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Bryan: Theatre to open in January '97

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An example of the lack of space to hold bigger bands came two weeks ago when Deep Blue Something had to play at Denim and Diamonds, although the Dixie Theatre sponsored the show.

Bennett said they are using the Dixie Theatre as a stepping stone for the Queens Theatre, and hopefully the Queens will be able to attract larger bands.

"Right now, we are losing the bigger shows," Bennett said. "Bands like Little Sister and Ian Moore pack the places to capacity right now, and if we have a bigger venue, we could get bigger shows."

The Queens Theatre has not been open in almost 30 years. Bennett described it as "the sleeping giant," and said it will be a \$250,000 project. Bennett and Williams are hoping to open

the theatre in January 1996, and it will have the capacity to hold 800 people.

"It is a basket case right now," Bennett said. "We have to go in and redo basically everything. The structure is sound and the roof is good, but we need a new ceiling with new acoustic tiles."

Perhaps one of the most unique aspects of the theatre is that it has a two-tier balcony that is self-contained and can hold 300 people.

With the same corporation owning the three nightclubs in downtown Bryan, Williams said they will be able to attract different types of music, people and tastes.

"We will use the Queen for bigger shows and the Dixie to showcase new talent because Willie (Bennett) knows so many bands," Williams said. "It will help to bring more live music to

town because Willie is the king of booking hard talent."

The Main Street Project has existed for five years and is involved with the economic development and special events in the area.

Shannon Crockett, the Main Street Project manager, said revitalization has reached its pinnacle.

She said the Carnegie Library project will begin late this summer.

"We also applied for a Section 108 loan to help restore the LaSalle Hotel," Crockett said. "So the entire area will be different."

The project will restore the LaSalle Hotel to 1920s style, but it will have modern technological amenities.

The Carnegie Library will also be restored into a museum by the Main Street Project. It is one of the few libraries of its

kind left in Texas.

Crockett said this improvement, along with many others, has already led to increased number of people roaming the streets of downtown Bryan.

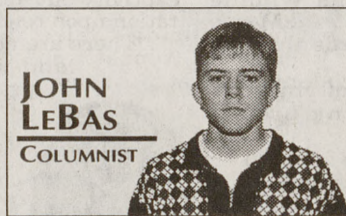
"This summer we will have a Street Scraper program where there will be more trash cans and benches on the street," Crockett said. "We will also put up new street signs at 26th Street and Main Street."

"It has raised our numbers tremendously. The program has been here for five years, and now we have more of a crowd than ever."

Crockett said the Queens Theatre will add nightlife to the area and help out other projects at the same time.

"A lot of people in the community are helping out and reaching out to show what we can offer," Crockett said.

Nevermind the '90s, the Sex Pistols are back



JOHN LeBAS
COLUMNIST

ness touring after so many years of silence.

For one thing, it is about time vocalist John "Johnny Rotten" Lydon and his pals grew up.

I'm not talking about their poofy hair or stupid clothes. I'm talking about their punk rock mentality.

Rebelling against the "oppressive establishment" is normal as a teenager. It's immature and pointless for older men to act this way.

During a recent interview gone bad, Lydon threatened a smart-aleck MTV Europe reporter with his big, bad self. MTV represents the oppressive establishment, Lydon said.

Yet a few years ago, a more content Lydon hosted an alternative music special on MTV. Very punk, John. Very punk, indeed.

At this time, of course, Lydon's band Public Image Limited was on considerably better footing, and he could afford to be normal.

Now that Lydon needs money, he's pissed, and he publicly milks

his angst for all it is worth.

But Lydon, like his time-worn attitude, is getting over the hill. By definition, it would seem, he cannot be a disaffected working-class kid.

Middle age must be getting to Lydon. He threatened that MTV Europe guy when the young reporter sarcastically speculated that the Pistols' summer shows would draw mostly 40 year olds.

This is an insightful observation. The familiar concert smells of cigarettes and sweat will likely be overpowered by the odor of Geritol at these shows.

But Lydon continues to try to identify with the youth. He claims the Pistols tour will give our generation exposure to real musical originality, as opposed to "girly" bands like Rancid or Green Day.

Lydon feels as though all punk bands have ripped off the Sex Pistols, and now he demands respect and money for this infringement.

Lydon is hopelessly conceited and off-base here. No matter how many bands cite the Sex

Pistols as influences, it is probably more accurate to label the Pistols as a point of inspiration.

Most modern punk bands have ripped off '80s descendants of the early punk rock bands, if anyone.

Lydon credits himself too much as a revolutionary and originator. Almost anyone can learn three or four guitar chords, mix them up a bit and bitch unintelligibly about the queen.

But at least the Sex Pistols will rake it in on this tour, and Lydon will have his money for his troubles. Respect may be a little harder to come by, at least from me.

Lydon probably doesn't give a damn about me, but maybe I'll think of him differently in 20 years when I take my kid to see the Sex Pistols re-reunion tour.

I'm sure Lydon will be out of money again, and maybe then I'll be more willing to bank on punk rock attitude and finance his retirement.

John LeBas is a sophisticated journalism major.

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