

Photo by Kathy Haveman

Playing tunes to a full house at Waivers is Texas Twisters guitarist and vocalist Wade Myatt.

Texas Twisters establishing acceptance in college crowd

By JOHN RIGHTER
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas Twisters' ability to get their crowds dancing and sweaty early in the set has made them one of Bryan-College Station's most popular bands, guitarist and vocalist Wade Myatt says.

"People come to see us 'cause we get them up and dancing by the second or third song," Myatt says. "We only play songs that get them out of their seat and onto the dance floor, where they leave hot and sweaty."

"That's what we aim for," bassist Lee Martin adds. "You got to dance to it. That's what people who come see us want to hear — good music they recognize and enjoy dancing to."

Myatt, Martin and drummer and vocalist Hank Allen all agree that The Texas Twisters' popularity lies in the trio's faithful rendition of popular '60s and '70s cover songs.

Allen describes the The Twisters' song selection as a process of agreeing on a song, hashing out the original version to the end note, and finally adding the group's trademark "twist" to it.

Myatt says that even though the band isn't interested in developing their own material (they perform only two songs written by Myatt), they are serious about the band's presentation.

"We're very serious about our music and the way we approach our songs," Myatt says. "Being tight, being enjoyable, a good, professional act to come watch."

All three also agree that The Twisters' musical boundaries extend no farther than the back yard of Bryan-College Station.

"Nobody's interested in going on tour and playing out of town," Myatt says.

Allen adds, "We can make as much money here in town as we can

driving to Houston or Austin. We've all been in bands before that went through the touring routine."

Martin interjects, "The road life is the pits."

"We're older than most other bands in this town," Allen says. "We all have families and work here. I hated getting home hungry at six in the morning."

With a mean age of 35, The Twisters are one of Bryan-College Station's older, more established groups.

But although The Twisters have endured an identity problem with the college crowd, the group has developed a loyal, older audience, that perhaps remembers the three members from their earlier bands.

Allen was the original drummer

But keyboardist and vocalist Mark Davenport graduated from A&M and left the band after five months.

His departure, The Twisters claim, has been the band's biggest setback. After auditioning several people for the fourth spot, the group decided to remain a trio.

The Twisters started out playing mostly at the Cow Hop and Eastgate Live (both defunct), but they now perform at Sneakers, Waivers, Texas Star Tavern and at benefits and fraternity events.

The one change in the Bryan-College Station scene The Twisters say they would like to see is the addition of a bigger performing venue.

Allen says the group is now branching beyond its loyal core with an influx of college-age listeners. AF-

"It's taken the college crowd a while to come around and identify with us. ... But more and more, students are coming out because we play the good, old rock-n-roll that everyone, from 15 to 55, likes dancing to."

— Wade Myatt,
Texas Twisters vocalist and guitarist

for the popular Four Hams On Rye, Myatt performed in the heavy metal group O-Z and Allen and Martin played together in the blues-based High Chicago.

All three members say they are excited by the current music scene and the influx of new bands.

"When I was eighteen there were two bands in this town, and I was playing in one of them," Allen says.

"And there was only one club, that didn't cater to music, but we talked them into letting us play there."

"It's great now, because there are more bands than ever before, and more places to play than ever before."

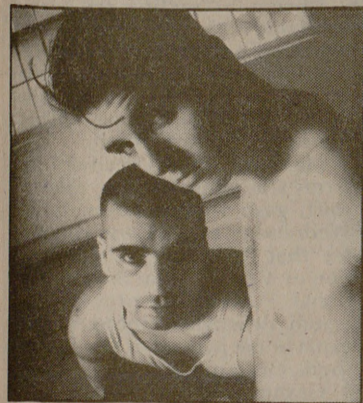
The Twisters got together three years ago, originally as a foursome.

ter three years of "paying their dues," he says, the band is more popular than ever before.

"It's taken the college crowd a while to come around and identify with us," he says. "It's hard, since none of us are in the college circle. But more and more, students are coming out because we play the good, old rock-n-roll that everyone, from 15 to 55, likes dancing to."

"Our support has never been better," Myatt adds.

"We're a party band that everyone enjoys. We know that if you watch us once you'll be back. Whether you're a college student or a local businessman, you go out to have a good time. And that's what The Texas Twisters are all about."



Battalion file photo

Nitzer Ebb's Bon Harris (left) and Douglas McCarthy.

Reviews

(Continued from page 4)

They fashion themselves as minimalist rebels, and claim that their name bears no significance.

Showtime is the third release for Nitzer Ebb on Geffen Records and is produced by Flood (yes, that's a person). Industry wiz David Geffen

must see something in Nitzer Ebb that I've completely missed.

Showtime is another bare-skin project of weak industrial dance and pathetic lyrics. Of course, that shouldn't be too surprising from a band that prides itself on recording their early singles before they knew

how to play their instruments.

McCarthy and Harris hammer out the same monotonous, uninspiring beats that supposedly put the emphasis on their lyrics. Unfortunately, "Whether you be glad, sad or bad. You got to know there is fun to be had," does not cut it lyrically.

Bob Dylan these guys ain't. And Ministry these guys ain't. In fact, musicians these guys ain't.

If you are a big industrial dance fan, pick up the first single, "Getting Closer." If not, then forget about it.

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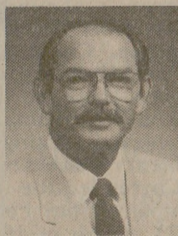
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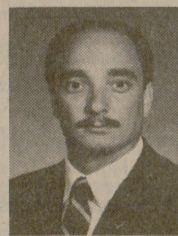


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