

Owners pull plug on local club Waivers, live music scene hears fat lady sing again



Battalion File Photo

The shoe polish sign at Waivers, located in Northgate, should slowly fade. The club has shut down

By John Righter

Bryan-College Station is once again experiencing a shortage of live music venues.

The local live music scene suffered another setback on July 1 with the closing of Waivers. The Northgate club, located at 103 Boyett St., opened on Oct. 14, following the closings of Eastgate Live and the Cow Hop.

Mary Ann Rea and Rick Kline led a group of investors interested in offering diverse live music, local and statewide, throughout the week.

Kline would not discuss the specifics of the investors' decision not to renew the building's lease, but he said the group would not re-open the club in the future.

Kline said the decision involved multiple reasons, refusing to say

whether financial difficulties were the cause or not.

The loss of Waivers has left a big gap on the Northside of campus, as well as dealt a major blow to local bands.

Waivers, along with Kay's Cabaret at the Post Oak Mall, was the main venue for local bands to play at last year.

While the Front Porch Cafe has been a fairly consistent home for around-state groups, Waivers, which featured live music five nights a week, was a tremendous experiment ground for local bands just interested in playing.

The philosophy of Waivers' management was to acclimate the Bryan-College Station residents to a regular routine of live music with young, enthusiastic local bands for \$1 or \$2 a show. Unfortunately, the local audience response never matched the enthusiasm of the local bands.

With a large drop off of returning groups from last year (For Cryin' Out Loud, Subculture, Pathetic Sketch and the Band With No Sleep are a few of the many bands that have broken up and moved on.), Waivers was bound to experience difficulty in providing live music on a five-night-a-week basis.

Among the shows the club featured each week, Waivers had housed the Lippman Jam on Wednesday nights, a weekly jam open to local groups and performers.

The open-stage event, sponsored by Lippman Music, has been moved to Mama's Pizza on Texas Avenue for the fall.

With the closing of Waivers, there is the possibility that the Front Porch Cafe might expand its format to in-

clude more local live music (In fact, the Front Porch has added a local band night on Wednesdays and an acoustic jam on Tuesdays, which it will continue in the fall).

Further, places such as Tippy's in Bryan and Mama's Pizza might include more local live music.

For now Northgate, two years ago the home of the Brazos Landing (restaurant/club before Waivers) and the Cow Hop, is without a live music venue on its main strip. The closest place is the Front Porch Cafe, located at 4410 College Main.

Kline says he is sorry about the closing of Waivers, but he hopes that people continue to support live music in the future.

"We have good music in Bryan-College Station," Kline says, "but the people have got to come out and see it."

Sundance club capitalizes on comedy market

By Todd Stone

With the emergence of Sundance's Thursday night comedy shows, Bryan-College Station's has become a popular stop for touring comedians.

Playing the same night as Garfield's comedy show, the addition of the Sundance comedy club (located in the Hilton off University Dr.) as another comedy venue has made Thursday night the night for laughs.

Many would assume there is competition between the two comedy shows since both run on Thursdays. But Cathy Dea, director of food and beverages for the Hilton, said there is a strong demand for both comedy shows to exist.

Promoters for Sundance selected Thursday night because it was the only open day for a new special — not to compete directly with Garfield's.

"It (8-10 p.m. showtime) is a transition period after happy hour and before midnight," Dea said. "There was a void we wanted to fill."

Sundance gets its performers from A Good Humor Agency based in Houston that provides national touring comedians.

Since opening in April, Dea said business has been "fantastic" at Sundance comedy shows. The average audience size is 150-per-night.

An event that should boost business even more is Sundance's Com-

edy Workshop special to support A&M's student radio station, KANM 99.9 FM Cable on Sept. 6.

One dollar from each ticket sold will go to KANM. TCA cable and Showtime movie channel also are sponsors.

Comedians Scott Kennedy, Michael O'Rourke, David Lamont, Bill Silva and Jeff Schilling will perform at the special.

Tim Stewart, Aggie 96 DJ, will be the emcee.

TCA will give away a free cable installation for new subscribers, and Showtime is giving away free jackets and other door prizes at the comedy special.

Those purchasing advance tickets

for the special will receive a ticket to a future Sundance comedy show. Advance tickets for the show are \$4.

To get more A&M students involved with the special, KAMU-TV and TCA will travel around campus to videotape students telling their favorite jokes. The video will be shown before and after the comedy special.

Dea said the comedians will involve the audience in their performances, which will also be taped.

Tickets for the Sundance comedy club are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Showtime is 8-10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hilton's executive office and at Sundance after 5.

Garfield's continues 'TNL' through fall

By Todd Stone

"Thursday Night Live" at Garfield's keeps the laughs rolling with a talented flow of comedians from "The Comedy Workshop" tour.

The Workshop tour includes stops at Port Arthur, Houston and Galveston. Many national comedians perform with The Comedy Workshop.

The list of past Workshop performers is impressive. Popular comedians such as Sam Kinison, Bill Hicks and the Texas Outlaw Comics, all started with The Comedy Workshop.

TNL began in January of 1989, and the average-audience size has expanded to 150-per-show. Since TNL's inception, business has been strong.

General Manager Gary Box said "Thursday Night Live" has been successful because of its one-night-a-week format.

"We decided you can't have comedy five or six days-a-week," he said. "People will just get bored. But they would enjoy going to a (comedy) once every week or two weeks."

Still, when the Hilton Sundance began its own comedy show on Thursday nights, Garfield's faced its

first competition for the same entertainment market.

Box said there was a let down in business the first two weeks after Sundance's comedy show opened, but he said the regular TNL crowd quickly returned.

Since then, Box said the competition shouldn't effect Garfield's business, and there's room for two comedy shows in Bryan-College Station.

This summer Garfield's had a weekend comedy special featuring nationally popular comedians Ron Shock and Gary Bun Richardson. Richardson provided some solid laughs, and Shock simply stole the show — establishing himself as one of the most popular comedians to perform at TNL.

Box said Shock is the best audi-

ence attraction and most popular comedian to perform in Bryan-College Station.

Box is negotiating with Shock for a return performance in October, but nothing is definite.

Local comedian and A&M student Jason Porter will return this fall as TNL's opening performer. Porter has been the opening act for Garfield's the past year.

Comedians Leo Nino and Cindy Eaton perform this week at TNL. Tickets for TNL at Garfield's are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Garfield's. You must be 21 or older to attend. For more information, call Garfield's at 693-1736.

AggieVision

(Continued from page 5)

as Fish Camp, Muster, bonfire and Silver Taps receive plenty of screen time and are covered thoroughly. Further, there are solid features about life at Residence Halls and the Sterling C. Evans Library.

AggieVision also recognizes other student organizations — from the Corps to fraternities and from sports car to water skiing clubs.

But the video yearbook misses many Aggie issues. Aside from the bonfire protests, AggieVision didn't address most of the controversial issues at A&M.

Protests of the Miss TAMU Scholarship Pageant, removal of MSC trees and Aggie Cinema boycott were ignored. AggieVision aims for highlights, not lowlights of Texas A&M.

In fairness to the makers of AggieVision, it's impossible to cover everything at A&M in one hour of video time. The school is too diverse. Also, this is the first attempt to develop a video yearbook at A&M, so perfection shouldn't be expected.

Again, the only thing holding this video back is the lack of explanation.

Sports coverage is hurt the most by this. AggieVision shows highlights from most A&M men and women's athletics, but aside from football scores, no information about expectations, major events or results are given.

During the Men's basketball segment, there was no mention of former A&M head coach Shelby Metcalf's firing or interim coach John Thornton's departure. These were major events in Aggie basketball. Even the selection of Kermit Davis as new head coach received little coverage.

But, AggieVision stays strong because it quickly and efficiently shows a little bit of everything about A&M. You may not get a lot of substance or explanation, but this video faithfully attempts to show life at A&M.

That's what may make this video worth purchasing. It's an excellent visual recapitulation of a year at A&M — ideal to show your friends. After all, it's difficult to describe what makes A&M so different. AggieVision may help students cross that communication barrier.

Although not perfect, A&M's first video yearbook displays promise, and it should develop into the ideal complement for the Aggie storyteller.

AggieVision is available at the English Annex or the Journalism office, 230 Reed McDonald. The cost is \$32.33.

'Less music, more talk' catches ear of WTAW

By Don Atkinson Jr.

On the local radio scene, 1150 AM WTAW, a country music station for the last 28 years, has changed their format to talk radio.

The station played its last country song on July 9.

Ben Downs, general manager for WTAW, said he felt it was time for the market to have an alternative to music programming.

"Being a college market, we know that enough people have the intellectual curiosity to listen to and participate in these national talk shows to find out what's going on, especially in the current events talk shows."

WTAW, as part of its regular lineup, carries three of the most popular talk-radio shows in America: Rush Limbaugh, Bruce Williams and Larry King.

The new programming for WTAW is as follows:

6-9 a.m. The Muck & Mire show, featuring local information blocks

with Scott Delucia and Mary "Mike" Hatcher.

9-11 a.m. Meg Whitcomb, discusses relationship problems.

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rush Limbaugh — an ultra-conservative show concerning current issues. Sometimes controversial, almost always entertaining.

2-3 p.m. Neil Myers gives advice about life and relationships.

3-4 p.m. Dr. Deane Dell, talks about medical problems and issues.

4-7 p.m. Bruce Williams, financial issues.

7-10 p.m. Sports Talk.

10 p.m. - 4 a.m. Larry King.

4-6 a.m. News programming from Mutual and NBC.

Most of the shows feature calls from the listening audience. Each show announces its phone number during its broadcast.

Downs said that in addition to the new talk-radio format, WTAW still has its local sports coverage of A&M Consolidated football and basketball, Lady Aggies basketball and Oilers football.

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