

## Wired in to radio

Student-run KANM provides outlet for various musical formats

Rachel Barry  
BATTALION

There is more to cable than television, and many College Station residents are not aware of what else can come through their wires.

KANM, A&M's student-run radio station, is one of the unknown behind cable connection.

Jennifer Evans, a graduate urban planning student, said she tried out to be a disc jockey for the station because her friend was studying communications and thought it would be fun. Evans, who has no interest in studying communications, ended up as a DJ.

"I think it was because I said I was willing to work three in the morning," she said.

Evans survived her 3 a.m. shift partly by keeping the music, but she also had some help from her callers. She said she had several callers though it was early in the morning.

"I had one caller who would call at 5 a.m. every morning," she said. "He was a dedicated caller, I guess."

Evans said she has had five shows since she began at KANM with themes ranging from jazz to an alternative to retro rock and British and American music.

"My horizons of music have been greatly expanded," she said.

Chris Putaansuu, a junior journalism major, said he enjoys being able to play music he likes that can't be heard on College Station radio stations.

"College Station is limited in the music that can be played," he said. "These are talented bands that need to be exposed."

Putaansuu's describes his show, Shower Tunes, as alternative underground music. He also plays well-known songs by well-known bands.

Jason Aranoff, a junior computer engineering major, said he likes being able to play his own music. Having a show offers him a chance to blow off some steam, he said.

"I can throw on some vinyl and throw out some rants — in a peaceful manner," he said.

Rafael Gomez, a senior mechanical engineering major, said being a DJ has given him the chance to find out about the "behind the scenes" of radio.

"I can listen to new music that I hadn't had access to before," he said.

He said KANM serves as another option in radio for College Station.



Robyn Calloway, THE BATTALION

Atul Rastogi, a senior electrical engineering major, DJ's a radio show "Funky Tabla" on KANM radio Thursday afternoon.

She said that it is often long-time cable users that go through the process of hooking up their radios so they can receive cable radio stations on their dials.

Gomez said people don't realize that having their stereos hooked up to cable would offer them more radio stations and improve the reception of the ones they already have.

"Most people have heard of the radio station," he said, "but it's [because of] the fact that you need to get connected through cable that they aren't listening."

Evans said that while efforts are being made to get KANM on FM, the station is concentrating on getting the student body more involved in the station as it is.

She said major student organizations such as the Residents Hall Association and Student Government are experimenting with having shows on the radio about their organizations.

"A lot of organizations don't realize that we will do PSAs (Public Service Announcements) for free," she said. "They don't use this resource as well as they could."

## Powerful vocals make up for simple lyrics in Buffalo Tom's *Sleepy Eyed*

ALBUM REVIEW  
**Buffalo Tom**  
*Sleepy Eyed*  
Atlantic Records  
★★ (out of five)



Every mediocre band that hits the time fast, there seems to be at least 10 talented bands that sit in the shade patiently waiting for the day their hit will come along, if ever.

A perfect example of this scenario is Buffalo Tom. Several albums into its career, the band has opened for such alternative acts as Live and leaves fans wondering why the band isn't in the spotlight.

Their new album, *Sleepy Eyed*, should have people wondering such things. Fans should also wonder why such an

album would be called *Sleepy Eyed* — there's nothing sleepy about it. Rather, it is one of the more upbeat, energetic albums to come out in a while. Even the slow songs have a unique drive that keeps them from dragging.

The album has more than an energetic sound, though. The lyrics are also largely upbeat, a trait that has become nothing short of a novelty in this musical day and age.

Don't worry, these guys do not sound like they swallowed a happy pill or anything, but it is nice to hear songs about dream girls and summer mixed in with the traditional slow rock 'n' roll songs.

Take Soul Asylum's pop song qualities and Dinosaur Jr.'s guitar sound, and you have Buffalo Tom. The band has successfully produced an album full of aggressive pop songs with an edge. There is a nice melody in every song that mingles with strong guitar lines.

And vocals are one of Buffalo Tom's strongest points. Band members Bill Janovitz and Chris Colbourn split lead vocals, and both have powerful voices that give the band an extra kick of energy.

The band's lyrics are simple, but that's OK. Even though no philosophy will be found on this album, the songwriting is far from a drawback.

The drawback is the lack of any one song that stands out on this album. All the bases are covered — from fun pop songs to slower, acoustic lovey-dovey songs. Buffalo Tom has shown its range as a band.

**Take Soul Asylum's pop song qualities and Dinosaur Jr.'s guitar sound, and you have Buffalo Tom.**

There are no bad songs on *Sleepy Eyed*. Every song is powerful, but none look like a big breakthrough hit. *Sleepy Eyed* is consistently good, but never spectacular.

Even though this album shows they have the potential to be in the spotlight, Buffalo Tom will most likely have to be content with being an opening act for a while longer.

## GOIN' SOLO

By Katharine Deaton  
THE BATTALION

New musical group Solo will give an outdoor concert sponsored by MSC Town Hall and the MSC Black Awareness Committee tonight at Rudder Fountain at 5 p.m.

Solo members Eunique Mack, Darnell Chavis, Daniele Stokes and Robert Anderson combine R&B, hip-hop, jazz and classic styles to create their trademark sound — what they call new classic soul.

Tina Harrison, BAC chair and a senior finance major, said the group's appeal for students is in its new and different style.

"Solo will appeal to students interested in modern music as well as those interested in soulful music," Harrison said. "Their wide range of music will appeal to a wide range of students."

Harrison said the BAC decided to bring Solo to the campus

because they want to show new things to students.

"I think it's a good idea to bring new groups and expose the University to new things," Harrison said.

The group's first album is composed of their hit single, "Heaven" and reworkings of soul classics such as the Drifter's "Under the Boardwalk" and Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come."

A press release said Solo's repertoire spans "hip-hop jams to jazz and gospel-bred harmonies to authentic doo-wop vocal formations."

The group's members met while singing on the street. Once together, they continued singing on the street in order to gain exposure.

Solo was discovered by Grammy Award-winning producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, who produced three multi-platinum Janet Jackson albums.

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