

The Nixons bring uniqueness to B-CS

By Amy Uptmor
THE BATTALION



The Nixons are performing tonight at the Dixie Theatre.

Comparisons between newcomers The Nixons and the established Pearl Jam have abounded from critics and fans alike. But The Nixons' lead singer Zac Maloy just doesn't see the connection.

"I personally don't hear it," Maloy said. "They're a rock band with a singer that sings roughly in the same register as me, but that's it."

As far as comparisons go, Maloy said his band, which is performing tonight at the Dixie Theatre, should not be categorized at all, much less with Pearl Jam.

"People ask me what kind of a band we are and I tell them, 'You make that decision; you tell me,'" he said. "I think at times, we sound way different from a band

like Pearl Jam."

The Nixons' road to stardom began about four years ago in the unexpected town of Oklahoma City. Maloy, then a political science and communications double major in college who hoped to go to law school, was in a band with fellow Nixon Jesse Davis.

"We knew Ricky (Brooks, The Nixons' bassist) and John (Humphrey, The Nixons' drummer) were in another band in Oklahoma City, so we just kind of came together," Maloy said.

As for starting a band in Oklahoma City, Maloy said the music scene wasn't bad, especially considering its proximity to Dallas.

"Dallas is only three hours south, so we played Dallas more," he said.

"Our first show was on a Tuesday night at Trees (a club in Dallas), and it was free. We practical-

ly had to pay people to get them there. We played around Texas a lot. We played in College Station to two or three people, and it's just grown since then."

Despite the success of The Nixons' first two indie recordings, it took a knock on the door from MCA records for Maloy to realize he might not be going to law school after all.

"The college band was just for fun," he said. "We decided to give it a shot and went out and just started playing."

"When we got signed to MCA, it was a point when we saw this was for real."

Foma, The Nixons' first album on MCA records, was released in 1995, shortly after the band was signed to the label. Despite its quick release, Maloy said *Foma* represents the best of The Nixons.

"We recorded basically every-

thing that we thought was conceivable," he said. "We had about 20 songs, and we picked the 12 best."

Even though the album and song title, *Foma*, is taken from the works of Kurt Vonnegut, Maloy said there is no story behind the band's name. Nevertheless, Maloy said many artists and writers have influenced his music, including some rather unexpected performers.

"The Toadies are a great new band with a good sound," he said, "but, honestly, I listen to Lyle Lovett and Dwight Yoakum more than anyone else."

Several of the songs on *Foma* appeared on the band's 1994 indie LP album, *Halo*, including "Sister," whose success on the radio was not only a factor in the band's signing, but also in *Foma*'s latest blast of stardom.

See Nixons, Page 4

The Wheel World

Fewer cars would make world a better place Life without a car is hectic, inconvenient

Despite constant dieting, the American public continues to get fatter. Our physical condition is despicable. The environment is being destroyed by pollution. And, to top it off, nobody can find a parking place on campus.

JEREMY HUBBLE
COLUMNIST



bicycle lanes, bicyclists are forced to the sidewalks, creating a chaotic turmoil as they try to dodge pedestrians.

Even after having their lane stolen, biking still remains the fastest way to get to class. Driving, it takes five minutes to get to campus, then up to an hour or more navigating campus traffic, searching for a parking place and walking to class.

A biker simply whizzes by the traffic, arriving directly to class in 10 to 20 minutes. In the driver's best-case scenario, he might arrive right before the cyclist.

In the worst-case scenario, he'd arrive just in time to hear the professor announce the next day's assignment.

The biggest problem facing bicyclists is bad weather. Riding a bike suddenly gets a lot harder when freezing rain is pouring down. A&M tried to provide an option by providing commuter bus service.

Unfortunately, with slow service, long stops and campus traffic, you can just about make it to campus faster walking. And don't even try

to pay the bus fare on the spot.

Now, it's either plead a ride or have fun in the cold. Luckily, cold weather is not a common occurrence in College Station. Hopefully, in the future we'll see bike accessories such as a lightweight plastic roof, a CD player and a solar generator.

With advancements in alternative transportation, cars can be eliminated along with a host of other social problems.

Obesity would be curbed, and physical conditions would improve as people propel themselves. Even leisure time would increase as people combine transportation and exercise in one.

In addition, crime would take a nose dive. There'd be no DWIs. A drunk roller-blader will fall on his face before causing a death. Increased physical activity also contributes to increased emotional stability and less propensity toward crime.

Without cars' heavy loads, highway maintenance costs will be reduced, cutting the government debt. Personal financial conditions will improve because money spent on car loans could be freely spent elsewhere.

The world would be a better place to live.

And it all starts with riding our bikes to school.

Jeremy Hubble is a junior civil engineering major.

Many students drive to class every day. Though sometimes convenient, parking on campus usually entails paying for a parking tag, an hourly rate in a garage or pay lot, or if you don't use either of those, the occasional yellow PITTS envelope under your wiper blade.

Luckily, I don't have to worry about any of those things. No, I don't have some wonderful system of eluding the parking authorities — my parents wouldn't let me bring a car to college.

My freshman year was easy. I met everyone on my floor, found out where everyone was from, what major they were and whether or not they had a car. If they said yes to the last criterion, we became good friends quickly.

"Hey Steve, feel like going to the mall?" Or, "Mary, didn't you say you needed to get some food at Wal-Mart? Oh, really... want some company?"

If I was really lucky, someone might say something like, "Well, Jonathan, I don't really need to go, but here are my keys."



JONATHAN FABER
COLUMNIST



These situations were great. I would run my errand, or any others that I thought may come up that week, stop at a gas station on the way back and put \$2 or \$3 of gas into the tank to express my gratitude. I found that a little politeness went a long way.

My sophomore year was a little different. It was my first semester as a resident adviser, and my new residents were eager to kiss up to me in return for some special consideration if they were, to say, have a party in their room at some later date. I always had a ride wherever I needed to go.

This year, however, things are different. I now live in Bryan, far from the festivities of the bustling College Station nightlife. Friends are reluctant to drive "all the way" out here (it's only about two miles) to pick me up or drop me off after a night of partying.

Getting to and from school usually isn't a problem, since a shuttle bus picks up a load of students every 15 minutes from early

morning until about 5 p.m. The problem usually occurs when I try to get home after a fine afternoon of studying in the library and I walk to the bus stop to find the last bus left 10 minutes ago.

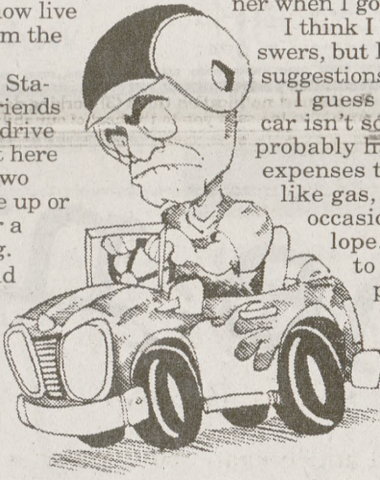
This exact situation happened two Fridays ago, and I was forced to walk home from campus. It took me 46 minutes walking at a brisk pace through the freezing cold. Crazy drivers almost hit me at times, and another bus passed me midway through my cross-town jaunt. But at least I'm not bitter.

Actually, I had a good time on my walk. I had time to think about the day's lectures, what I had read while studying, what I was going to do about a girl I had wanted to go out with who wouldn't call me back and what the cafeteria would be serving for dinner when I got home.

I think I found some answers, but I'm still looking for suggestions about the girl.

I guess living without a car isn't so bad. I would probably have many more expenses than I have now, like gas, repairs and the occasional yellow envelope. I also would have to put up with people asking for a ride all the time.

Man, that would be a pain.



Jonathan Faber is a junior finance major.

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		SUN Feb 4	MON Feb 5	TUES Feb 6	WED Feb 7	THUR Feb 8
CHEM 102 DR TANG DR CONWAY	3 - 5 PM	CH 15A	CH 15B	CH 16	CH 17	PRAC TEST
CHEM 102 DR TANG DR CONWAY	7 - 9 PM	CH 15A	CH 15B	CH 16	CH 17	PRAC TEST
PHYS 218	9 - 11 PM	CH 1, 2	CH 3	CH 4, 5	PRAC TEST	
CHEM 101 DR PECK DR WOLF	11 - 1 AM	CH 1, 2	CH 3, 4	CH 5	PRAC TEST	

PHYS 201 & PHYS 202 ----- LOOK AT DATES AND TIMES!!!!

		SAT Feb 3 12 - 4 PM	SUN Feb 4 12 - 3 PM	MON Feb 5 5 - 7 PM	TUES Feb 6 5 - 7 PM
PHYS 201	CH 1, 2, 3		CH 4, 5 PRAC TEST DR WEIMER DR HAM DR CLARK	PRAC TEST A	PRAC TEST B

		SUN Feb 4	MON Feb 5	TUES Feb 6	WED Feb 7	THUR Feb 8
PHYS 208	5 - 7 PM OR 7 - 9 PM		CH 23, 24	CH 25, 26	PRAC TEST A	PRAC TEST B
MATH 151	3 - 5 PM OR 9 - 11 PM		PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	PRAC TEST

BIOL 113 (CH 1 - 4) ---SAT, FEB 3, 1 - 3 PM / BIOL 113 (CH 4, 5) SUN, FEB 4, 1 - 3 PM

BUSINESS

		SUN Feb 4	MON Feb 5	TUES Feb 6	WED Feb 7
ACCT 229	6 - 8 PM	CH 3, 4	CH 4, 5	CH 6	PRAC TEST
FINC 341	8 - 11 PM	CH 1, 2	CH 3, 4	PRAC TEST 8 - 10 PM	



TICKETS GO ON SALE SUNDAY, FEB 4 FROM 4 - 6 PM

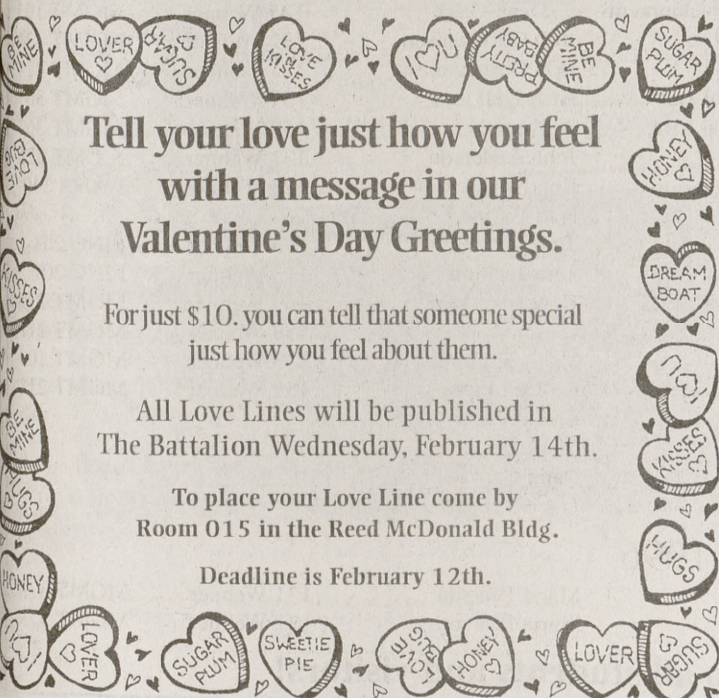
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January 31, 1996
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