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**Jester defies laughable stereotype**

By JAMES FRANCIS  
THE BATTALION

"Jester," as defined by Webster, is a fool or buffoon who entertained medieval courts.

But the band by the same name is no joke, and Jester will be performing with The Hunger this Tuesday at The Tap.

Chad McClure, drummer for Jester, said the band's original name was "The Obscene Jester," but in the end, everyone decided to drop the first part.

"It was a name we could all agree on," he said.

G.T. Gatson, lead guitarist, said the band started out as an acoustic, coffeehouse-type band with himself and Andy Fisher, the lead singer.

When McClure was brought in, the band took on more of an electric, pop-punk feel, although they still mix in some acoustic variations.

Fisher said with all of this together, the band plays for the audience and for themselves.

"We want to convey that we're up there to have fun," he said.

Gatson, on the other hand, said the audience can feel free to participate in the show.

"We'd like [the audience] to throw money at us," he said with a laugh.

And with the recent addition of bass player Marc Byers, Jester's four corners of the wind have united.

In fact, north, south, east and west illustrate the differences in

musical influences and life priorities for each band member.

Stone Temple Pilots, Led Zeppelin, The Cure and Skid Row have influenced the members of Jester.

As far as priorities, McClure said the band members each have a different outlook.

"[The band] is running a real close race with school," he said.

The other members' major

ing is satisfying, the band has major objectives.

"We want to be nationally recognized," he said. "We want to be able to support ourselves."

Insofar as the future of Jester, Fisher said a year could bring about great change.

"I can see us traveling around in a Winnebago," he said. "Some a regional tour."

All this may be closer than the band thinks.



Jester

points in life include work, religion and, of course, the band.

The band members also vary in education.

McClure, a senior history major, and Gatson, a senior history and education major, both attend Texas A&M.

Fisher, a sophomore English major, and Byers, a sophomore accounting major, attend Blinn College and the University of Texas, respectively.

Gatson said being around audiences and delivering performances is all he needs to keep working with the band.

"For me, that's the best part," he said, "just meeting tons of new people and to play the best shows we can get around here."

Fisher said that while perform-

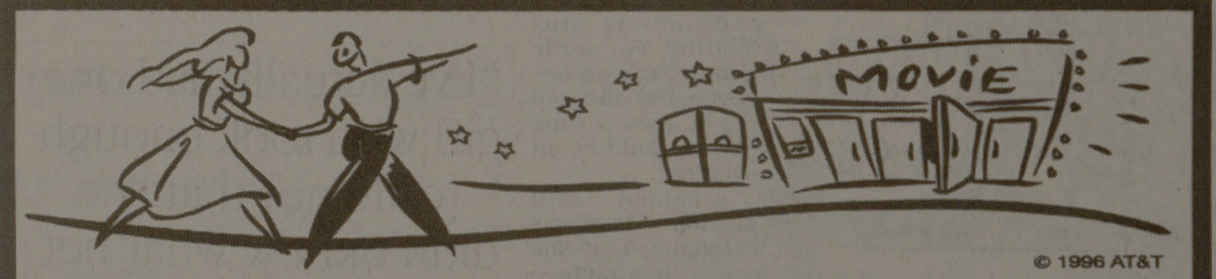
not, the band is proud of the accomplishments and thanks to those who have always supported them.

Up next for Jester is more music. The group has written several new songs since June and is heading back to the studio to begin recording under Kamikaze Records, the company that produced its first album release.

While playing sets in College Station and Austin, the group hopes to expand to Houston and eventually broaden to a regional overcast.

Fisher said Jester makes great support.

"Everybody should go out and support the live music scene," he said. "That's the only way we can grow."



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- Bring it to 013 Reed McDonald Building by Monday, Oct. 28, fax it to (409) 85-2647, or e-mail it to Batt@tamvml.tamu.edu

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