

LIFESTYLES

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The Battalion

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College Station band comes back to home turf Return of the rockabilly Road Kings

By JOE LEIH
The Battalion

The Road Kings will bring their blend of rockabilly, blues and swing back to the Bryan/College Station area tonight.

The band will play at the 3rd Floor Cantina in downtown Bryan.

Guitarist/vocalist Jesse Dayton formed the group three years ago in College Station. The band moved to Houston after a year and has been touring Texas. They also appeared twice on the Fox television network's program "Comic Strip Live. Prime Time!"

The Road Kings are planning a month-long tour of Finland followed by a tour of the southwestern United States.

The band's manager, John Huff, a former Texas A&M student, said, "We are trying to push out the circle a little farther, expanding our base all the time."

Huff, Class of '86, said the Road Kings still hold "quite a few ties to Bryan/College Station."

Marooned Records hosted the Road Kings' first cassette release party, and Tony Davidson's KAMU radio show "Red Hot and Blue" was a huge promoter in the band's early history.

Huff said the A&M student body still comprises a large base of the band's fans.

With new upright bass player Jason Burns, Dayton and drummer Eric Tucker have begun to move in a slightly different musical direction.

"When we started, we did a lot of straight rockabilly," said Dayton, the band's principal songwriter. "It was good for us."

He said the band is now doing "a mesh of rock and blues and old fifties country" along with rockabilly.

The band's first compact disc, self-titled, captures this new musical style. Dayton said, "It will be a real cross-over type record. It's music that inmates and college girls alike can enjoy."

Despite their progression out of a continuous rockabilly format, the Road Kings still have an unmistakable image of yesteryear. Sporting greased hair, long sideburns and black and white wingtips, the mem-



The Road Kings (l-r, Jason Burns, Eric Tucker and Jesse Dayton) will return to B/CS to perform tonight.

bers personify the 1950s.

The band's possessions reflect a classic '50s image as well. The Road Kings all perform on vintage instruments and have even purchased a 1948 Flex tour bus that Dayton describes as just "too cool for school."

Despite its image, the band refuses to be cast as throw backs.

"We left the lyrics about poodle skirts to Elvis Presley," Dayton said. He said most of the band's lyrics consist of extremely honest personal stories containing a lot of grit.

"What the band really has going for it is its explosive stage show," said Dayton. He said that in some shows the bass player climbs on top of his instrument or plays it behind his head.

"By the end of the show everybody is dancing," he said. "It's real natural. It's wild."

Huff said, "It's just high energy music."

MSC to host annual carnival

By DENA DIZDAR and SUSAN OWEN
The Battalion

The MSC All Night Fair this Saturday will offer the chance to milk a cow, get a massage, put friends in jail, get married, get divorced and throw wet sponges at campus celebrities.

Fifty-five student organizations will set up booths in the Memorial Student Center from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m. and charge up to 5 tickets (worth ten cents each) per activity.

All Night Fair chair Keith Swinarsky said, "It's basically a big indoor carnival, and also an inexpensive date."

Members of Squadron Thirteen will "jail" anyone at the fair for ten minutes. Texas A&M's N.O.W. chapter will sponsor a "Tape the Condom on the Stud" booth and Alpha Phi Omega will sponsor a massage parlor.

Fairgoers can go through a mock wedding ceremony at Lambda Sigma's Chapel of Love and then walk next door to the Hughes Hall Divorce Court.

Outside in the Rudder plaza, the Texas A&M Dairy Science club will offer the opportunity to milk a cow and campus leaders will have wet sponges flung at them, sponsored by Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow.

Chrisma Jackson, a sophomore mechanical engineering major

and Neeley Hall's vice president, said her hall will set up a "King of the Mountain" booth. Two participants will stand on a suspended log and hit each other until one falls off.

"We want to earn money for the hall," she said, "but our main goal is to have a lot of fun."

One of last year's most popular events, the date auction, will not be held this year.

At last year's fair, the Inkshed Press and the MSC council assistants auctioned off opportunities to have dinner with campus celebrities including University President William Mobley, Student Body President Stephen Ruth, Miss Black and Gold Erica Davis and the yell leaders.

"Due to the racial incidents at the beginning of last semester, people started looking at everything a little bit closer and it was thought that a date auction was in some ways too similar to a slave auction," Swinarsky said. "Most people thought it could be taken the wrong way too easily and wasn't worth taking the chance on offending people."

The MSC council conducted an investigation of the issue and voted at the beginning of this semester not to allow date auctions at MSC-sponsored events.

The fair's tradition of live entertainment will continue this year, however.

Covenant, a local rock band, will perform during the fair, as

will members of the Association of A&M Guitarists, other musicians, singers and a comedian. There will be exhibitions by karate and aikido clubs, a mime group and Mexican folk dancers.

Director of Finance Christine Perdue, a sophomore business major, said the All Night Fair committee will auction off two diamonds for Aggie senior rings and other donated items including car washes, hand-painted clothes and a quilt.

Former Miss Texas A&M Jill McClure will sing a country and western song and current Miss Texas A&M Leslie Fisher will perform a gymnastics routine.

Swinarsky, a junior business management major, said the committee hopes the fair will attract more off-campus people this year, including families from the community.

"We've really worked hard on bringing in not just the college students but the surrounding community," he said. "We're hoping to bring in over 3,000 people."

Swinarsky said the fair's main purpose is to raise money for the participating groups.

"It's a good way to get an organization's name out," he said. "It's also a team-building, bonding event for the groups."

Swinarsky said organizations have earned up to \$600 at past fairs, and this year ties the 1991 fair for the largest number of groups involved.

Conference examines Latin American issues

The Southwest Council on Latin American Studies (SCOLAS) will present nearly 90 specialists on Latin American issues today.

Dr. Chester Christian, a Texas A&M professor of modern languages and the council's president, said, "The purpose of the conference is to get Latin American specialists to talk with people outside their area of expertise."

The conference, continuing through Saturday at the College Station Hilton, will consist of numerous panel discussions on gender studies, art, literature, language and ethical problems in Latin America.

Registration is open to everyone today from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hilton. The fee is \$40 for the 3-day event.

Dean Daniel Fallon will open the conference at 7:30 tonight with his view of Latin America and who Latin Americans are.

SCOLAS is mainly an organization of 300 professors and graduate students, Christian said, but students are encouraged to join.

The group alternates its conference location between Mexico and the United States each year and will select its new president during the conference.



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