

Company secures stuff for students

Aggie Storage Box uses military vault system

By HELEN WOLFE
Of The Battalion Staff

If it's good enough for the military, the owners of Aggie Storage Box believe their unique storage concept is good enough for you.

Owned and operated by Texas A&M graduates Cindy Griffin '85 and Grady Wakefield '86, Aggie Storage Box uses vaults similar to those used by the military for transporting objects.

The vaults are movable and stackable, Griffin says, and made to look like trailers.

The general idea behind Aggie Storage Box was geared specifically toward students, she says.

Made of fern-pine wood, the vaults are delivered to a student's residence and left in a parking space for loading. The maximum storage capacity is 4,500 pounds, or two rooms of disassembled furniture.

Students then pack their belongings into the vault like they would for a U-Haul trailer, she says. After students load the vault, they can call the company to come get the unit.

"We normally pick up within 24 hours of the call and store the vault in one of our warehouses," Griffin says.

The concept seems to be catching on.

"It went well last year," she says, "and we've had more response from the dorms this year than last year."

Probably 20 percent of our business was from people in residence halls (last year). This year, that's probably up to 40 percent."

Griffin says students on campus can make their move easier if they will schedule them after 5 p.m. Because the company does leave the vault in a parking place that the student finds, starting after business hours means closer parking spaces. A referral system has also been set up to get students in the dorms to share vaults, she says.

Security is an important part of the Aggie Storage Box concept.

Griffin says the vaults are double protected because the units are individually locked and the warehouse is also locked.

If the student needs to get into their vault, an appointment must be made with one of the owners. Students have to give the company a 24-hour notice.

The cost to rent a vault for the summer (4 months) is \$200.

This charge covers delivery and pickup of the vault, warehouse storage, re-delivery and final pickup up. However, if the renter already has transportation available, a vault can be leased for \$40 a month, Griffin says.

"If there is a problem, we can work out a payment plan in special cases."

On the service contract, Griffin says students must give their permanent address.

"A letter is sent to them so they know where their vault is and they reply with their new (local) address and pickup date," she says.

Aggie Storage Box may be growing, but there is enough room for everyone.

The company has 250 vaults in their warehouse, Griffin says, and another 150 can be built, with materials already available, within a week.

Ready for the BIG time

Special F/X singer intent on group's success

By DARREN SEGURA
Special to the Battalion

Friday night promises to be a typical night at the Texas Hall of Fame: a live band, a large crowd, many couples and the swaying of cowboy hats to the down-home Texas style of Joe Orsak and his band, Special F/X.

Joe Orsak is a local musician who graduated from Bryan High School in 1981. He started out playing Christian music with a twist of gospel and bluegrass, and then tried his hand at Christian rock.

But, Orsak always returned to country because of his love for the music, which was inspired by his parents.

Orsak says his mother used to sing Patsy Cline and Kitty Wells songs to him in the kitchen when he was a kid. His father bought him a little guitar at a garage sale for \$5 when he was young. He says he's been playing ever since.

When asked about success, Orsak says he has this recurring dream in which he is on stage playing the best song he's ever heard, and everyone is dancing. But, when he wakes up from the dream, he says he can never remember the way the song went.

Orsak says all that Special F/X have played on stage so far is other people's music, but he has written about 150 songs and right now there are some songwriters and investors in Nashville interested in his music.

"The first song is the most important," Orsak says, "and that first rattle out of the box when you get instant recognition is how you have to do it."

"We've been really close to making it big for a long time, but we've never all been completely dedicated to making it big in country music, actually cutting a record and going on the road until now."

"We want to start introducing a few of our original songs and start playing some showcase songs where each instrument will have a small solo."

Some of the songs he writes, Orsak says,



Photo by Opry Productions

The members of Special F/X are (clockwise) Keith Prescott on Bass, Ray Hadaway on steel guitar, Joe Orsak as lead vocals, Randy Mead-

ows on drums, Gerald Kinard on fiddle, Cherise Prescott as vocalist and (not pictured) Manuel Lopez on piano.

are inspired by his own personal life, but in many of his songs, he puts himself in other people's situations.

"I love country music because it's about

people and relationships and everyone loves to hear about themselves," Orsak says, "especially if they are sad songs."

"So many people love country music be

cause they want to go ahead and cry and get it out of their system."

Ever since he was a kid, Orsak says he just knew that all he wanted to do was sing. He says he tried to suppress the urge, but finally realized that the desire to be a musician was just so overwhelming that he couldn't be himself without singing.

Orsak says he believes he has a real good chance of making it big since he lives in Texas. "Country music originated in Texas and I feel blessed to be able to play in this state."

"This is one of the only states in the U.S. that has a dance hall in every town. A lot of the original musicians such as Bob Wills, Ernest Tubb and Hank Williams Sr., got started here, as well as some of the newer artists such as Willie Nelson, George Strait and Clint Black.

"It's just like they say in business: Three most important things in making it big are location, location and location. Next to Nashville, Texas is the best place to be for country music."

Orsak says he can't read a note of music, yet he's opened for big stars such as Steve Wariner, Keith Whitley, Allen Jackson and Garth Brooks.

He says he has the feeling that someday things are gonna break big for him and that it's just a matter of time before it happens. He lives by the Bible verse, "As a man believeth in himself, so shall he be."

Orsak says there are so many people who have dreams and never follow through on them. "I'll find a way," Orsak says, "no matter what it takes, because this desire I have is not a preference, it's a conviction."

"I'm either gonna be dead broke on some street corner doing what I love with a guitar on my back, making nothing, or I'm gonna make it big."

"And if you don't believe me, then look me up in 10 years."

Rebellious O'Connor finds strength in new release

By JOHN RIGHTER
Of The Battalion Staff

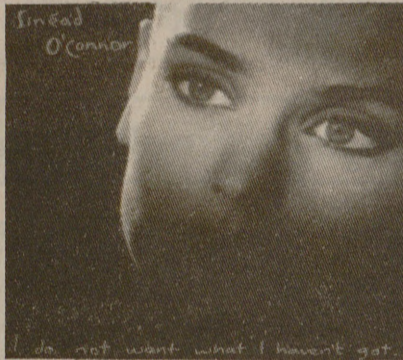
Sinéad O'Connor
I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got
Chrysalis
The music industry is a strange one.

It would have been hard three years ago to predict the recent success of Sinéad O'Connor. Not that *The Lion and the Cobra* wasn't one of '87's best releases, and O'Connor, with her "take-all" attitude and scary-sexy features, wasn't one of the most captivating and original newcomers to pop up on the music scene in the innovative '80s.

The apparent problem with O'Connor was that her strengths would undoubtedly end up being her weaknesses. The "attitude," tough looks and unorthodox-vocal range of blind fury to passionate ethereal didn't seem to mesh with the conservative, consistent philosophy of the major labels.

Also, an attitude that led O'Connor to shave her head when a Chrysalis Records' executive suggested that she display a rapport and dress more befitting of a young lady seemed to echo the familiar sound of passion and stubbornness over growth and reality.

That O'Connor spent the majority of her time between albums working and "hanging out" with New York rappers seemed to only reassure the



more subdued, O'Connor's anger and hostility is actually more apparent in *I Do Not Want...* than on her debut.

O'Connor has that rare, magical quality of creating an emotional atmosphere that does not rely on fast rhythms, invectives or screams, instead encompassing her vast vocal and emotional range against a backdrop of surreal minimalism.

The strength of the album's hit single, "Nothing compares 2 U" (a Prince-penned number), and several other outstanding tracks, such as "Three Babies" and "I Am Stretched On Your Grave," is that they rely almost entirely on O'Connor's lyrics and vocals, limiting the conventional "band" to subdued backup.

That O'Connor succeeds so well in conveying her passions and hatreds without the support of a musical aura (e.g. fast and loud) only strengthens the power of her songs. There lies a certain sincerity and respect within the bold nakedness of a cappella.

I imagine it was this logic and confidence that led O'Connor to end *I Do Not Want...* with the cappella title track. Although the song drags, it underlines O'Connor's direction.

I guess I like *The Lion and the Cobra* better because of its mystical romance, hell-fury and simple innocence. *I Do Not Want...* is not as vibrant nor as original as *The Lion and the Cobra*, but it is a strong follow-up.

Hardcore duo creates ethereal tones on EP

By JOHN RIGHTER
Of The Battalion Staff

Dos
Numero Dos
New Alliance Records
It is quite appropriate to follow a Sinéad O'Connor review with a likewise analysis of the latest Dos release.

Dos is a duo project of former Minutemen and current Firehose bassist Mike Watt and former Black Flag bassist Kira Roessler. Watt and Roessler rely solely on their two basses to create a dark, subdued atmosphere of low, quiet bass tones emphasized by Roessler's almost a cappella vocals. The bass-only background works so well because it perfectly tempers the album's ethereal nakedness with a quiet, almost subliminal, rage.

Unlike Watt and Roessler's debut, the six-track EP is not a seminar for bass players, but an actual project devised to explore the

possibilities of a bass guitar as a primary instrument. Being a fan of the bass, especially in an age content to bury the instrument's prowess within a sea of guitars and over-miked drums, I love the arrangements and direction explored by Watt and Roessler within *Numero Dos*.

That two former-hardcore bass players are behind the album's grace, simplicity and beauty makes it all the more appealing and interesting.

The lazy sexuality of the Billie Holiday cover "Don't Explain" and the highly emotional "I Worry, My Son," a song about an estranged, but optimistic mother-son relationship, are standout tracks worthy of a mainstream audience not reached by the small-time New Alliance label.

For bass-player enthusiasts and minimalist seekers, *Numero Dos* is a prize worth digging long and hard for (which is what you'll have to do, unfortunately).

Around Town

Live Music

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

FLYING TOMATO

All Northgate at 303 University Drive. All ages admitted. For more information, call 846-1616.

Friday — **Sneaky Pete**. Rock. Starts at 8 p.m. No cover.
Wednesday — **Sneaky Pete**. Rock. Starts at 8:30 p.m. \$2 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.
Friday and Saturday — **Sabdu**. Jazz. Starts at 9:30 p.m. No cover.

GALLERY BAR

In the College Station Hilton at 801 E. University Drive. Only ages 21 and older admitted. Call 693-7500 for more information.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday — **D.A. McDowell**. Jazz pianist. Starts at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 7 p.m. on Saturday. No cover.

Wednesday — **D.A. McDowell**. Jazz pianist. Starts at 5:30 p.m. No cover.

KAY'S CABARET

At Post Oak Mall. Ages 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served. For more information, call 696-9191.

Thursday — **Hank Townsend**. Farewell performance. Blues/Rock. Starts at 9:30 p.m. No cover.

Friday — **Rhythm Addicts**. Blues. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$2 cover.

Saturday — **Road Kings**. Rockabilly. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$2 cover.

MAMA'S PIZZA

At 1601 S. Texas Ave. in College Station. All ages admitted. For more information, call 696-0032.

Sunday — **Mama's Boys**. Rock. Starts at 9 p.m. No cover.

TEXAS HALL OF FAME

On FM 2818 in Bryan. Alcohol served. For more information, call 822-2222.

Friday — **Special F/X**. Country. Starts at 9 p.m. \$5 cover.

Saturday — **T.B.A.**. Country. Starts at 9 p.m. \$4 cover.

FRONT PORCH CAFE

In Bryan at 4410 College Main. All ages admitted. Alcohol served. For more information, call 846-LIVE.

Thursday — **Blue Rhythm**. Blues. Starts at 9:00 p.m. Cover.
Friday — **The Vanguards**. Rock/blues. Starts at 9 p.m. \$5 cover.

Saturday — **One Touch**. Brazilian. Starts at 9 p.m. \$5 cover

Tuesday — **Acoustic Stage**. Starts at 9:00 p.m. No cover

TIPPY'S

At 1803 Greenfield Plaza in Bryan. Ages 21 and older admitted. For more information, call 846-7203.

Thursday — **Paul Torrez and the Cadillac**. Rock. Starts at 9 p.m. No cover.

Friday — **Blue Rhythm**. Blues. Starts at 9 p.m. No cover.

Saturday — **Starvin' Marvin and the Dextrims**. Rock. Starts at 9 p.m. No cover.

WAIVERS

At Northgate at 103 Boyett. Ages 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served. For more information, call 846-8863.

Thursday — **Road Kings**. Rockabilly. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

Friday — **Subculture**. Farewell performance. Dance. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

Saturday — **Street Pizza**. Reunion show. Punk. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

Monday — **Stormy Monday blues jam**. Open stage blues. Starts at 9 p.m. \$1 cover.

Tuesday — **NME**. Rock. Starts at 9 p.m. \$1 cover.

Wednesday — **Lippman Jam**. Open stage night. Starts at 9:00 p.m. \$1 cover if under 21, no cover 21 and older.

Comedy

Information is subject to change.

GARFIELD'S

Located at 1503 S. Texas Ave. Reservations recommended. Ages 21 and older admitted. Call 693-1736 for more information.

Thursday — Comedy with **David Bublitz** opening and **Chuck Montgomery** headlining. The show from the Houston Comedy Workshop is hosted by **Jason Porter**. Starts at 9 p.m., doors open at 8 p.m. \$4 advance tickets, \$5 at the door.

Movies

Information is subject to change. Admission restrictions may apply.

CINEMA THREE

Located at 315 College Ave. Call 693-2796 for more information about matinee showtimes.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Rated PG. Showtimes are 7 and 9.

The Guardian. Rated R. Showtime is 7:15 and 9:15.

Q & A. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:05 and 9:30.

POST OAK THREE

Located in Post Oak Mall. Call 693-2796 for more information about matinee showtimes.

The First Power. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:25 and 9:25.

Opportunity Knocks. Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:15 and 9:15.

Crazy People. Rated R. Showtimes are 7 and 9.

SCHULMAN SIX

In Bryan at 2002 E. 29th Street. Call 775-2643 for more information about "dollar movies" and weekend matinee times.

Spaced Invaders. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:30 and 9:50.

The Little Mermaid. Rated G. Showtimes are 7:05 and 9:25.

Tango and Cash. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:20 and 9:55.

Nightbreed. Rated R. Showtimes are 7 and 9:30.

House Party. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:15 and 9:45.

Steel Magnolias. Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:10 and 9:40.

MANOR EAST THREE

In Bryan in Manor East Mall. Call 823-8300 for more information.

Pretty Woman. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:15 and 9:45.

Ernest Goes to Jail. Rated PG. Showtimes are 7 and 9:30.

Wild Orchid. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:05 and 9:40.