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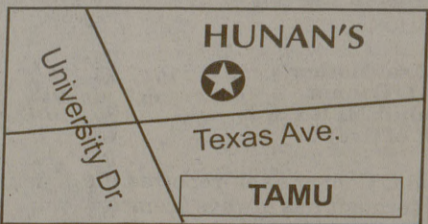
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## Tejano music making mark on local scene

By Angela Neaves  
THE BATTALION

With its Tex-Mex blend of pop, rock and country music, Tejano music has made its way into the Bryan-College Station club scene.

Several local night clubs and ballrooms offer Tejano nights, including Denim and Diamonds, located on South College Avenue.

Julie Ramirez and partner David Ramirez, who operate D&R Promotions, a musical promotions company, have brought Tejano music to Denim & Diamonds on Wednesday nights.

"People are really getting into Tejano country music," Ms. Ramirez said. "Especially young people. Everyone wants to wear boots and hats. Kids were driving to El Dorado Ranch in Houston to hear Tejano country, or to San Antonio and Austin. Now we have the same atmosphere in Bryan-College Station."

Tejano nights at Denim & Diamonds will feature top Tejano

groups, such as La Mafia, on alternating Wednesday nights.

When a live band is not playing, a DJ will play the latest Tejano music, Ms. Ramirez said.

Emilio Navaira & Rio, an award-winning Tejano music band recently featured on "Good Morning America," will be at Denim & Diamonds Oct. 19, Ms. Ramirez said.

Other bands scheduled to play at Denim & Diamonds are La Sombra, Roberto Pulido and Selina Quintanilla.

Raymond Pedraza, program director and morning DJ at local radio station KBMA "La Fabulosa" 99.5 FM, said Texas A&M students have expressed an interest in Tejano music.

"It's like a new culture," Pedraza said. "It's Mexican-American artists who use a mix of pop, rock and country with a Tex-Mex influence."

Many country music fans may find Tejano music appealing because of its lyrics, Pedraza said. "Tejano music is a lot like

country," he said. "The lyrics are about love and cheating, like that — your basic country music song."

Pedraza said many Tejano bands also will be releasing albums in English.

"Emilio Navaira just signed with Liberty Records in Mexico and will be putting out an album," he said.

"Selina has been competing with Madonna. She's coming out with an all English pop-music album," Pedraza said.

Pedraza said many Tejano A&M students call the nation to find out more about Tejano music night life.

"A lot of students have posed to Tejano music in their home towns," Pedraza said. Students from towns like Alamo, Brownsville and San Antonio in to request music and ask questions about Tejano night life.

La Fiesta Ballroom, located on Groesbeck Street in Bryan, is the top-ranked Tejano Ballroom, located on William J. Bryan Parkway in Bryan, also play Tejano music, Pedraza said.

Rick Juarez, a senior country music major from San Antonio, said many students will welcome Tejano music to the area.

See Tejano

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## Album fails to fully honor memory of Whitley

By Jay Robbins  
THE BATTALION

Various Artists  
"Keith Whitley: a tribute album"  
BNA Entertainment  
\*\*\* (out of five)

With two spectacular exceptions, the well-intentioned creators of "Keith Whitley: a tribute album" fail to do much honor to the late performer.

Keith Whitley is perhaps as famous for his unusual death at age 33 from alcohol overdose as he is for his long string of influential albums and performances. Since he passed away in 1989, the world of country music has somberly treated Whitley and his widow, singer Lorrie Morgan, as the victims of a tragic fate.

This album, which includes recordings of Whitley hits by numerous artists who credit his ca-



Keith Whitley

reer as inspiring their own, gets so wrapped up in paying "tribute" to Whitley that it neglects the music. Several of the artists pay too much attention to either emulating Whitley or avoiding any similar sound, rather than singing the piece in a normal, comfortable manner.

Two tracks make up for many of these mistakes. Alan Jack-

son's version of "Don't Close Your Eyes" escapes the cliché that plague the other recordings. Jackson gives a brilliant re-pretation of the Bob McDill song using his own phrasing and the lyrics.

The result is a recording better than Whitley's No. 1 top-ranked song of 1988. Jackson may send the tune to the top of the charts.

By far the best track on the disc is "When You Say Nothing At All," recorded by Alison Krauss & Union Station. Krauss's strong, clear soprano brings back memories of Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris of the '70s.

Krauss's deft, light touchables the song to shake off the sugar coating from Whitley's own version, and soar to new beauty.

"Tribute" includes four other recordings by various artists. See Whitley

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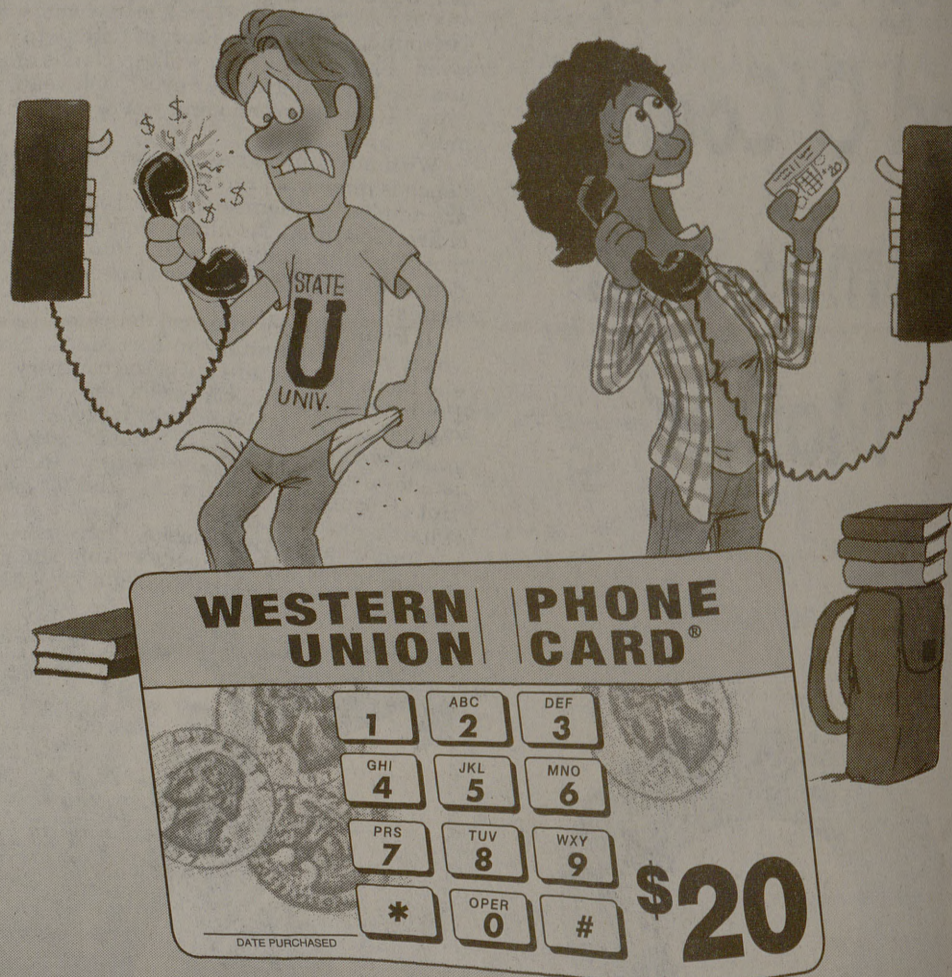
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