Bringing on the Weather

Jackopierce blows into town for Aggie Final

By Rob Clark
THE BATTALION

For Jack O'Neill and Cary Pierce, next Wednesday's Aggie Final at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater will be more than just another show. It's almost a homecoming for Jackopierce.

"We've basically been on tour for almost a year solid and this is kind of a culmination," Pierce said. "It's like the big show we get to look forward to. For this is just the denouement, the coup d'etat. This is Wimbledon for us."

The Dallas-based duo have been on a whirlwind pace for the past year. Their first major-label release, *Bringing On The Weather*, has received wide acclaim from critics and fans alike.

But perhaps nowhere more than at Texas A&M.

"We've really got a connection there," Pierce said. "That was one of the first places we branched out to when we started playing. We've just been cultivating it for a long time and keep going back."

But along with the success, *Bringing On The Weather* has brought something else — exhaustion. The duo toured for 11 months in 11 countries, playing 300 dates last year. There was even a stretch when they played 36 consecutive shows in a little more than a month.

Pierce said this brought the sense of responsibility to the duo.

"It's made us a hell of a lot better and tighter and more aware of what we're doing," he said. "We can't just be a couple of dudes out there slinging guitars around and just messin' around."

The duo also discovered their following outside of Texas. People coming to Jackopierce shows because of radio airplay was an interesting twist, Pierce said.

"Especially out West, we go out there and play to a packed house because the radio station was so behind the record. People were coming because they heard it on the radio ... they come see us, which is brand new to us, since we've always been based on word of mouth."

"We realized 'Sh-t, this is the real thing.'"

Pierce said this prepared them for anything.

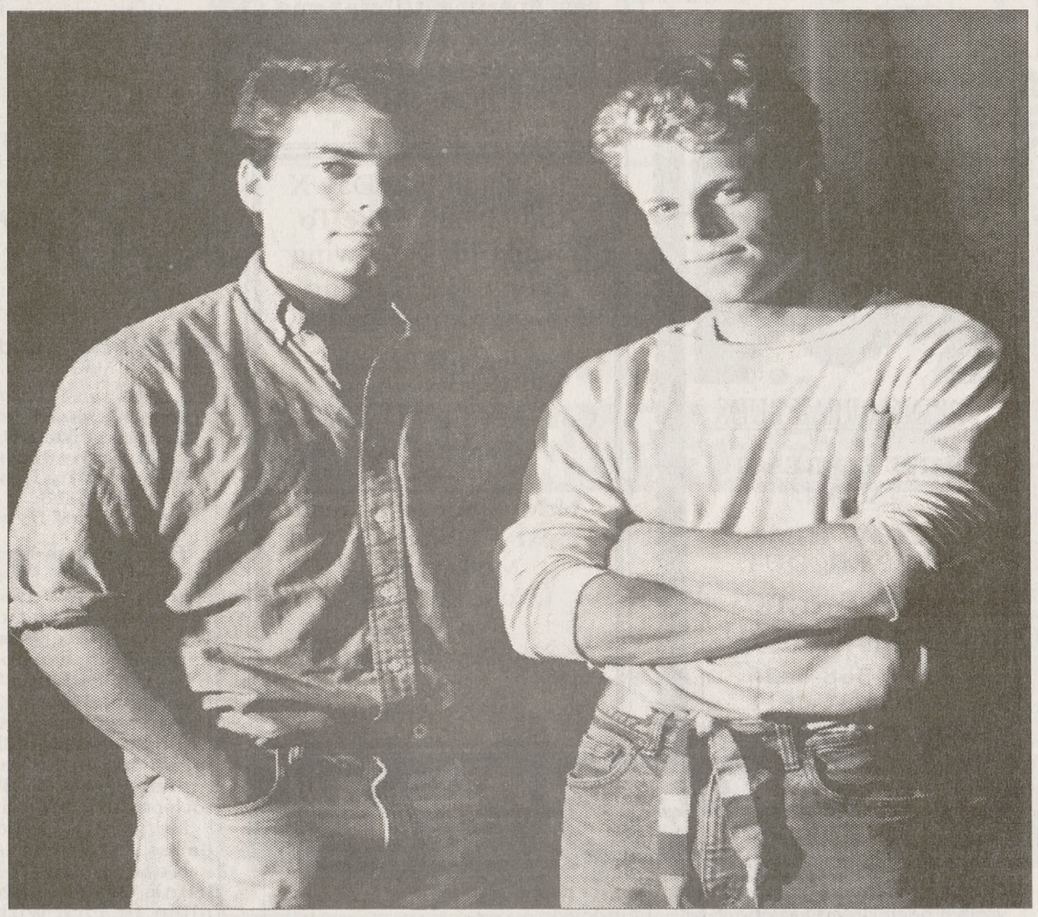
"It really got us very aware that we needed to be on top of our music and every show needed to be that good."

For any young band, mainstream acceptance, especially by MTV, is often the goal. Pierce said he hopes the road to stardom is a controlled one.

"It's basically a formula for record sales," he said. "If you have a 'Buzz Bin' clip, you will go gold. It's almost a guarantee. We're not in a position to strive for that when we make a video. We just try to make it the coolest video we can."

And as for next Wednesday's performance at the Aggie Final, Pierce said his anticipation is enormous.

"It's gonna just be a party," he said. "It's just gonna be a big love-in. We just can't wait to get back down there."



Jack O'Neill and **Cary Pierce** of Jackopierce will perform at next Wednesday's Aggie Final after completing a whirlwind tour through 11 countries.

WEEKEND PREVIEW

Friday

Chris Wall and **Mark David Manders**, two country singers, will be playing at 3rd Floor Cantina.

Jasmine Blues, a blues band, and **Sneaky Pete** will be playing at Northgate Cafe.

Peeping Tom, a local cover band with a few original songs, will be playing at The Tap.

Ruthie Foster, a blues singer, will be playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

Starting Country will be playing at the Texas Hall of Fame.

Saturday

Bar Nuns, a rock band out of Austin, will be playing at The Tap.

Chris Wells and the Texas Edge will be playing at the Texas Hall of Fame.

Lewis, a local rock band, will be playing at Northgate Cafe.

Premonition, a heavy metal band, will be playing at The Dixie Theater. **Foil** and **Trash Can** Dynamite will also be playing.

Storyville, a Texas-blues band, will play at 3rd Floor Cantina.

Jim Talbot will be playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

Tuesday

Matt Thigpen will have an acoustic performance at The Tap.

Wednesday

HeadWest, a local rock band, will be playing at The Tap.

Lorenzo and **E.V.E.** , two urban contemporary groups, will be performing at 3rd Floor Cantina.

Sneaky Pete, a parody cover singer, will be performing at Northgate Cafe.

Jackopierce, **Jack Ingram** and **Vertical Horizon** will be playing at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater. See related story.

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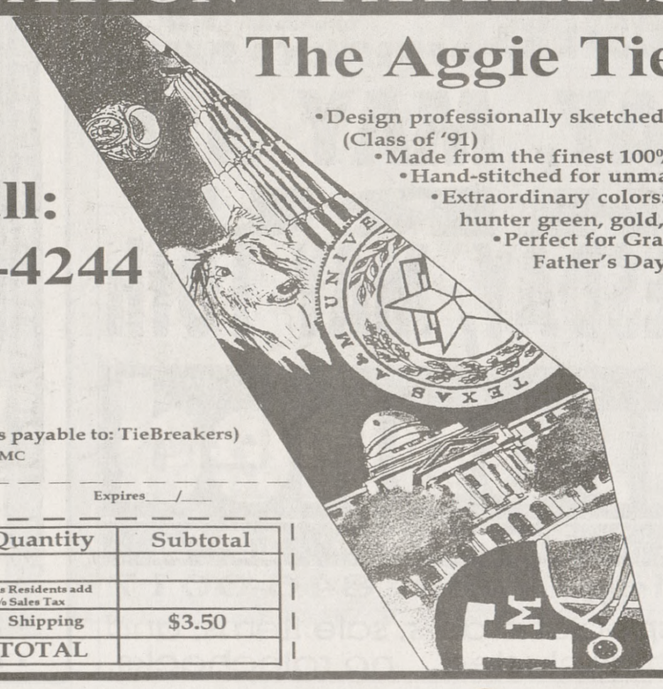

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