

## Texas history class looks beyond their books

By Dawn Hellums  
The Battalion

The legends live on in Jeff Carroll's Texas History class. With his folk tales, sayings, and untold stories of the past, Carroll has his students convinced that there's a lot more to history than what's written in the books.

"I like to teach the off-beat things in history, things you can't learn in textbooks," said Carroll, who has taught history at A&M for three years. "There have been so many accidents along the way that change the course of history—I like to look at those."

Carroll is a strong believer in experimental learning. He assigns his students to do projects which involve them going out and reporting on events or things that relate to Texas history. He also has them trace their family heritage which can be both interesting for him and the student.

"I can remember one guy who traced his family heritage and found out that his grandmother and great-grandmother traveled with the circus performing a mother-daughter striptease act," said Carroll as he laughed.

Carroll wears costumes to class that resemble those worn by the historical figures he teaches about. He also brings in tools and other historical pieces to show along with his lectures.

"I try to be very cross-cultural, because all cultures made Texas what it is today," said Carroll. "I also try to be very cross-gender, if there is such a term, because women had just as much to do with the making of history as men."

Carroll thinks developing a good relationship with his students is important. He tells his students on the first day that "as long as you are in this class, you are a part of my family."

Jan Holland, a senior psychology major, tells how Carroll surprised the class by pretending to be one of them.

"It was three or four minutes after class was suppose to start and everyone was looking around wondering if the professor was going to show up, when all of the sudden he stood up and began reciting a poem to us," Holland said. "He had been sitting down like a student with his backpack, faded blue jeans," she added.

Carroll said he does this to show his students that history, and just about everything in



HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Jeff Carroll conducts an innovative history class and broadcasts a syndicated radio program.

life, is a matter of perspective.

In addition to teaching, Carroll performs "Legendary Texas," a five-minute syndicated morning radio program on A&M's public radio station, KAMU-FM.

Carroll began doing "Legendary Texas" last year after getting support from a pilot grant to broadcast his show once a week for radio stations all over Texas. Some 44 stations aired segments of "Legendary Texas," and from the grants given by the Texas A&M Association of Former Students, and the Texas Committee for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts.

Carroll uses his deep, multi-southern state accent to tell his stories in "Legendary Texas," which are usually about the "average, common folk" or the unsung heroes of Texas history. Carroll writes all of his scripts and said he finds most of his story ideas from old newspapers, bars, and sometimes from his students.

"They say gold is where you find it; I guess stories are, too," he said.

One of his favorites is about a girl named Kate who became a professional cougar hunter at the age of 13. She also broke wild horses for the U.S. army, but had to do it riding side-saddle because riding astride was inappropriate for ladies at that time.

Some of his stories also contain personal information about the more common Texas heroes, such as Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin. He talks about Houston's alcoholism and crooked land speculating, and how he turned his life around just before he died.

"He was human, no better or worse than the rest of us," Carroll said.

Carroll thinks telling stories such as these is important so people will relate to historical figures as human beings, not just as grand and glorious people. He said the problem is with history organizers who try to protect the images of historical figures.

"We realize they did a good job once upon a time despite their problems, so we should be able to do, too," Carroll said.

## Def Leppard overcomes fate with 'Adrenalize'

By Chris Eklof  
The Battalion

Def Leppard  
"Adrenalize"  
Mercury

Three and a half years after they started work on their fifth album, Def Leppard released "Adrenalize." The result is a slick album that will satisfy their fans. They cover all the bases on the album, from ballads to power tunes, all in classic Def Leppard style.

Fate has dealt Def Leppard a tough hand over the past few years. Drummer Rick Allen lost his left arm in an automobile accident during the making of "Hysteria," then "Adrenalize" was delayed by the death of guitarist Steve Clark. In spite of it all, the band chose to carry on with the four remaining members.

Clark still has a notable influence on "Adrenalize," having contributed to the writing of six songs before his death. Musically though, Clark is not missed as Def Leppard's other guitarist Phil Collen steps up and plays all the guitars, lead and rhythm. To be perfectly honest, you can't even tell Clark is gone. However, the band will be forced to recruit another guitarist to recreate their sound live.

Def Leppard can still faithfully reproduce their earlier sound because Joe Elliot's snide, sneering voice is still intact and Collen's guitar work was probably more recognizable than Clark's as "the Def Leppard sound." Also, the amazing one-armed drummer Allen has been able to overcome his handicap to play just as well as most other drummers.



The album opens with "Let's Get Rocked," a teenage rebellion song that probably seems a little silly to an older listener with its juvenile lyrics. However, the music and the catchy chorus overcome the lyrics and make the song happen.

Hard rhythms and driving beats have really become the signature sound of Def Leppard. This style is evident on "Make Love Like A Man" and "I Wanna Touch U."

Def Leppard dips into their bag of tricks to create the rumblings of an approaching storm at the start of "White Lightning." The song then flows into a subdued verse and slowly builds to the chorus. This seven minutes of the album just might be its best.

"Adrenalize" has its share of ballads, too. "Tonight" features an acoustic intro, "Stand Up (Kick Love Into Motion)" is a cool-edged song along the lines of "Love and Affection" off of the last album.

After finishing the "Hysteria" tour, the band had a couple of songs prepared to record. One of these was "Tear It Down." The song was first performed on the MTV Video Music Awards and was well received, so the band decided to put it on their next album.

"Adrenalize" was originally supposed to be completed in about a year, but instead it grew into a three-year project. The death of Steve Clark certainly affected them emotionally, but their music has not changed.

"Adrenalize" is exactly what you would expect from a veteran rock band. Def Leppard knows how to make music that people want to hear, so they simply went into the studio and did just that.

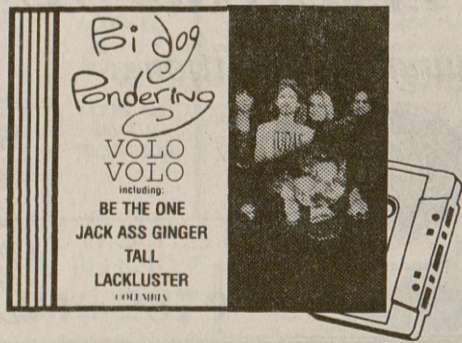
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