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# Local band mixes diverse members with an assortment of musical styles

By MARSHALL LOVE  
Feature Writer of THE BATTALION

A couple of hours before the band Meniscus is scheduled to play at Kay's Cabaret, the members rehearse in an apartment near Northgate.

An old Jerry Jeff Walker song sounds clearly through the amplifiers in the back of the room.

A man strums an acoustic guitar sang soulfully; his warm voice fills the small apartment.

Next to him a man in a wheelchair blows into his harmonica, producing a constant and relaxed backdrop for the old Walker tune, giving the music a smooth and unusual fluidity.

The younger, black-haired guitarist sings the next song, a more electric, original tune.

In the corner, the very tall bass player tosses his head occasionally to get his shoulder-length hair out of his face.

Few bands have a cross-section of members or material as diverse as Meniscus.

"We play Grateful Dead and Jimmy Reed Louisiana country blues and lots of other stuff," says Dr. John Stansell, guitarist and an education professor at Texas A&M. "The music we play is usually older than the crowds we play for, and we're getting good responses."

Stansell, 48, plays acoustic guitar and sings. He first picked up the guitar when he was 17.

Mark Sterle, 33, received his masters degree from A&M in computer science and is now a research associate. Sterle, who was paralyzed in a gymnastics accident when he was 19, plays harmonica.

"I started playing around on it about 12 years ago, but first started playing with other people around five years ago," he says. "That's when you really start to learn a lot."

Vocalist and lead guitarist Pete Fuchich, 29, a graduate sociology student, joined Meniscus after Sterle and Stansell.

Fuchich wrote the band's six original songs and



Mark Sterne and Dr. John Stansell of the local band Meniscus rehearse for an upcoming show.

sings about 80 percent of the band's 30-song stage set.

The band's youngest member is bassist Jerry Coleman, 22. Coleman, a senior meteorology student, met the group through Sterle and completed the lineup when he joined the band around three months ago.

Coleman says he had never heard any of the band's cover material before he started playing with the group.

"It's different for me," he says. "It gives me a new perspective. I play them like they're my own songs."

For live performances, Coleman says the group wants to expand its original work.

Stansell says the entire group is contributing material.

Meniscus has played live locally and rehearses regularly for future shows.

Sterle says that after trying different combinations of musicians over the past few years, the members of today's Meniscus work well together.

"We all pretty much like each other's music," he says. "This is a good combination of people. We all have a good time and just like to play together."

# Oscar-winning Indian director film will screen

By MARSHALL LOVE  
Feature Writer of THE BATTALION

"Simabaddha," a Bengali film directed by Oscar-winning Indian director Satyajit Ray will be shown on Oct. 31 in the Theater at 5 p.m.

Q. Moinul Ahsan, president of the Bengali Cultural Society, said the society chose "Simabaddha" of Ray's many films because of its English subtitles.

"We wanted to catch the attention of the greater student body to present the art of the culture," he said. "Everyone can benefit out of it."

Translated as "The Boatman," the 1971 film comments on the limits encountered by high-achieving middle-class Indian man who is the director's a company.

Ray received the Oscar Lifetime Achievement Award for his death in April of this year.

The film will be presented by A&M's Bengali Cultural Society and followed by a traditional Bengali dinner at 20 Memorial Student Center at 8:15 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$3.50.

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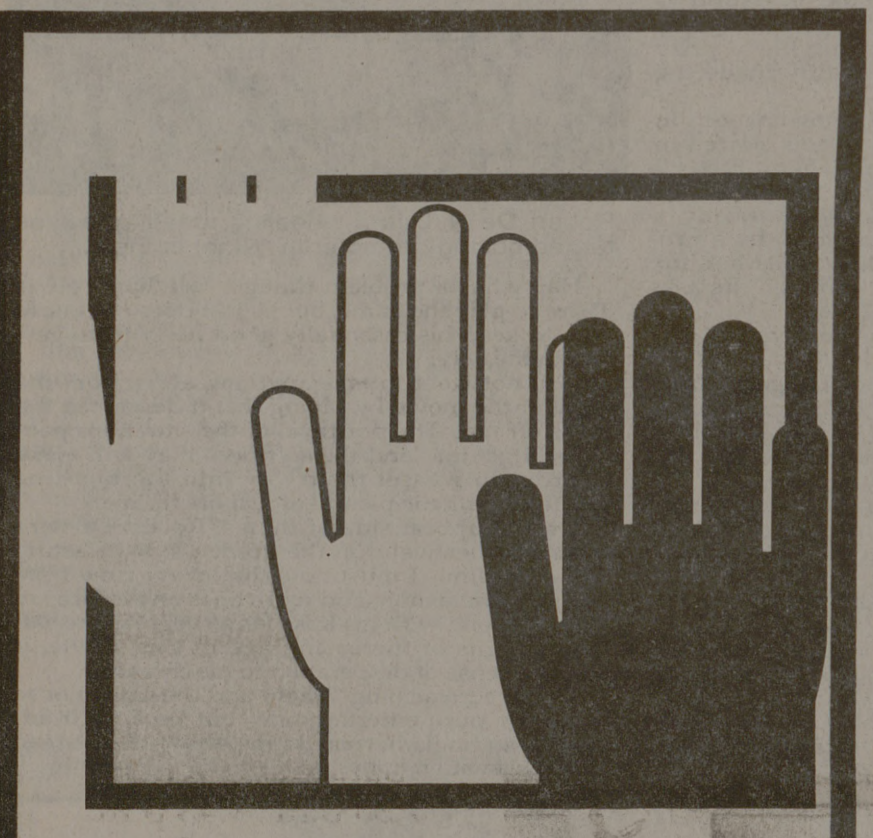
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**Around Town**

Information is provided by the individual nightclubs and is subject to change.

**Music**

**Gallery Bar**  
College Station Hilton, 801 E. University Dr.; 21 and over. 693-7500.  
Friday, Saturday - Big Apple Trio. Jazz. Starts at 8 p.m. No cover.

**Kay's Cabaret**  
Post Oak Mall; 18 and over; alcohol served. 696-9191.  
Friday - Texas Twisters. Rock and roll. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

**Deluxe Burger Bar**  
303 University Dr; alcohol served. 846-4135.  
Thursday and Friday - Dos Libidos. Rock and roll. 9 p.m. to midnight. No cover.

**Two Pesos**  
303 University Dr; alcohol served. 846-4135.

**Stafford Opera House**  
106 S. Main, Bryan; alcohol served. 775-4082.  
Thursday - Ten Hands. Funk. Tickets \$5. Starts after 9 p.m.  
Friday - Leroy Shakespeare. Reggae. Starts after 9 p.m.  
Saturday - Brutal Juice, Baboon, Buddha Chest, beefamato. Funk fest. Tickets \$5. Starts after 9 p.m.

**Equinox**  
329 University Drive; alcohol served. 846-2496.  
Saturday - 77 and . No Cover. Starts at 9 p.m.

**Texas Hall of Fame**  
2309 S FM Rd 2818; 822-2222.  
Thursday - Special FX. Country. \$4 cover, \$2 with college ID.  
Friday - Country Connection. Country. \$5 cover.

**Legends**  
Woodstone Shopping Center, Harvey Rd. 693-1299.  
Wednesday - October 7 - The Change. Rock and Roll. No cover 21 and over.

**Comedy**

**Sundance Club**  
College Station Hilton, 801 E. University Dr.; 21 and over. 693-7500.  
Thursday - Comedy Night - Featuring Bill Frye. Tickets \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door.

**Garfields**  
1503 Texas Avenue; alcohol served. 693-1736.  
Thursday - Comedy Night - Headlining Jim Patterson and featuring Jannette Frazier. Tickets \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door.

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