

# Lifestyles

Tuesday, September 10, 1991

The Battalion

Page 11

## Outspoken, outrageous Linda Ellerbee reveals her adventures in the real world

By Pamela Lee  
The Battalion

The local girl gone big (from her crib in Bryan, eventually to television producer and news commentator) never said what she thought of the Texas Aggies who stole her parents' attention from her by appearing on their new black and white television set.

'Sshhh, not now, Linda Jane. The Aggies have the ball,' was her parents' reply.

Linda Jane Ellerbee's, all time reporter, new book "Move On: Adventures in the Real World" isn't about Texas Aggies though, nor about Bryan. Instead, it comically, yet realistically, looks at the stages of her life from her childhood to present.

**Ellerbee makes this book work by bringing life to her simple moments while at the same time bringing simplicity to her life.**

Like Mark Twain in "Huckleberry Finn," Ellerbee is able to give the reader a sense of events, herself and others as she saw them; yet, without being the all knowing narrator, she shows the reader the way things really were.

For instance, it's impossible for television to literally swallow her childhood friend (unless this is about a poltergeist), but that's how Ellerbee saw it. In reality, advancing technology swallowed the attention of a child no longer interested in playing outside games.

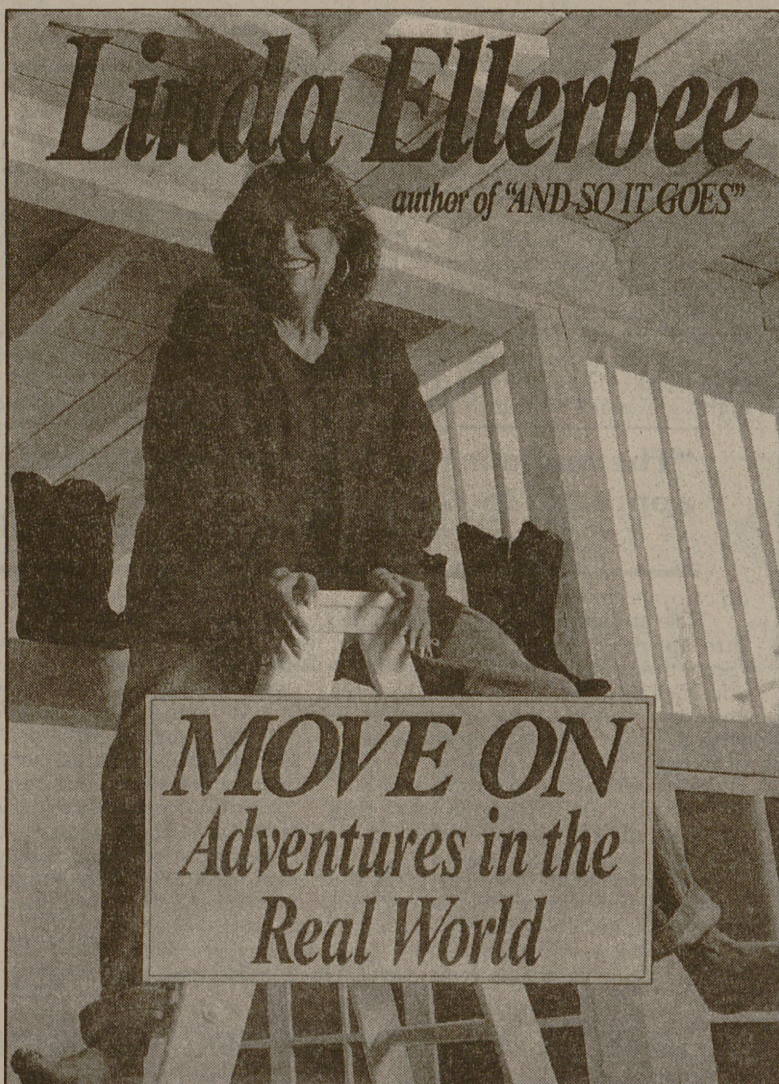
The book is not episodic, though it does look at several time periods of Ellerbee's life in chronological order — from her first ice cream cone and first job to her family life and her professional career.

Ellerbee makes this book work by bringing life to her simple moments while at the same time bringing simplicity to her life.

Prior to owning Lucky Duck Productions, Ellerbee worked at NBC Nightly News, Weekend, Today, Good Morning America, NBC News Overnight, Our World and CNN.

Since 1988, she has written a syndicated newspaper column and her first book, "And So It Goes: Adventures in Television," was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Ellerbee will be autographing her book from 2 to 3 p.m. Friday and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Texas A&M University in the Memo-



rial Student Center.

Free parking will be provided in the new university center garage for those purchasing a book.

### Book Review

## Mutant, frantic reggae takes over

By Kevin Robinson  
The Battalion

For anyone here in College Station over the summer, the name, X's for Eyes shouldn't be unfamiliar. After winning the Battle of the Bands at the Annam Teahouse in mid-summer, the Huntsville-based group practically became a College Station staple, spicing up the air a bit with their own mutant blend of reggae, British ska, and just a dash of irreverent punk attitude thrown in for good measure.

**It's (College Station) close to Huntsville, there's a bigger scene, and we usually make a lot of money**

- Dave Buckle, trumpet player

The band began around two years ago out of the ashes of another Huntsville band, The Huntsvillains. Sam Houston State students Lee Davila (vocals and rhythm guitar), John Stansell (guitar), Reid Jacobson (bass), and Steve Van Horn (percussion) formed the early X's. This prototype version had, according to Davila, more of a raw, garage sound. In the search for a broader scope, a keyboard was added to the mix, but didn't quite mesh. Something else was needed to complete the picture.

That something came first in the form of trumpet player, Dave Buckle, a co-worker of Jacobson's, and later in Bill Grady who brought a trombone to the party. Set with horn section, the rich, full sound of the present X's for Eyes was completed.

After playing various venues in both their native "Huntsveal" and Austin, X's signed on for a Battle of the Bands at College Station's Annam Teahouse. Despite the contest being their very first College Station date, the band won hands down and received both free studio time and airplay on KTSR.

College Station audiences reacted favorably to this unique mixture of frantic reggae, ska, and stylized adaptations of old Led Zep, Bob Marley and Steve Miller Band numbers. X's took to College Station as well. In the words of Buckle, "It's close to Huntsville, there's a bigger scene, and we usually make a lot of money."

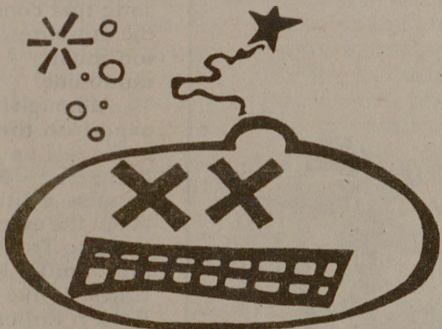
Word of mouth grew and X's became a regular feature at Annam, often being accompanied by College Station's own dark gods of punk angst, Phooey.

By the end of the summer, X's for Eyes had moved to playing Houston clubs such as Zedda's, Pic N' Pak, and Fitzgerald's. And during the past month, X's has enjoyed opening for various popular funk acts such as House in Orbit and Retarded Elf.

Earlier this month, X's for Eyes released their first tape release, *You Never Take Me Dancing*. The tape provides a solid introduction to the band, including many of the live standards, all of them original compositions.

Although X's dates in College Station has slowed down with the arrival of fall classes, X's for Eyes still plans on regular shows. Saturday's performance at Equinox had X's playing for a standing room only crowd. Along with live favorites from the tape release, the band also played a few new songs and a revamped ska version of Steve Miller's "The Joker" that had the crowd on their feet and singing along.

X's for Eyes plays their next College Station date on Thursday, Sept. 26th again at Equinox. Miss them at your peril.



## X's for Eyes

X's stir up ethnic rhythms  
with funk in newest release

By Kevin Robinson  
The Battalion

X's for Eyes  
*You Never Take Me Dancing*  
Mutation Music

Straight off of the dance floors of College Station clubs, comes the new release from Huntsville reggae soulmen X's for Eyes. The new release, *You Never Take Me Dancing* collects 12 songs that have been filling live venues such as Annam Teahouse, Kay's Cabaret and Equinox on a tape recorded and mixed here in Bryan at Airplay Studios.

### Music Review

For those that haven't yet been able to see X's for Eyes here in town, the key is bizarre fun. The music of the X's takes portions of traditional reggae, ska reminiscent of British bands like the Specials and Madness, and minute dashes of punk, salsa and modern funk. Peter Tosh meets Herb Alpert on acid? Maybe. But even that description probably wouldn't touch this stuff, a unique and highly danceable amalgamation of styles and influences.

The first track off the album, "Rootska" starts the tape off to a light, positive tone. This isn't the slow, metaphysical reggae of groups like Burning Spear, but has more of a Brazilian party feeling, fueled by a hyperactive guitar from John Stansell and the horn section of trumpet player Dave Buckle and trombonist Bill Grady. For anyone expecting typical reggae, "Rootska" opens your eyes to the X's style at the same time that it moves your feet.

"Pitch White" takes a look at racial harmony in a song that

suitably combines the styles of various cultures and nationalities. From early Jamaican ska bands to the Latin salsa recently made popular by David Byrne, this song combines the styles into a cohesive whole, underlining the message of the vocalist Lee Davila's lyrics.

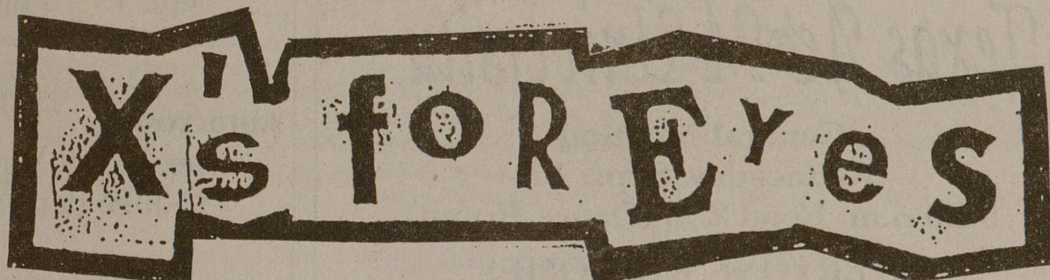
My personal favorite on the album, "Religious Experience", features a hushed vocal from Davila, a low, throbbing pulse from bassist Reid Jacobson and percussionist Steve Van Horn, and some chilling horn work. I don't know if it's the effect they wanted on the song, but "Religious Experience" resonates with ominous overtones. If anything approximates the sound of Jamaican reggae on the album, it's this one.

For those that prefer a little more optimistic time, the band's namesake track, "X's for Eyes" is a rabid excursion into pure ska. Less a serious lyric piece than a party anthem, the number wraps up the tape with a upbeat, yet relaxed atmosphere.

In addition to the above, other live staples such as "Imposter", "Queen Bee" and "Mr. Fat Cat" are also featured on the album, currently available at Marooned Records.

Stirring a variety of ethnic rhythms into their own funky stew, X's for Eyes provides that rarest of college band commodities: a special uniqueness.

Listen to it and try not to smile



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1 • 9 • 9 • 2

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Applications available September 2 in room 211 of the Pavilion, and are due by Sept. 11.

Assistant Directors require no previous T-Camp experience.

For further information contact the Student 'Y' office at 845-0690.



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## CLASSES OF 1992 1993, 1994

### GENERAL CLASS MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 11th  
8:30 PM Rudder Tower

ROOMS: 601 ('92), 701 ('93), 206 ('94)

ALL STUDENTS INVITED