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TABC, MADD seek to enforce alcohol laws during spring break

Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is cracking down.

TABC has issued a warning to minors who are spending spring break in South Texas: if you plan on drinking, there will be stiff penalties if you are caught.

"We crack down every year," says Hamilton, the chief of enforcement for TABC, said. "We're using the publicity as a deterrent. Our main focus will be on beaches, and our means will be different. The mere fact that we know we will be there will help convince people to be safe and sober."

TABC will conduct minor stings at businesses, bars and shops. They will also have Cops Shops operations, where agents will pose as employers or customers to curtail the sale of alcohol to minors.

Hamilton said TABC is trying to ensure everyone has a safe spring break.

"We will have more agents at Padre Island and Port Isabel," Hamilton said. "DPS (Department of Public Safety) will be sending troops up and down the highways; agents will be checking rest stops, and prior to

spring break, we will be conducting minor sting operations on stores just off the roadways."

Working in conjunction with TABC is the organization Mothers Against Drunk Drivers.

Kirk Brown, a member of the local MADD chapter, said the organization is trying to prevent needless deaths due to drinking and driving.

"We had problems in the past because there was little enforcement of the law so minors could buy," Brown said. "Once proprietors find out about TABC, the sales to minors will decrease."

"The bottom line is that we are trying to save lives. Forty to 45 percent of automobile accidents are alcohol-related, and with the increased speed limits, it is more dangerous." Many A&M stu-

dents will make the annual trek to Padre Island and the surrounding beach areas for a week of rest and relaxation.

However, this year many students under the age of 21 will be more careful.

"You are always scared of MIPs," Valerie Manzanara, a freshman environmental design major, said. "But you drink anyway. You just need to watch where you drink if you are a minor."

Paul Bubel, a freshman architecture major, said being a minor does not make someone automatically irresponsible.

"Twenty-one is an arbitrary number," Bubel said. "It does not make you magically responsible. Minors are more responsible because they are worried about being caught."

"Minors are more likely to keep the alcohol inside, like in their condo."

Throughout the week, the Student Life Alcohol and Drug Education Programs is sponsoring a "Spring Break 1996" week of activities in the Rudder Foun-

tain area.

"We are targeting socially irresponsible behaviors," Scott Blackwell, a graduate assistant in the Department of Student Life, said.

"It is mainly alcohol, and before people take off, we want them to see our displays."

"The main thing is, we want students to make a pledge not to drink and drive."

"Studies show it deters people, because a majority of people will remember that pledge and find an alternative ride."

While most students see the beach as a haven for fun and a break from the toils of classes, Brown warns students that funerals and jail time are not part of the fun.

"I suggest that students go to Padre, and they can have just as much fun without the alcohol," Brown said. "They might even remember it."

"I have no objection if you are at legal age. When you are the legal age, you are more responsible because most of the binge drinking takes place with minors."

"This behavior only leads to needless deaths. You could be productive members of society."

Hamilton said alcohol does not necessarily equal a good time.

"The state of Texas is getting serious about this," Hamilton said. "People could destroy their lives, but also the store owner's livelihood."

"They think that drinking is a rite of passage, but it is not."

Moore learns from life



By Amy Uptmor
THE BATTALION

Moore

ing their dues."

Despite the fact that new bands such as the Toadies are considered by many to have a more progressive sound than Moore, he said he does not feel his music should be labeled as classic rock.

"My guitar style is much older," he said. "They (the Toadies) get their sound from the '70s, whereas I get mine from the '60s."

Still, Moore said he feels no love for classic rock and he feels no pity for the possible disappearance of the genre.

"I hope it f---kin dies," he said. "I hate it. I've never put myself in that genre. There are so many bands that sing that style that are cheesy. I mean, who would you rather listen to — Jeff Healy or the Toadies?"

Just as much a part of the Austin music scene as Moore is the annual South By Southwest music conference, which begins next week. Moore has played the festival twice in the past and will play at the award ceremony this year.

But there's another thing Moore said Austin is known for — benefits. Moore said he has also been bitten by the benefit bug.

"Austin is the benefit town," he said. "We've probably played more benefits than anything else."

Moore has worked with Greenpeace, who he said often sets up tables at his concerts. He also recorded a track for Hempiation, an album from which proceeds were used to promote awareness, rather than advocacy, of marijuana.

Although Moore said he has not made plans to start recording a new album, he would like to start recording more music while on the road.

"I'm recording everywhere," he said, "and I'd like to just start making my own bootlegs on the road. I'd like to get my own equipment and just record everything."

Although Ian Moore is constantly writing new songs, he has devoted nearly the last year of his life to touring rather than recording a new album.

With the exception of a week's vacation in Mexico, the performer, who will play at the Dixie Theatre tonight, has enjoyed playing live. Moore said touring is a way to visit many great cities, including his favorite place to play.

"I love Amsterdam," he said. "I've played there four times."

Another one of the performer's favorite cities is New Orleans, which shows up in many of his songs.

"I've spent a lot of time down there," he said. "It's a really sensual place, but it doesn't just involve the senses. It makes you do things you wouldn't do — that's what I try to tell myself, anyway."

Religion is another topic of interest to Moore, commonly surfacing in his writing.

"It's a part of my life, but I'm not religious," he said. "I'm very interested in religion, though. I've probably read more theology books than many theology students."

Moore has experienced many impressive high points in his career. He was a guitarist for the legendary Texas performer Joe Ely, and he opened for the Rolling Stones on six of the band's last tour dates.

"It was mostly people knowing the right people," he said.

Born and raised in Austin, Moore said he loves the city, and he is pleased with the recent surge of Texas bands that have made it big. He said he hopes this wave of Texas music is more than just a phase because the bands deserve the fame.

"I like the Toadies and Tripping Daisy," he said, "and I hope for their sake, it's not a phase, because they've been pay-

'Un Vailed '96' gives bands chance to display talent

Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

College Station is out to show the nation it is not just a country music mecca.

Texas A&M and MSC Town Hall will host the southeast regional concert of "Magnavox Presents Un Vailed '96: The Ultimate Band and Board Event" at Rudder Auditorium tonight at 7 p.m.

Jamie Tedford, from Collegiate Advantage, said A&M was a perfect choice for this new event.

"It is a big school with a good local music scene," Tedford said. "We have done things with

A&M before, and they have a good nonathletic student body. We expect a pretty big turnout."

Courtney Marburger, vice president of special events for Town Hall, said "Un Vailed" will give A&M the opportunity to shatter its pure country image.

"This is great because we haven't been able to have a lot of concerts this year," Marburger, a senior biomedical science major, said. "It's neat be-

cause it is free and it will give us national recognition as bringing alternative rock 'n' roll bands here. It will show that we listen to all types of music, not just country."

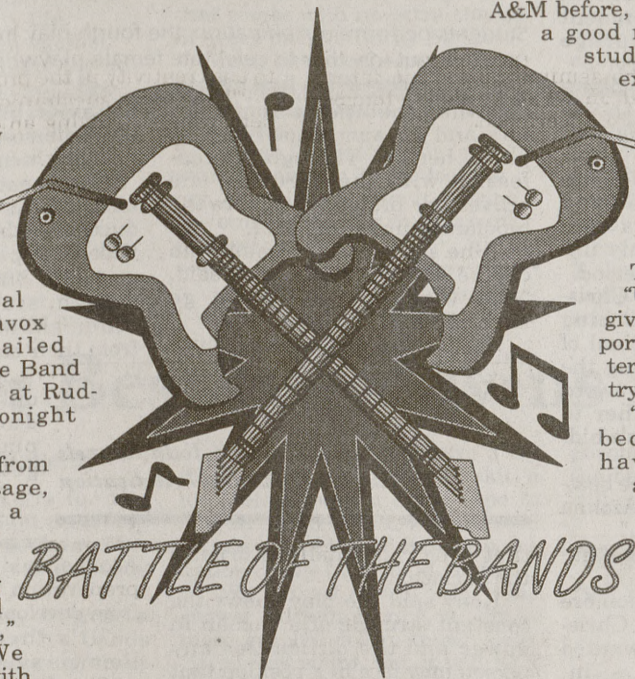
"Un Vailed 1996" is a search for the nation's best unsigned band. Earlier this year, over 200 college radio stations took demo tapes from unsigned bands. The radio stations gathered their best selections and sent them to Musicland, where a panel of music industry experts judged the entries.

Sixteen bands were chosen to compete at four regional concert events, and a local panel of music experts will select two winners from each region. The three other regional sites are at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Las Vegas at Nevada.

The four bands competing here, Voodoo Grove from Louisiana; Youngin' from San Antonio; Bone Shelter from North Carolina and Kneegaskit from College Station, will compete for a chance to go to Vail, Colo., on March 29 for a three-day sports/music festival.

While the nation's top snowboarders compete during the day, the nation's top

See Battle, Page 5



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Wednesday, March 6, 1996
Noon - 2:00 p.m.

The views in this program do not necessarily represent those of MSC Political Forum, the MSC, or Texas A&M University.

Learn more about MSC Political Forum on the WWW: <http://www.msc.tamu.edu/pf> MSC Political Forum is an open committee. Students who meet A&M criteria are eligible for membership.

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1545 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.