

MAKING MUSIC

Two student groups tune in to turning Bryan-College Station into a fertile music scene.

BY JOHN LeBAS
 THE BATTALION

When Linus, a local rock band, formed this past summer, its members saw a music scene lacking excitement and direction.

The band wanted to jump-start a stagnant scene by helping other local bands get shows in Bryan and College Station. The idea became Fledgling Records, a new University-sponsored club of local bands dedicated to generating more interest in local music.

Chris Pate, Fledgling president and a sophomore construction science major, said a club of bands will help make it easier for bands to get shows here.

"The purpose is to promote local music and get local musicians together," Pate said.

He said many new bands do not know who to ask or how to go about getting shows at clubs and bars. The members of

Linus, all of whom are club officers, are a good asset to other bands because they know who to contact for booking shows at area bars and clubs, he said.

"There are so many clubs here to play at," Pate said. "We use our connections to help everyone out." Pate, who sings and plays guitar for Linus, said communication between bands will help them book bigger and more frequent shows in the area.

"We want to set up one big show a month," Pate said.

On Halloween at Bullwinkle's, Fledgling put on the first of these shows, featuring Linus and Fledgling bands Lewis and Jester.

Tommy Reed, Fledgling vice president and a junior finance and accounting major, said the club's main goal is to sponsor a music festival next spring with several local bands and a popular regional band like the Toadies.

"It would be an all-day festival with about 10 local bands," Reed, the drummer for Linus, said.

And Fledgling members say they hope to one day start a studio where local bands will have the opportunity to record their music.

"That's where we're going with this, eventually," Pate said. "We already bought a mixer and monitor."

All this may sound expensive, but Fledgling bands do not have to worry about heavy dues or fees, Pate said.

"No money goes in or out of the organization," Pate said. "We're not in it to make money. For example, if bands need to rent equipment they can rent it from us, or we can get them set up through a store."

And because Fledgling is more about making music than holding meetings, secretary and sophomore environmental design major Mack Paradowski said the group has limited meetings to one a month.

"When we were making up the constitution, we wanted it to be more laid-back," Paradowski said.

Even though all of Fledgling's members generally play rock, Paradowski said the group wants to recruit bands of other musical styles, too.

"We would be really excited to have a jazz band," he said.

But Pate said any band interested in promoting both its own music and the local scene is encouraged to give Fledgling a try.

"All bands are welcome," he said. "We're open to all musicians."

BY KIMBER HUFF
 THE BATTALION

From jazz to heavy metal. From rock to R&B. A new club, the Aggie Musicians' Society, is bringing all types of musicmakers together.

AMS is the brainchild of senior business analysis majors Jason Deere and Jon Phillips.

Deere said the idea for the group spawned from a lack of resources for musicians in the area.

Deere said the purpose of AMS is to allow musicians to get together and play, while learning from each other.

"The hardest thing for musicians to do is find someone to play with," Deere said. "We know they're here. We started AMS to bring a common meeting ground."

Phillips said he hopes bands will form after people meet each other through AMS.

"Another purpose of AMS is to hopefully get a music scene here in College Station," Phillips said.

Phillips said AMS also wants to help bands get support from Bryan-College Station club owners.

Brandon Reynolds, a senior business analysis major who has attended the AMS meetings, said it is important for musicians to make contact with other musicians.

The first AMS meeting was held Oct. 24, and about 20 people attended.

Deere said he hopes to have a larger turnout at future meetings. Students who wish to attend a meeting have to meet "absolutely zero requirements."

Deere said AMS would flourish if its membership included musicians with a broad range of experience.

"We don't want anybody to be intimidated," Deere said. "We want AMS to be a comfortable learning environment. We hope to get as wide and diverse a membership as possible."

Phillips said AMS is also looking for musicians who play different styles of music.

"We want to have it open to all types

of music," Phillips said. "You name it."

Deere said members are already considering putting on shows and getting together to perform and record.

Phillips said AMS is also considering weekly or bimonthly "jam sessions."

Another possibility for the future is an informal all-day concert at the Grove.

Deere said any band would be welcome to play at the concert.

"It's going to be pretty free-form," Deere said.

Deere said AMS might also form a big band of all AMS members that would play occasionally.

AMS is open to other ideas from members concerning future events.

Reynolds said interest in the Aggie Musicians' Society is increasing as people hear more about it.

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 Fledgling Records
 president and Linus
 lead vocalist

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Jason Deere
 AMS founder and a senior
 business analysis major

us," Reynolds said.

In the future, Reynolds hopes to see continued support for AMS and music in general.

"The fine arts at A&M need to be promoted, and I want to see that come out of this organization," Reynolds said.

Anyone interested in learning more about AMS can send e-mail to ams@pulse.tamu.edu, and can check out the AMS web site at <http://pulse.tamu.edu/~ams>.



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

Chris Pate, Linus vocalist and guitarist, founded Fledgling Records to strike a chord of inspiration in other B-CS bands.

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