

Richard Bowden, Hank Card, Kirk Williams, plays The Stafford Opera House Friday at 9 p.m.

The Austin Lounge Lizards are from left - Conrad Deisler and Tom Pittman. The group

The Austin Lounge Lizards return to B/CS, fighting to maintain their irreverence

By William Harrison

Bluegrass does not describe the Austin Lounge Lizards in

the strictest sense of the word.

However, the band has taken great pains to not be described in any strict sense.

How could you classify a band that plays Pink Floyd's "Brain Damages" with a banic?

Damage" with a banjo?
"We don't have a set rule or

pattern," lead guitarist Conrad Deisler said. "One day we were sitting around playing 'Brain Damage,' and Tom (Pittman)

joined in on banjo.
"We thought, 'Hey, this would make a pretty good bluegrass

song."
The band, formed in 1980, relies on bluegrass rhythm, but includes in their repertoire anything from country ballads to Cajun revelry.

But their reputation is staked primarily in their satirical lyrics and music, swiping at country and bluegrass icons

- Or anything else they can

find.

With songs such as "Put the Slam-Oak Ridge Boys in the Slamyou are Dumb" the band has carved its irreverent reputation touring across the United Star and parts of Canada.

"We make fun of everything three other we do," Pittman said.

But after making music and touring for fourteen years,

"It's a band we all believe in

• The Austin Lounge Lizards

Performing at The

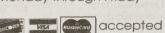
Stafford Opera House • Friday, June 18 at 9

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A 'Who's Who' of wily bluegrass legends stocks Crary's 'Jammed If I Do'

By William Harrison THE BATTALION

"Jammed If I Do" Dan Crary Bluegrass Sugar Hill Records

When Earle Flatt, Lester Scruggs and other bluegrass musicians popularized bluegrass music in the 1930s and 40s, they must have been on the same page that Dan Crary is today.

"Jammed if I Do" plays music and a few bytes of dialogue between Crary and the many guest artists that join his studio

To the unaccustomed ear, Crary's songs bend around a simple, but earnest bass line. Crary



and his musicians take turns weaving smooth agile traditional and contemporary bluegrass m sic, and it's surely as fresh and pleasant as Kentucky summer's day.

For the bluegrass-oriented Austin Loung

Lizards, Crary poses an easily recognizable and respected name – a "thinking man's guitar play "He's one of the virtuosos, for all the guitar freaks out there," Austin Lounge Lizard guitars

Conrad Deisler said. "You can expect some pretty sophisticated m sic from him – he's one of the best flat-picking g

tarists in bluegrass today. Flatt and Scruggs would be proud.

OVIE REVIEWS

A SLICK SEQUEL

By Jennifer Gressett THE BATTALION

"City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold" Starring: Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern, Jon Lovitz and Jack Palance Directed by Paul Weiland Rated PG-13 Playing at Schulman 6 and Hollywood USA

The myth of the failing sequel as an attempt to swindle audiences has proven to be more than just fool's gold in 'City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold.

In the film, Billy Crystal and Daniel Stern climb back into the saddle to pursue yet another hilarious westward venture. A year has passed since their first cattle drive and several changes have taken place.

Life for Mitch (Crystal) seems to be better

than ever with his new jogging partner/pet cow, Norman, and his promotion at the radio station. He has even given his friend Phil (Stern) a job to help him start anew.

Besides, Phil returning to his ex-wife would be like "breaking back into Alcatraz.

However, Mitch's birthday is unexpectedly turned on its ear with the sudden visit of his brother Glen (Lovitz). Glen is "the vice president of lazy," but somehow the brothers cope, and Glen becomes the third amigo in the sequel

- filling the boots of the original's Bruno Kir-

Their Wild West adventure begins when Mitch finds a hidden treasure map in the hat Curly left him. Together the three saddle up their horses (and cellular phones) to find the gold "in them there hills."

To their surprise, they aren't the only ones after the treasure. Curly's twin brother Duke (Palance) joins in the hunt, finally revealing "the one thing" his brother kept secret.

As the four uncover the clues leading to the gold, they must make sacrifices sure to test their friendship, as well as their morals. What follows is a twohour comedy that will make your ribs ache.

Director Paul Weiland successfully combines the elements of comedy and nature to create wild western humor. And as usual, Crystal's humor and production adds to the success of the film as one of the

summer's best comedies. For fans of the original "City Slickers," this film is sure to deliver a laugh almost as loud as the first. But beware: the fever for gold may be catching — the end leaves it wide open for an-

'Speed' big on action, short on acting

"Speed" Starring Keanu Reeves, Dennis Hopper, Sandra Bulock, Joe Morton and Jeff Daniels

Directed by Jan De Bont Rated R Playing at Hollywood USA

Looking for an action flick that'll sustain your pulse at aerobic workout levels for almost two hours? Well, look no

This summer's first action movie, "Speed," goes from 0-50

mph and doesn't let up.

Jack Traven (Keanu
Reeves), a fearless, quickthinking Los Angeles policeman on SWAT detail, goes up against a maniacal, mad bomber, Howard Payne (Dennis Hopper).

After Traven foils Payne's attempt to collect several million dollars of ransom in a hostage situation, Payne tries a new, improved approach. He rigs a city bus with a bomb that arms itself at 50 mph, detonating if the bus slows down.

Creative, huh?



Dennis Hopper (left) holds Jeff Daniels (middle) and Keanu Reeves (right) in check during the action movie "Speed."

A freak mishap on the bus lands Annie (Sandra Bullock) in the driver's seat and leaves Traven to navigate. Annie's speeding tendencies (she's riding the bus because her license has been revoked) and her optimism comes in handy on the mass transit time bomb.

Fortunately, Reeves' dry performance doesn't handicap

the movie too much. Such scenes as Traven consoling Annie during the harrowing bus ride sound somewhat unnatural and insincere. Ted, rather Reeves, might have had an easier time with "Whoa dude, this mess is really bo-

He does well with action, however, it's his acting that needs work. Playing the part of a neurotic man robbed by the System,

Hopper turns in a believably diabolical performance. This fast-paced film doesn't have any substantial lulls in it. In fact, the film takes several

sudden, high-speed turns. And in keeping with action movie protocol, "Speed's" tension-breaking one-liners offer

some light-hearted moments. So if your summer could use a change of pace, and you aren't pregnant and don't have a heart condition, "Speed" is an entertaining ride.

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