

Aggie Wranglers two-step on to cable television

By Dawn Hellums
The Battalion

On the wave of the nation's country music revolution, the Aggie Wranglers are busier than ever. With the famous jitterbug, Texas two-step, and the Texas swing, the Wranglers rarely find a time when they're not dancing.

But all the hard work is paying off. The Wranglers will appear on The Nashville Network (TNN) cable channel, on May 25, 26, and 27. Last February, the group flew to Knoxville, Tennessee after they were offered the opportunity to appear on TNN's "Club Dance" country and western dance show.

Wrangler Senior President Leslie Fisher said the director was very enthusiastic about appearing on the show.

"We were really excited about us coming up there because we were a young, college group," Fisher said. "During the shows they asked a lot of questions about country and western at A&M; it was a big success."

The Wranglers danced along with the regulars on the "White Horse Cafe" dance floor for the first two shows. But in the third show, the Wranglers got to take over the dance floor.

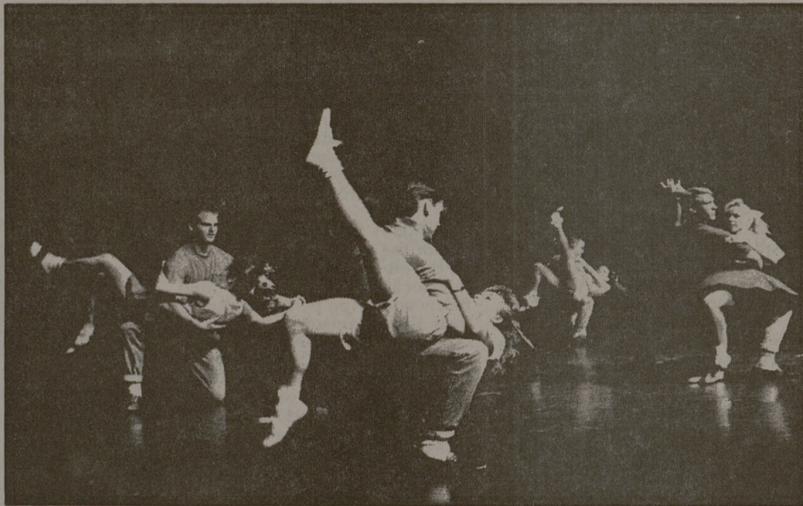
"We were really lucky because they told us we could have the floor to ourselves during the song "Oklahoma Swing;" we happened to have a routine to that song so they let us perform it," Fisher said.

With performances such as that, Fisher said that the Wranglers are becoming more well-known and recognized nationally. With their growing popularity, the group has considered expanding but said they like to keep a small group for unity purposes.

At A&M, the Wranglers are mostly known for their country and western dance lessons. Having two sign up periods per semester, the Wranglers can always count on a sell-out within an hour after they open up their lessons to the public.

The Wranglers teach three jitterbug classes, one basic country and western class, and one advanced country and western class at the beginning and at the end of each semester. Each class consists of 20 couples. The jitterbug class lasts four weeks, and the basic and advanced class lasts for five weeks.

During the lessons, the Wranglers have a



RANDALL NICHOLS/The Battalion

The Aggie Wranglers will perform a 50s style dance production for the MSC Variety Show Friday night.

couple of members teaching the dances, and also some that assist the student dancers on the floor. According to second year Wrangler Todd Garner, this has a lot to do with their ongoing success.

"We have a large number of teachers to students which gives them a lot of one on one attention," Garner said. "We have a good retention rate of students; most who take one class, take them all."

Tryouts to be an Aggie Wrangler next fall will be held May 2. The group plans to pick several more couples this spring to take the place of graduating seniors.

The Wranglers said students interested don't have to be experienced country and western dancers, but must have the desire and ability to learn.

"Country and western dancing is not something you have or don't have, but something you want," said senior Wrangler Shawn Stra-

han, who didn't learn to country dance until he attended Fish Camp. The Wranglers give their first dance lessons each year at Fish Camp and T-Camp.

The Wranglers performed at the American Association of College Registrars and Administrative Officers (AACRAO) convention in Dallas last weekend. After a 15 minute performance the Wranglers gave dance lessons which Strahan said was fun because many of the attendants were unfamiliar with country music and dancing.

"We turned the house upside down," Strahan said. "It's hard to explain what we do, but it's very unique and energetic and has a big impact on people."

The Wranglers are currently rehearsing for the Parent's Weekend Variety Show, in which they will perform a 50's style dance production. The Wranglers won last year's show and will not compete this year.

L7 puts dirty words back in female rock



By Chris Eklof
The Battalion

L7
"Bricks Are Heavy"
Slash Records

When you think of girl groups, light-hearted bands like the Bangles, the Supremes and the Go-Gos pop into your head. L7, however, is a girl group like no other. Their thrashing, grinding fast-paced brand of grunge rock sets them way far apart from any female rockers of the past or present.

L7 are the antithesis of female glam rockers Vixen. They do not primp or strike poses across the stage. They favor hats to poofed hair and they like their music loud and rough, not light and bubbly.

The songs on "Bricks Are Heavy" are driven by the low-end beats of the bass and drums. The bass playing of Jennifer Finch is the predominant force on the record. Many songs start out with her bass solos and then continue forward with her hard rhythms dominating the songs. The guitars and vocals fade into the background behind Finch's playing.

All four members in the group are credited with vocals, and it is truly hard to tell the difference between any of their voices because they all sound about the same—like dying wolves. Singing is not the band's strong point.

Their strong point would be the lunacy and irreverence of their lyrics. The most promi-

nent thing on the album cover is the Parental Advisory — Explicit Lyrics label. That usually means one thing. The band is cussing a lot just to grab some attention. In L7's case though, the cuss words and "offensive" lyrics usually play an important part in their offbeat songs.

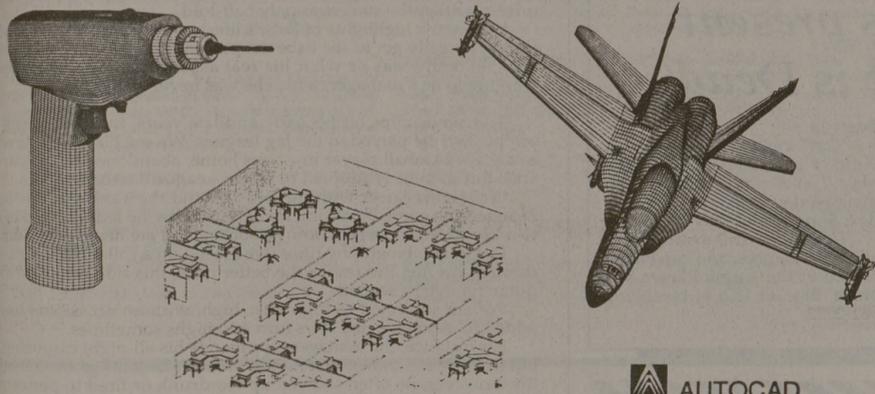
L7 talks about masturbation on "Wargasm," but only in reference to the American public getting so excited over the death and destruction we saw on TV war coverage.

The remainder of the times that they use any "bad and evil" words, they are used very much in context as part of the way people normally talk. "Pissing in your pants" or putting someone "on a shitlist" is not that shocking to people today.

The first part of the album sounded fresh and interesting with its hard-driving songs. Slowly though, it became apparent that there was not a big difference between any of the songs. The same relentless bass groove and crazed singing that made the album interesting also caused its downfall. L7 never shifted gears or threw any twists into their songs. Eventually, the album became quite boring.

L7 takes a great leap away from any other all-female group. They definitely break new ground by playing a type of music that has mostly been played by slightly post-adolescent males. They have interesting song topics, but their lack of musical originality eventually sinks their ship.

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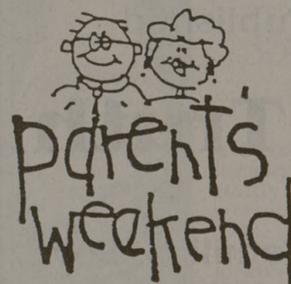
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Look for Aggie Vision in the MSC Parents Weekend.



Aggie Vision will have a table in the MSC on Saturday, April 25th. Bring your parents by to show them the video yearbook (and get them to spend THEIR money!) We will be accepting VISA, Mastercard, checks and cash.