

**Saying Goodbye**

Ranjan Natarajan to leave A&M after seven years of studying and making life-long friends

By JOHN LeBAS  
 THE BATTALION

Some people always seem to be in two places at once. Some people seem to know "everybody."  
 Ranjan Natarajan, an agricultural engineering graduate student, is one of these people.  
 In his seven years at Texas A&M, the international student from India has become one of the most recognized faces on campus — Natarajan is friends with everyone and is so busy with school and different organizations that he usually seems to be in more than one place at a time, his friends say.  
 "There's a story going that I have a twin brother named JanRan," Natarajan said. "A lot of people tell me I have a twin because they see me everywhere."  
 Now Natarajan, who recently completed course work for his Ph.D., is leaving his many friends and Aggieland for a job in San Jose, Calif. The former International Students Association president said his "mirror philosophy" — treating others with respect — that he picked up here will help him through the unknown challenges in his future.  
 Natarajan arrived at A&M in 1989. He had received an electrical engineering degree in India and wanted to go abroad to pursue his master's degree and doctoral work, and A&M's top-ranked engineering school enticed him, he said.  
 But Natarajan became homesick. Unable to make a quick weekend trip home to cure his ills, Natarajan found the best medicine for feeling down was to walk around campus.  
 "I would walk around and say howdy to people," he said. "When I say howdy to someone three or four times, automatically you feel

like you know the person."  
 Natarajan made a point of introducing himself to as many people as possible.  
 "A good day is when I meet a few new people," Natarajan said. "I've always believed there's no such thing as having too many friends."  
 Brian Sallee, a senior industrial engineering student and a longtime friend of Natarajan, said he is amazed at how many names and faces Natarajan keeps straight.  
 "He remembers everyone's name, which is incredible," said Sallee, who met Natarajan through Student Government. "There's only one Ranjan, but there are tons of everyone else."  
 Natarajan said he hangs out with many different people because he does not let individual differences get in the way of friendship.  
 "I have a mirror philosophy," he said. "If someone is good to me, I'm good to them."  
 Jill Hayes, a sophomore mathematics major who also met Natarajan through Student Government, said Natarajan "loves everyone."  
 "He's just so accepting of people," Hayes said.  
 Natarajan said "howdy" to quite a few organizations, as well, and did more than just meet the members.  
 He was founder and chair of the United Way campaign committee at A&M, which raises funds for the United Way. In 1993, he was named the most outstanding student of the year — for the nation. Natarajan served one year as a student senator and was named the most outstanding student senator in 1994.  
 Natarajan was also a Fish Camp counselor and a co-chair in 1994.  
 "To me, Fish Camp was more like family," he said. "It was such a hu-



Michael Landauer, THE BATTALION

Ranjan Natarajan, an agricultural engineering graduate student, has been at A&M for seven years, and is moving to California this month.

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**Deluxe music hits Vertigo tonight**

By APRIL TOWERY  
 THE BATTALION

A question has been bothering Chris Smith for a while now: "How close is Vertigo to that burrito place?"  
 After snacking on a monster burrito at Freebird's tonight, Smith and Sixteen Deluxe will be playing with Lewis at Vertigo.

Smith, 24, guitarist and backup vocalist for Sixteen Deluxe, said the band is getting ready to release its second album.  
 "Hopefully, the next record will be really special because we've had time to work on instrumentation," he said.

Changes have been made since Sixteen Deluxe's 1995 debut album, *Backfeedmagnetbabe*. For one thing, drummer Bryan Carlos was replaced by Steven Hall. Carlos said he is now concentrating on songwriting and working on a solo project. But the biggest change the band made was signing with the Warner Brothers record label last week.

"It's a big company, but everyone there is really positive," Smith said. "They're very supportive and reliable. Also, they have a lot of bizarre groups on the label, so we fit in pretty well with them."

Smith said that when the band originated two and a half years ago, it did not plan to sign a contract.

"We're real tight and have been through a lot together," Smith said. "We decided that we could do something about our music or just have really predictable day jobs."

In the Austin Chronicle's People's Choice polls, Sixteen Deluxe was named Best New Band in 1994 and Best Alternative Band in 1995. It has toured with bands such as 7 Year Bitch, Medicine, Bedhead and Mercury Rev.

Smith describes the music of Sixteen Deluxe as loud, but said it is more than just making noise.

"At first, we wanted to have crazy and insane noise and blast people out," he said. "Now it takes a lot more musicianship to hold back on the noise and make it very emotional."

"You'd find our album in between Bad Company and Whitesnake. I don't know — we just do what we do. We want to be put in the fun category."

Smith said the band members have a variety of influences on their music.

He said a band should be humble about its music. An "on-call" employee of Liberty Lunch, a club in Austin, Smith said he has worked with gracious band members — and those who aren't so gracious.

"If you act like it's natural, it will be," he said. "We love our music and people can take it or leave it. We're not going to



Sixteen Deluxe

use it as an excuse to get with girls or run up a big bar tab and not pay it."

Smith said although Sixteen Deluxe may not appeal to all audiences, it does not aim to alienate anyone.

"We're not snobby about our music," he said. "Just don't beat up anyone at our shows. We were at Emos in Austin once and there were all these riots going on in the streets, so we just went back inside and locked the door and had a beer. We generally have an optimistic point of view."

Smith said his small-town roots in Oklahoma have helped him become a gracious musician.

"I'm really looking forward to playing in College Station," he said. "We've had a lot of sweet moments there. We enjoy playing with the bands there and get just as excited about it as we do about playing in San Francisco or New York. I grew up in a small town and not many bands came through, so I'd like to change that for small towns now."

Smith promised to play 10 songs new at the show tonight, and forewarned music fans:

"[The show] will be loud, so bringing ear plugs would be a good idea."

**MUSIC REVIEWS**



Tool  
*Enima*  
 Zoo Entertainment

Most of the songs on *Enima* challenge the listener to think hard on subjects like torture and pain.

"Eulogy" is an angry argument for someone's crucifixion:

"You claimed all this time that you would die for me / Why then are you so surprised when you hear your own eulogy / He had a lot to say / He had a lot of nothing to say / You must be crucified / Don't you step out of line / Don't you f---kin' lie."

Tool's songs sound like something from the underworld, or at least another world, and one automatically tries to guess how the group pulled the tunes into our reality. Drugs? Witchcraft?

It could be a little of both, as the last track alluded to LSD use and the drummer confesses in a recent press release that he has been studying ritual magic. If these things are major influences, they have opened the band's eyes to a angry realm, which they described in their songs.

The music is equally powerful and captivating. Maynard James Keenan, unlike many metal "vocalists," really can sing. His voice is among the cleanest and most powerful in the industry, and he is angry.

The guitarist and bassist, Adam Jones and Justin Chancellor, continue to crank out tight riffs of the caliber of those on *Undertow*.

Tool has again proven its mastery of spinning out dark, rhythmically oriented songs with a demented side. Listen if you dare, but prepare to be altered.  
 A-  
 -John LeBas

Imagine wandering through a disturbed conscience. Reality appears in a harsh new light, and you are fundamentally changed by the trip. At the end, you see the world through more critical eyes.

You have just emerged from Tool's new release, *Enima*, and you need to rest. You are strangely at peace with a world gone mad beyond repair.

Such is the feeling one gets after listening to *Enima*, released three and a half years after *Undertow*, the brilliant album that elevated Tool as an underground unit of metal genius. The band picks up where it left off on *Undertow* with *Enima*, another brutal yet beautiful glimpse at a world of rage and insanity.

Tool is a thinking person's rock band. The songs on *Enima* engage the listener. This is not simply a "casual listening" album. The lyrics are disturbing — nothing more, nothing less.

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**CHRIS O'DONNELL GENE HACKMAN**

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