



KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

Fortune teller Tracy Hatfield "reads" the tiny hands of Brian, one of the many children that came to MSC Hospitality's Halloween Party.

# Hospitality serves community through work

By KRISTI LORSON

MSC Hospitality members were "spooked" Tuesday night by 250 tiny goblins at the Hospitality Halloween Party for children of faculty, staff and students.

The children exploded into the room on the second floor of the MSC which was full of halloween games, apples for bobbing, face painting, a haunted tunnel and a fish pond.

Happy faces and satisfied parents proved the event was another success to add to Hospitality's list of campus and community events.

Reisha Ammons, president of MSC Hospitality, said the group has planned holiday events, fashion shows, tours and a lost and found auction for the MSC since 1970.

Their involvement with kids in the community is now growing through hospitality's Outreach and Campus and Community programs.

This year, Outreach began working with Emmanuel Baptist Church on Pioneer Program, a Bible study

and play day for children throughout Bryan.

"This is a practical way to help in the community," said Outreach Executive Todd Garner. "You can really get down and get your hands dirty in community work."

Ammons said she "absolutely loves" working with Pioneer program.

"The kids are so excited having you there spending time with them," she said. "When you give them attention, they absorb it like a sponge."

Ammons and Garner said both the children and the students get attached to each other through the program.

"One little girl asked me to go eat with her at her school, and I ended up staying for three lunch periods," Ammons said. "They were sooo sweet!"

Garner said he can see their appreciation in their eyes.

"It's really neat to see the look in the kids' faces when you're playing with them, and how they admire

you," he said. "When you leave, the kids beg you not to. You need a crowbar to get them off."

Shanna O'Shields, the campus and community executive, said Hospitality also works with Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS).

"Anyone can get involved with these programs by filling out an application and attending a short orientation," she said. "It's very rewarding to be looked up to by a child and know you're a positive role model."

O'Shields said about 30 people are involved with VIPS and work with elementary schoolchildren in Bryan each week.

"We help directly with teachers' special projects, bulletin boards and with small groups of kids," she said. "I work each week with a group of eight to 10 kindergarten math students."

Each Wednesday night, another group of students travel to the Boys

and Girls Clubs in Bryan to tutor kids who come to the community center for help. The program is called Homework Hotline.

"We also have a lot of fun playing with the kids," O'Shields said. "We play group games with them, computer games, pool and ping-pong. It's a good outlet for kids who would normally be on the streets."

For more flexible and individual work with kids, students can get involved in the Big Brothers or Big Sisters program through Oakwood Middle School.

"It's up to individuals to communicate with kids over the phone and set up times to meet," O'Shields said. "The school loves for us to come in the classrooms."

To get involved with these programs, fill out an application at the Hospitality booth in the Student Programs Office.

"Our primary goal is to serve the campus and community in any way we can," Ammons said. "Our secondary goal is to establish friendships along the way."

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# Writer, guitarist Alan displays 'different hats' with Front Porch show

By ROB NEWBERRY

Josh Alan is a great guitarist. Josh Alan Friedman is a funny writer. Put them together and you have one hell of an artist.

Alan performed an hour-long set Sunday night at the Front Porch Cafe. And although he says he is dedicated full-time to his guitar playing, he also made a stop to sign copies of his latest book, *Warts and All*.

Alan is one half of the Friedman brothers cartoon team. In 1986 they published *Any Similarity to Persons Living or Dead is Purely Coincidental*, and their new book has just been released.

Alan explains that this book will probably be their last collaboration for a while. "Drew has channeled his artwork into something. He's gotten better and better. The first book was a lot of my strips with his artwork, but this book is more his-my strips take up a little more than half."

"I'm a big fan of his work," Alan adds. "I can just gaze at his drawings and go into a trance."

But Alan is now concentrating almost 100 percent on music. "I'm not actively working on anything with Drew, except that he's doing my album art," Alan said. "I'm really pushing my guitar and playing lots of new places."

After moving from New York City to Dallas three years ago, Alan has become a regular on Dallas's Deep Ellum music scene. He plays there three times a week now, and plans to release an album, *Musicians Lead Complicated Lives*, in a few months.

With the album, Alan hopes to broaden his audience. "I've just started playing outside Dallas. I'm

going to Arizona, and I'll be playing colleges in the surrounding Texas area. I also want to go to Nashville soon," Alan explains. "I'm also going to go back to play in New York, and I think L.A. would be very receptive. The books sell well there."

Experience with the music scene has taught Alan some lessons. "Austin is one of the toughest places to get into—they have a chip on their shoulder about Dallas bands."

But Alan is quite pleased with the scene in Dallas. "Dallas is the friendliest, homiest place. People in Texas like to help out, like Robert Earl Keen, Jr.—he lets me open for him to help me out. I played with the New Bohemians for a set."

"That doesn't occur in New York," he continues. "The studio cats hang out by themselves. Musicians in New York don't reach down to help someone below them, and you need people to help you out in the music business."

Alan started his set about 10 p.m. with an instrumental riot on acoustic guitar. No warm up was necessary; he immediately jumped into slide blues, quick licks and tapped harmonics.

Next, Alan played a delta blues medley, with lyrics put together from about 10 different songs. He threw in an old Rogers and Parks' tune "My Funny Valentine," then tore into an acoustic version of Hendrix's "Stone Free."

The guitar work in Alan's set is some of the best I've seen. He'll be rocking back and forth between some jazzy rhythm chords, then jump into slide blues, then bam!—he kicks into some solo picking up and down the neck of the guitar.

The neatest sounding number See ALAN/Page 13

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