

WEEKEND PREVIEW

THURSDAY, NOV. 7

Jazztop, a rock band, is playing at the 3rd Floor Cantina.

Sneaky Pete, a sing-along and novelty tunes act, is playing at the Cow Hop from 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

Peeping Tom, a rock cover band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at The Tap.

The Fireants, a classic rock and rhythm & blues band, is playing at Fitzwilly's.

Ruthie Foster & Full Circle, a blues and folk band, is playing at Chelsea Street Pub & Grill.

MSC Film Society is showing **Trainspotting** in the Rudder Theater Complex at 9:30 p.m.

The Texas A&M Theater Department is presenting **The Baltimore Waltz** by Paula Vogel, in the Fallout Theater in 144 Blocker at 8 p.m. Call 845.2621 for information.

FRIDAY, NOV. 8

The 3rd Floor Cantina is hosting the **Texas A&M Honduran Association Party** with Latin rock and merengue music. Open to the public

Sister 7, a rock band from Austin, is playing at the Dixie Theatre.



Sister 7

Just J, an acoustic act from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Copasetic Cafe.

Sweet Eugene's House of Java is hosting **Crystal Sea**, a jazz band from Bryan-College Station.

Common Groove, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing with opening band Jasmine Blue at the Cow Hop.

Brian Whitaker, a classic-rock act from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Fitzwilly's.

Ruthie Foster & Full Circle, a blues and folk band, is playing at Chelsea Street Pub & Grill.

MSC Film Society is showing **The Nutty Professor** in the Rudder Theater Complex at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

MSC Town Hall is presenting **Coffeehouse** poetry, music and comedy. The show is being held at Rudder Fountain at 8 p.m.

The Texas A&M Theater Department will present **The Baltimore Waltz** by Paula Vogel, in the Fallout Theater in 144 Blocker at 8 p.m. Call 845-2621 for information.

The **Texas Renaissance Festival** is being held in Plantersville. Call 1-800-458-3435 for information.

SATURDAY, NOV. 9

Darla Hood, a rock band, is playing with opening band, Ty and the Semiautomatics, at the 3rd Floor Cantina.

Sister 7, a rock band from Austin, is playing at the Dixie Theatre.

Bobby Hall and His Ice Cold Blues Band is playing at Fitzwilly's.

Ruthie Foster & Full Circle, a blues and folk band, is playing at Chelsea Street Pub & Grill.

Forgotten Faith, a heavy-metal band from Bryan-College Station, is playing with opening band **Ovid** at the Cow Hop.

The Texas A&M Theater Department is presenting **The Baltimore Waltz** by Paula Vogel, in the Fallout Theater in 144 Blocker at 8 p.m. Call 845.2621 for information.



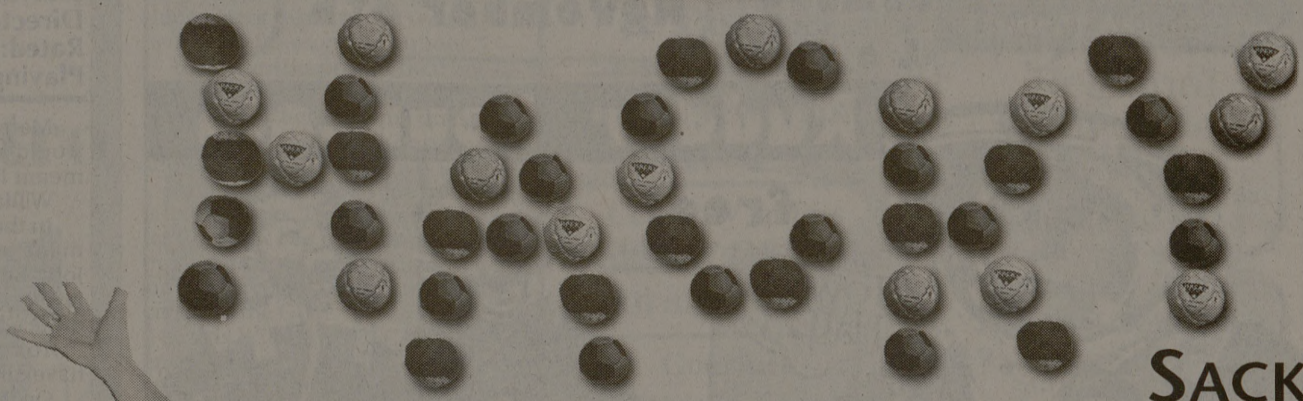
Ruthie Foster

The India Association, Hindu Students Council and Hindu Society of the Brazos Valley are hosting **Dandiya**, an evening of Indian music and dance, in the Student Recreation Center Archery Room at 8 p.m.

The **Texas Renaissance Festival** is being held in Plantersville. Call 1.800.458.3435 for information.

Festival Hill is hosting an **August to April** concert featuring the Fischer Duo at 3 p.m. in Round Top. Call 409.249.3129 for information.

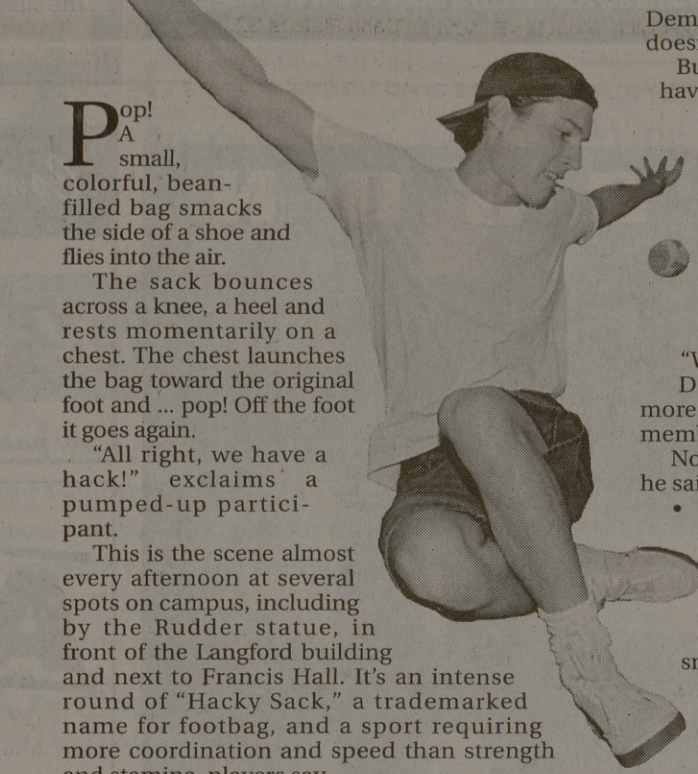
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STORY BY JOHN LEBAS

PHOTOS BY DAVE HOUSE

SACK



Pop! A small, colorful, bean-filled bag smacks the side of a shoe and flies into the air.

The sack bounces across a knee, a heel and rests momentarily on a chest. The chest launches the bag toward the original foot and ... pop! Off the foot it goes again.

"All right, we have a hack!" exclaims a pumped-up participant.

This is the scene almost every afternoon at several spots on campus, including by the Rudder statue, in front of the Langford building and next to Francis Hall. It's an intense round of "Hacky Sack," a trademarked name for footbag, and a sport requiring more coordination and speed than strength and stamina, players say.

The point of "hack" is to keep the bag in play, off the ground. Hackers use spontaneous combinations of moves — kicking the bag with different parts of the foot and bouncing it off the chest, head and back — to keep it from falling.

Hackers gather in circles of two to four players, striving for a "hack," where everyone connects with the bag at least once. Non-hackers walk by the circles staring in wonder and disbelief, but Jamie Hansen, an avid hacker and a junior ocean engineering major, said the sport is not as hard as it looks.

"It's easy to learn," Hansen said. "You'd be surprised after a couple of weeks how fast your reflexes get."

Reflexes are one of the keys to keeping the footbag in the air, he said. Players must often extend their legs to the limits, jump and leap, and react without thinking to connect with the hack, because they are not allowed to use their hands.

Unlike football, baseball or any number of competitive sports, hack is entirely a team effort. When the bag hits the ground, it is imply time to start over. And there are only two "rules" in hack besides the no-catch rule: Never serve to oneself, and never apologize for making a mistake.

"We all screw up sometimes," Hansen said.

Derek Demere, a senior environmental design major who hacks by the Langford Architecture Center, said he and his group of friends sometimes throw a new twist into hacking — deliberately not watching the bag as it is kicked around the circle. Demere calls this "zen" hacking, a form that relies on peripheral vision to keep track of the bag. However, zen hacking does not always work as well as he would like, he said.

"It's just something different to do sometimes,"

"It's easy to learn. You'd be surprised how fast your reflexes get." Jamie Hansen, avid hacker.

Demere said. "Some people get annoyed because it doesn't work as well."

But the main attraction of hack, he said, is just having a fun way to pass the time between classes.

Tab Dougherty, a hacker and a senior computer science major, said because hacking is mostly just for fun, participants talk, joke and laugh while playing. Dougherty said he wanted to meet more people to hack with, so he and Hansen started Aggiesack: The Texas A&M Footbag Club. He said the whole point of the club is to socialize, have fun, and, of course, hack.

"It's kind of a social club," Dougherty said. "We don't do much except kick the hack around."

Dougherty said he wanted to attract players more experienced than himself to the club to help members learn new tricks and moves.

None of the Aggiesack members get too tricky, he said, but among the moves they do try are:

- "Stalls": catching the hack on a foot, the toes, the chest or back, and head. After catching the bag, the player attempts to fling it from the resting spot to another circle member.
- "Jester": jumping straight up and snapping one leg back to kick the bag.
- Catching the bag behind the knee: after the catch, the hacker tries to pop his leg straight out, to make the hack fly upward instead of drop to the ground.

At least one Aggiesack member can pull off the last trick: Tarlac Williams, a founding Aggiesack member, club treasurer and a junior international studies major. Williams said he began hacking only about six months ago. He said the fun of hack is that it is laid-back and intense at the same time.

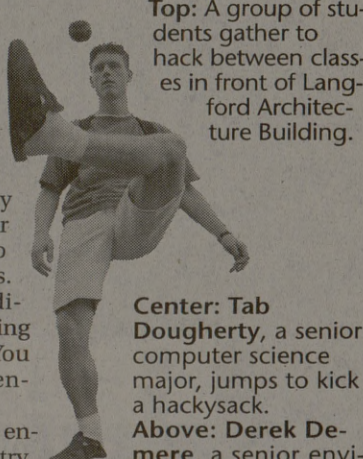
"The longer it keeps going, the more tense it gets," Williams said. "The pressure builds. But at the same time, the pressure never really gets that bad."

Dougherty said the pressure is low because none of the club members are too talented for less experienced hackers. Anyone who wants to join the group Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. near the Rudder statue, he said. Most people can pick up the sport pretty easily especially skateboarders, soccer players and those who are good at video games.

"It's more of a coordination sport than anything else," Dougherty said. "You don't need that much endurance and strength."

Women are especially encouraged to give hack a try because hack is not just for guys, he said. Those who just do not feel like hacking should not be afraid of approaching the group or throwing a stray hack back into the circle.

"We always invite people to hack with us," he said. "It's a real good way to get rid of stress and socialize. Once you're done, you feel nice and relieved."



Top: A group of students gather to hack between classes in front of Langford Architecture Building.

Center: Tab Dougherty, a senior computer science major, jumps to kick a hacky sack. Above: Derek Demere, a senior environmental design major, hacks to pass the time between classes.