstage (a reluctant female crowd member got to be in the middle of a juggling demonstration).

For the light-hearted portions, Idlet and Grimwood would become entertainers, employing hilarious facial expressions and dance steps to illustrate light-hearted ditties about teddy bears and dinosaurs (they often perform shows just for kids).

On the other hand, they performed serious songs, such as the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby," Paul Simon's "Late in the Evening" and Harry Chapin's "Taxi," which, in order for two people to play as successfully as they did, required concentration and a lot of talent, which these musicians obviously have.

During "Duelin' Morons," they combined the entertainer and musician modes. Idlet would play a riff on his guitar, combined with some sort of gimmick, and then challenge Grimwood to repeat it on his huge standing bass.

It was tough when Idlet played with his teeth, and even tougher when he played his guitar behind his back, but Grimwood hung in there, struggling with an instrument bigger than he.

It was just about impossible when Idlet played a lick and then, with a smirk at his short partner, reached

up and touched the ceiling. The crowd roared its encouragement, though, and Grimwood succeeded in the bow he played the bass with.

Grimwood described Trout Fishing in America's music as "folk music with an erection," as accurate a description as any other one mentioned. Although the guitar plays is an acoustic, he employs whole host of effects, including a lay, phase shifter and digital reverb that give it a much sharper, brighter and exciting (excited?) sound.

The tightness and onstage communication that makes their show enjoyable is the result of Idlet and Grimwood having played together for 13 years ("it's like being married without the sex," Grimwood said).

Playing as many as seven gigs a week in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Canada, and handling all sorts of their merchandise themselves (their video, "Live Trout"; their records, which include *Hot to Trot* and *Stark Raving Trout*) can be exhausting, but it's paying off as Trout Fishing in America's audience grows and a major-label record deal is a very real possibility.

For now, the band is off for a few dates in Ontario, but they'll be back here in the fall. When they do come back, have a beer (or bring some friends and go see what the Trout is all about.

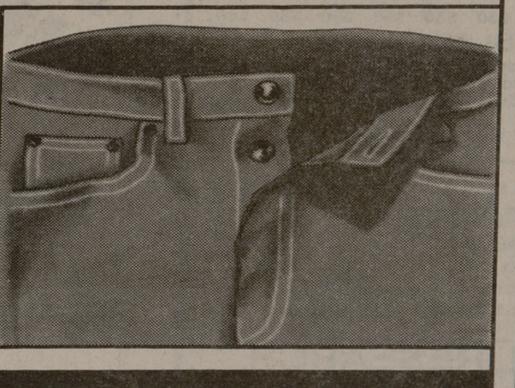
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