



Austin band Bucky Einstein and the Disciples of Relativity rocked Waivers Saturday night.

Photo by Kathy Haveman

Waivers — the new wave in live music

Owners convert former Brazos Landing site to showcase for local amateur entertainment

By Elaine Horn

Of The Battalion Staff

People who prefer their music live rather than recorded now have an alternative to the taped mix of the deejay — Waivers.

With the demise of Eastgate Live, people who enjoy the excitement of live music were left to wait for the occasional band presented by other area clubs. But now Waivers has stepped in to fill the void by presenting live music five nights a week.

Reminiscent of the late Morgens-tern's, Waivers is dimly lit with wide open spaces and bare walls. The large front windows have been covered with shoe polish, enhancing the effects of the dim lighting.

Inside, the two focal points are a large bar which dominates one side of the room and the raised stage which faces it.

Before Waivers opened, no club in town was oriented solely toward live music. Waivers, which is built at the site of the former Brazos Landing, fills that void, says Kline, one of the four owners of the club.

In the seven weeks that Waivers, located at 103 Boyett Street, has been open, the response has been encouraging, Kline says.

Depending on the night of the week and the act that is playing, the club usually attracts between 100 and 200 people.

"We are finding an interest...and hope to generate more interest in

having a venue for live music," he says.

Mary Ann Rea, another Waivers owner, says the majority of the clientele is college students, although they also see other area residents who just enjoy listening to live music.

Rea and Kline characterize those who go to Waivers as a diverse crowd, including people from fraternities and sororities to Corps of Cadets members to old hippies. Their ages range from 18 to 40, depending on the type of music playing each night, Kline says.

Rea says, "It's not a new wave crowd or a punk crowd. The guys generally have longer hair, but that's not even always true."

Kline says they have some regulars who come in several times a week. They also get people who are just out on the weekend.

Rea and Kline were not always associated with clubs or the music business. All of the owners of Waivers are lawyers, and Kline still maintains his law practice.

"By day I play lawyer, and by night I play bartender," Kline says. "I never really did enjoy sleeping all that much."

The idea to open Waivers originated from a visit Rae made to see her brother in Bryan one weekend. During the course of the weekend, Rae, a Texas A&M graduate, was sitting around and talking to Kline and his wife. They all decided they wanted to go out and hear some bands, but no one was playing.

"There was no place for bands to play," Kline says.

They had discussed opening up a business before, but this time, the plans all came together, he says. They then decided to open Waivers.

"It's something that I think all of us have always wanted to do," Rea

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— Rick Kline, Waivers co-owner

says. "Kind of Walter Mittyish, maybe."

Kline says that their first objective was to get the doors open and to get established. Now they want to make renovations and experiment with some new ideas, such as building up the happy hour clientele.

They also are considering featuring two featured bands on Fridays and starting the music earlier.

Rea says they also would like to add some alternative forms of entertainment. They now have one video game and one pool table which gets constant use, she says. They are thinking of adding more pool tables

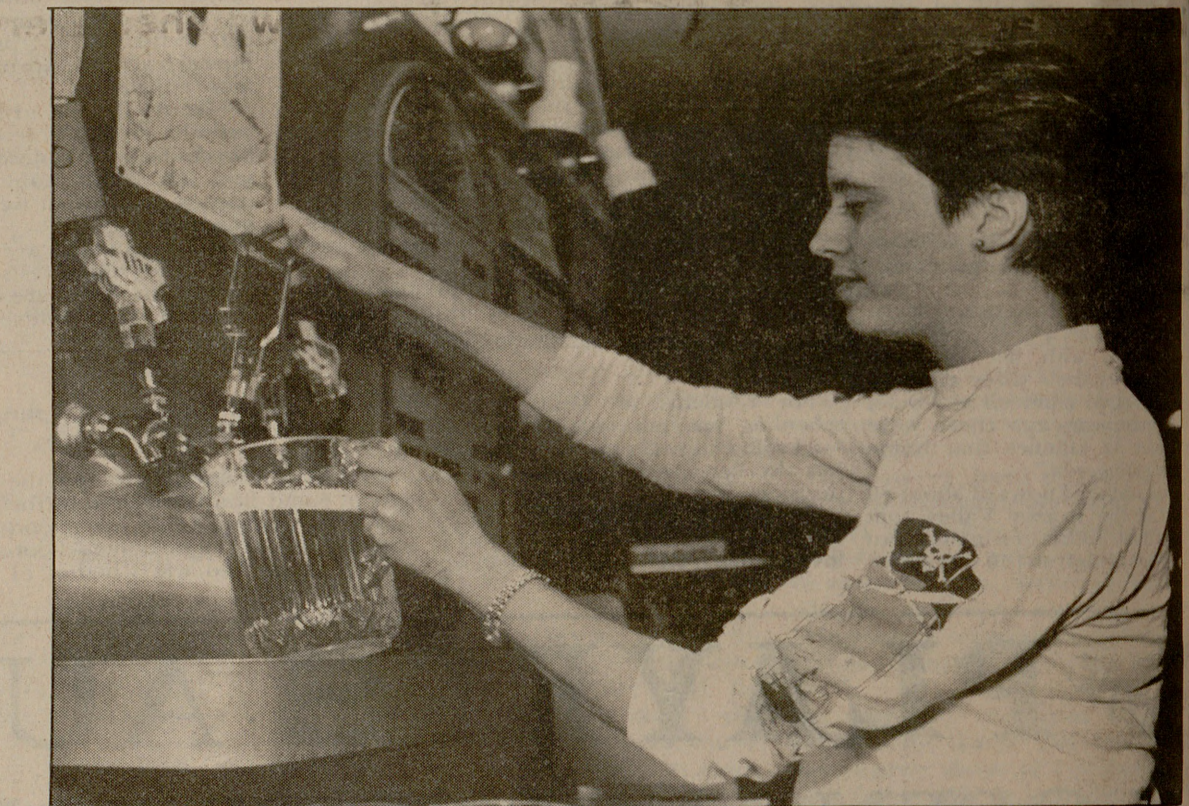


Photo by Kathy Haveman

Waivers co-owner Mary Ann Rea pours a pitcher of beer during Bucky Einstein's performance.

and perhaps a dart game and a foosball table.

Despite any additional changes they may make, Rea says, their primary focus still will be live music. "That's our thing...why we're here," she says.

Rea says they try to keep their cover charges affordable. The most they have ever charged is \$3, she says, and some shows such as the Lippman Jam have no cover charge.

The Lippman Jam is held every Wednesday to showcase amateur bands. Generally, bands will call ahead of time to schedule a slot, Rea

who entertained the crowd between sets.

Most of the bands which play at Waivers are local, and Kline says he has been surprised by the amount of talent in this area.

He says he came from a college town where the music scene was not as well supported and where he had spanned acts such as Blackfoot, Stephen Stills, and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. In some instances, the quality of music in this area is better than it was there, he says.

Kline describes Waivers as being oriented, although they have some blues, reggae, and are open to having jazz.

He says they are not averse to accepting new bands to play, although they do prefer bands that have a following.

Rea and Kline say that when they opened Waivers, they anticipated facing the rowdiness and vandalism common to many college bars. Their Bryan-College Station patrons pleasantly surprised them, they

"I've lived most of my life in college towns," Kline says, "and I can say overall, the Aggies here have been very courteous, polite and responsible. That makes our job a lot easier."

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— Mary Ann Rea, Waivers co-owner

says, but sometimes people will just walk in.

"It's an opportunity for them to get exposure and to have fun," she says.

Except for the Lippman Jam, usually one band is featured each night, sometimes accompanied by an opening act. A new twist to last Wednesday's Lippman Jam was the addition of a stand-up comedian

