

# Finding a field of dreams

By Christi Erwin  
THE BATTALION

Many college graduates are finding out that a college degree is no longer the ticket to getting a good job.

Students who have not yet graduated are realizing the importance of supplementing their classroom education with real world experience. Daniel Orozco, assistant director of placement services, said companies look for people with work experience.

"You can come to A&M or any school to get a degree," he said. "We should encourage students to get an education. This includes work experience, cooperative education, internships, summer jobs and volunteer work."

Internships not only make students more marketable, but they allow students to evaluate a career choice, he said.

Ken Troupe, a December '93 graduate and kinesiology major with a specialization in sports management, said he interned with Astrodomo USA, a sports management company.

His internship involved working with the Houston Astros marketing, sales promotion, human resources and sales.

Troupe said he knew it would be tough to get a job in sports management and interning would be a good way to get his foot in the door.

"It is extremely hard to get a job in sports management," he said. "The trend in professional sports is to keep hiring new interns for free labor."

"But I worked hard and the Astros hired me back."

Troupe said his internship paid off because his job with the Astros allowed him to make contacts which helped him land his current job as the director of marketing and sales for the Tyler WildCatters. Leslie Busler, a senior journalism

major, said she decided to intern to make contacts and gain experience in the field of communications.

Busler, an intern with the public relation department of USAA, United Services Automobile Association, said she writes press releases, promotes programs and is developing a crisis communication plan.

"This job has given me many networking opportunities," she said. "I have met a ton of people who will make good references in the communications field."

Busler said her internship has allowed her to learn things that can't be learned in the classroom.

"I'm learning how to relate to people, market myself, and in the process, I'm gaining more confidence," she said.

Busler, who will graduate in May '95, said she is glad her internship has given her the chance to see how the corporate world works.

"I've been allowed to take a peek at the real world, without being in it yet," she said.

In addition to networking opportunities, internships can help students understand what they are learning in their classes.

Ryan Sicking, Class of '96 mechanical engineering major, said his intern

with Union Pacific Resources in Rock Springs, Wyoming will help him understand engineering theories.

"Hands-on experience will help me know how things work, and will help me understand the theories in my upper level engineering classes," he said.

Sicking said he is gaining experience and learning the mechanics of operating a natural gas plant by helping out the maintenance crew.

"This internship is a lot better than any job I would get back home," he said. "I am getting a lot of engineering experience, plus the chance to travel."

Sicking found his internship by looking



William Harrison/THE BATTALION

Ken Troupe, a 1993 Texas A&M graduate, started his career in baseball with a Houston Astros internship, which helped land him a job as director of marketing and sales for the Tyler WildCatters.

## FINDING AN INTERNSHIP

- **Start looking early.**
- **Network.** Professors, family friends, students, and information from the Career Placement Services can be helpful in finding an internship.
- **Be flexible to go where the internship is.** The Career Placement Center will help you find an apartment, a roommate, etc.
- **Don't rule out unpaid internships.** The Career Placement Center will help you find funding or get an additional job.
- **Look hard.** The more you look around, the better your chances for finding an internship that meets all your needs.

— Tips from Daniel Orozco, Assistant director, Career Placement Center

through books at the Placement Center and applying for all the jobs that he was eligible for.

Orozco said the Career Placement Center has many internship opportunities, but students must be willing to look for the internship.

U  
P  
R  
O  
T  
E  
C  
T  
E  
D  
B  
Y  
T  
H  
E  
B  
A  
T  
T  
A  
L  
I  
O  
N



Steve Kapchinski, the third-generation owner of Martin's, busies himself tending the grill. Martin's took tops in "Best Of's."

## Barbecue review finds fine cuisine – not just sassy sauce

By Jeremy Keddie  
THE BATTALION

The idea of movie reviews became boring as most prove to be summer flops, so it seemed inviting to search for the town's best barbecue.

Although there are numerous road-side barbecue pits around the Bryan-College Station area, the search for the most bad-to-the-bone barbecue was limited to three establishments: Tom's Barbecue and Steak House, Martin's Place, and Pop's Barbecue Inc.

Categories for each "Best Of" include brisket, chicken, sausage, ribs, beans, potato salad, sauce, and atmosphere.

Remember ... people have different palates. The first stop was Tom's Barbecue and Steak House on Texas Avenue.

Upon walking through the doors, posters displaying Aggie tradition attract immediate attention. Seating is arranged in an open fashion and adds to the family style restaurant.

The food disappointed in comparison to its long-standing reputation, but the staff was courteous and added to the lively atmosphere.

The best at Tom's was the Texas style ranch beans – hot and spicy. But nothing beyond appealed to the taste buds. If the barbecue sauce was served hot instead of room temperature, perhaps it would have scored higher.

Tom's Aggie Special appeared most favored by customers, and watching the various customers entertained. Served on butcher paper, which may be a new dining

style unless you have visited the traditional crab houses of Louisiana and the east coast, the "Aggie Special" comes in portions of one to three servings. The meats available give the customer an opportunity to taste all the aspects of barbecue.

Pop's Barbecue Inc., also located on Texas Avenue, was the next stop. Although fast food barbecue is at times unappealing, Pop's barbecue took many of the "Best Of's."

### BARBECUE 'BEST OF' AWARDS

#### RANKED IN ORDER OF QUALITY

- Brisket:** Martin's, Tom's, Pop's
- Chicken:** Pop's, Tom's, Martin's
- Sausage:** Pop's, Martin's, Tom's
- Ribs:** Pop's, Martin's, Tom's
- Beans:** Tom's, Martin's, Pop's
- Potato Salad:** Tom's, Martin's, Pop's
- Sauce:** Martin's, Tom's, Pop's
- Atmosphere:** Martin's, Tom's, Pop's

The restaurant is decked out country diner style with picnic table cloths and provided the sweetest barbecue in town. Orders are placed moving through a cafeteria style line, and patrons pass the smokehouse room, where, while waiting, they can view the meats being roasted.

Pop's served the best ribs, chicken and potato salad. The batters used on the ribs and chicken were sweet, but not to the point where it felt like eating candy. The potato salad was chosen "Best Of" because Pop's was the heaviest on the mustard.

Martin's Place, located on South College, seemed most appealing and notched the best

overall award. The atmosphere at Martin's is small, quiet and as close as one can get to home-style eating.

Established in 1925, the brick building is Bryan-College Station's oldest restaurant. With two pit grills – the largest one holding up to 700 pounds of meat – Martin's concocted the best flavor in brisket at a price college students can afford. The menu has a wide variety, a tab for four will usually be under twenty dollars.

And that's plenty of barbecue for an entertainment dollar.

## Local play brings money's worth out of 'Phantom'

By Timm Doolen  
SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

"The Pinchpenny Phantom of the Opera" Written by Jack Sharkey and David Reiser Starring Stephanie Tramel Alvarado and Brice Semmons Directed by Bob Wenck Rudder Forum

It's not Andrew Lloyd Weber, but "The Pinchpenny Phantom of the Opera" doles out a pretty

good time at the theater.

"Pinchpenny" is yet another take on the now famous theme of a phantom haunting an opera house. Numerous books, plays and films have recreated the story, and in the late 1980s, the Andrew Lloyd Weber musical "Phantom of the Opera" again brought the story to the forefront of pop culture.

In "Pinchpenny," the setting is changed from a Paris opera house to "the tiniest and tackiest opera house near the Fort Worth

Stock Yard."

The plot is pared down to its barest – an up and coming star is helped by a murdering masked man who picks off some famous opera stars.

The music is wonderful, especially considering it was locally written, and the inventive lyrics are the funniest parts of the play.

Several mock operas are staged during the production, including takeoffs on "The Magic Flute," "Carmen" and "Sleeping

Beauty." All the parodies excellently copy the styles of the originals and make interesting and comical twists on them.

Stephanie Tramel Alvarado plays seven characters who all die, and is by far the best singer of the four main actors. Her voice is almost too good for this play, making painfully obvious any minor flaws in the other three voices.

Although the play is funny, the murder joke goes on a little too long. The time it took to kill the

sixth or seventh person could have been used by the writers to develop the characters a little more.

But in musical comedies, especially parodies, one shouldn't quibble on minor points of character development. The play is so humorous you'll die laughing.

"Pinchpenny" is playing tonight through Saturday at 8 p.m. Call 845-1234 for prices and reservations.

## MUSIC REVIEWS

# Dredge Rock

Music fans will grind into two releases

By Chris S. Cobb  
THE BATTALION

"DGC Rarities Vol. 1" Various Artists Alternative Geffen Records

When there is an oil spill, it is called a slick. But, in fact, it is not slick at all, just really sticky and really sludgy – a really big mess. Thus, the same can be said for this recording.

But this is a compliment. "DGC Rarities Vol. 1" is a collection of both obscure and well-known bands' outtakes. Some are real gems, while others should remain what they were up until now – unreleased.

Bands such as Nirvana, Teenage Fanclub, Hole, Sonic Youth, Beck, Counting Crows, The Sundays and others appear in this collection.

The CD is kicked off by Teenage Fanclub's "Mad Dog 20/20." The track is like the Monkees, except you can hear the guitar – distorted enough in places to make Monkees guitarist Mike Nesmith jealous.

Nirvana follows with the demo of "Stay Away" from their Nevermind album. The outtake titled "Pay to Play" is very similar to what was released, but not slick and over-produced like what is on the album. Kurt Cobain never really liked the sound of the album, and this demo may be more of what he had in mind.

Up next is a band called Weezer with "Jamie." The beginning of the track is played with an unplugged electric guitar that is miked like an acoustic. This technique was used by bands such as Jane's Addiction and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. "Jamie" was recorded for a friend's school recording project. He received a B+ and so does the song.

"Bogusflow" by Beck is not the blues/dance/rap track like the hit "Loser." The lyrics are so ridiculous that the singer even laughs on the recording and has difficulty regaining his composure. The title describes the whole song.

"Compilation Blues" by Sonic Youth uses a unique effect. They use feedback from a microphone to sound like a flute. Besides this, the band is quiet and avoids using noise to get their message across.

For those who are not fans by Counting Crows, "Einstein on the Beach (For an Eggman)" will make you think that the band is not so bad. For those who wonder why it isn't included on August and Everything After, Adam Duritz says in the liner notes it just wasn't "mopey enough."

The Sundays end the recording with "Don't Tell Your Mother." The lead singer has a sweet voice which would make the song a hit if the masses could only see a video. She sings with heart and this makes the track very strong.

If you're a fan of three or four of the groups, dive in and enjoy getting caught up in the mess. Otherwise, save your money – buying it for just one band is a little sticky.

"Hear and Now" Consolidated Alternative London Records USA

If one were to write the words rap, industrial, funk, and heavy guitar on a dart board, to describe Consolidated, a thrown dart would have to hit where all the words meet. I hate to classify bands, but alternative is the only way to adequately describe this band – make that truly alternative.

Consolidated's songs contain strong opinions that would make Rush Limbaugh run to the hills and Bill Clinton duck and cover. The goal of this recording is to raise political consciousness and dance on the grave of rock and roll. The band accomplishes this on 13 albums released since October of 1989.

This double CD is made up of previous material and upcoming songs to be released in August on the recording, Business of Punishment. From the older material there is some good music but much of it has lyrics that could not be said in a family restaurant. One example, the song "You Suck," features special guests, The Yeastie Girls.

The song "This is Fascism" has a good groove and a message that slams mindless conformity. "Accept Me for What I Am" combines heavy metal guitar with punk rock rhythm. "Brutal Equation" is an unrelenting, driving industrial groove mixed with a rap reminiscent of Public Enemy.

From the new material, "Butyric Acid" has a dance beat with heavy rap. The backing music sounds like a gang fight between N.W.A. and Ministry. For best results, on this song set the volume control to stun.

"Business of Punishment," the title track of their upcoming release has a Depeche Mode-like rhythm that is a little funky. "Worthy Victim" is the best song from both CDs and should be played loud enough to disturb the neighbors.

The group runs the gamut from rap to industrial to something near heavy metal, and sometimes the mixture doesn't fit together. The band proves it's different from any other because unlike other bands, everything Consolidated attempts to do, it does pretty well.