

# Loafing Around

In a haze of booze, inhalants and rock music, Archers of Loaf is making its way to moon-dom.

By JOHN LEBAS  
 THE BATTALION

The Archers of Loaf, a rock band from Chapel Hill, N.C., is playing at Vertigo Sunday night. Guitarist Eric Johnson took a break from the band's national tour and contacted The Battalion from a pay phone this week, eager to tell the students of Texas A&M just what it's like to be a touring rock musician.

As it turns out, Johnson's life is hectic — the Archers play 200 shows a year in support of its first major label release, *All the Nation's Airports* — which is filled with sarcasm. Johnson explained in a candid interview how the band hooked up with its growling, 6-foot-8-inch singer, and that he and his bandmates would rather be "rock moons" than rock stars, and how fame is allowing them to move from inhalants to ...

working at the Waffle Shop there. We were all into the same music and decided to jam. That was in 1991 or 1992. Then we met our singer, Eric Bachmann.

**Batt:** In pictures, Bachmann doesn't seem to fit the mold of a singer — he's a pretty big guy.

**EJ:** Yeah, he's 6-foot-8. We actually met him in jail. He was in the drunk tank with us — I was "painting" the cell. (laughs)

**Batt:** But how did you get the name, "Archers of Loaf"?

**EJ:** We used to travel home for the holidays together to save money, and one Christmas break we stayed at a Best Western in Greensborough. We were watching some comedy channel, and there was this cartoon mouse with a bow and arrow, shooting bread. Our singer thought of it, but he was on inhalants.

**Batt:** Oh really?

**EJ:** Say, what kind of paper is this? You probably can't put most of this stuff in, anyway.

**Batt:** Oh well ... back to the band. What does the Archers of Loaf sound like?

**EJ:** I'd say we sound like a ship of fools, playing rock music — rock stars.

**Batt:** Do you consider yourselves rock stars?

**EJ:** Not really rock stars ... more like rock moons ... rock planets. But I think being a rock star would rule. We could move up from trash inhalants to the good, clean stuff. Are you going to the show? If you do, bring some Liquid Paper.

**Batt:** We'll see.



Archers of Loaf

**EJ:** You know how it seems like people in show-biz can break more laws? Well, we do that. It's all about money, and how good your lawyer is. We trash a lot of hotel rooms. The thing is, when you're under the influence of drugs, you forget a lot of what you do, and it makes it easier to get caught.

**Batt:** What's it like being from Chapel Hill, a town with so many other bands?

**EJ:** It's pretty awesome — you get a lot of free beer. But there's a lot of infighting among the bands. There probably wouldn't be if all the bands were as good as us. That's why we tour so much — to spread the word. (laughs)

**Batt:** Do you play in small college towns like College Station very often?

**EJ:** We usually just tour primary markets, but we sometimes play the small college towns. We're

from a small college town. Everybody has to get their rock.

**Batt:** Archers of Loaf recently signed to Elektra. What's it like to be on a major record label?

**EJ:** It's pretty great, because now we're label mates with Metallica and Pantera, which are the bands we've always wanted to play with. But with fame, your privacy is invaded. I had to get my phone number changed back home. But I got a new car. I think it's worth it.

**Batt:** What's the future look like?

**EJ:** We're not looking for success, but we're not dodging it, either. As long as we're writing music that we feel good about, we'll keep playing. One great thing about being in a rock band is the music is immortal. I'll leave my mark on this planet — or maybe more of a stain.

# Finding a dream in a cafeteria, Pelicans fly to musical nirvana

By KIMBER HUFF  
 THE BATTALION

Gene Moore and John Herzog dreamed of being in a rock band as long as they could remember — or at least since junior high. Toward the end of 9th grade, they decided to make this dream a reality and form a real band.

Moore played guitar, and Herzog played bass, so all they needed was a drummer. While sitting in the cafeteria at Brown High School, they saw Anthony Castaneda at the end of the table.

"We got Anthony in because he was sitting at our table, and we heard he played drums," Moore said.

The band was complete.

They came up with their name after their health teacher told the class about a disease that could cause a person's neck to swell up like a pelican.

Castaneda said that's when the band decided to call themselves the Pelicans.

Although the band formed early in high school, it was a while before it played anywhere.

"We had band shirts before we had songs," Moore said. "The first time we practiced was at my birthday party."

By the end of high school, the Pelicans were playing gigs throughout their hometown of Taylor, Texas, taking pride in the



fact that every time they played, whether practicing or at a show, the police showed up.

"They said it wasn't because we were loud, it was just because of the music we were playing," Moore said.

In Bryan-College Station, the Pelicans have played at Vertigo, Cow Hop and Northgate Cafe.

Herzog said cops here seem to be more tolerant of the Pelicans' loud music.

"In College Station, they're more like, 'That's good music, but can y'all keep it down,'" Herzog said.

But to the Pelicans, volume seems to be a major ingredient in style. Moore described their music as "primarily loud."

"We're just loud," Moore said. "We would be as loud as we could, but our amps aren't very loud."

The Pelicans write their own music, but band members do not think lyrics are the most important part of their songs.

"Me and Anthony always badger each other about writing lyrics," Moore, the lead singer, said. "He writes the lyrics, but I sometimes use them."

The Pelicans said the audience should expect a high-energy show. "I guess we're pretty interesting to watch," Castaneda said.

"Sometimes you have to watch out in the audience," Herzog said. "A

"We had band shirts before we had songs. The first time we practiced was at my birthday party."  
 - Gene Moore  
 the Pelicans lead guitarist

# Patterns of Tradition: Quilts stitch spirit, warm hearts

By JOSEPH NOVAK  
 THE BATTALION



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Rebecca Ewing Peterson will be signing copies of her book, *Dreams of Aggeland*, tomorrow from 11 a.m. to noon at the bookstore in the Memorial Student Center.

Some say a quilt is worth a thousand words. *Dreams of Aggeland* is a new book written specifically to help all quilters, from the beginner to the expert, produce quilts that shine forth with Aggie spirit.

Rebecca Ewing Peterson, a junior construction science major, is the author of the book. Peterson said she had always wanted to get into quilting, but had put it off until later in life. Suddenly, she discovered "later in life" had arrived.

"I did two quilts last spring," Peterson said. "One for a baby that was being born in July, and one for my daughter, who was coming up on her senior year in the Corps of Cadets."

After showing her two quilts to owners of quilt shops in Houston, Peterson said she was encouraged to sell patterns of her designs.

"When I sat down and started figuring how I would market and manufacture the patterns, I was reminded of other designs that I had done," Peterson said.

"And in trying to figure out what would be feasible to pattern as packages, I decided it would be a lot easier to just write the book."

Writing the book also gave Peterson the opportunity to display themes of Aggie lore and spirit, as well as the opportunity to talk about the inspirations presented by architectural designs.

*Dreams of Aggeland* contains eight quilt patterns and four border patterns. Four of the quilt patterns and two of the border patterns are contemporary and are designed to appeal to both male and female college students. However, four of the quilt designs and two of the borders are based upon research of Texas A&M architectural history.

The patterns of tiles from the Chemistry Building, the Old Veterinary Hospital (now the Civil Engineering Building), the Petroleum and Geology Building (now the Halbouty Geosciences Building) and the Agricultural Engineering Building (also known as Scoates Hall).

These four designs have been transformed into quilt designs that can be constructed into Aggie quilts with colors other than maroon and

white. The other four quilt designs — the Howdy, Ags!, the Block T, the Tesselating Block T and the Highway 6 — are designed to immortalize the pride and traditions of Aggeland with a quilter's touch.

Two of the borders — the Elephant Walk and the Highway 6 — are intended to complement the quilt patterns with thoughts of Aggie pride.

Peterson said she wrote the book with the non-quilter in mind.

"The instructions are very specific as to how to build them," Peterson said. "It presumes a general knowledge of sewing, but someone who has never quilted before can do the most difficult quilt in this book."

Peterson began working on this book in July while she was tending to 13 hours of summer school. In September, she received approval to write the book as an independent study for three hours of technical writing.

"What I didn't realize at the time that I applied for it is that it suddenly meant I was enrolling in that book as a class, which meant I had to finish the book this semester because the grade was due," Peterson said.

Having spent 17 years in the printing industry, Peterson had experience as a professional print seller as well as a print buyer. With this training, she was able to construct the 156 illustrations in the book.

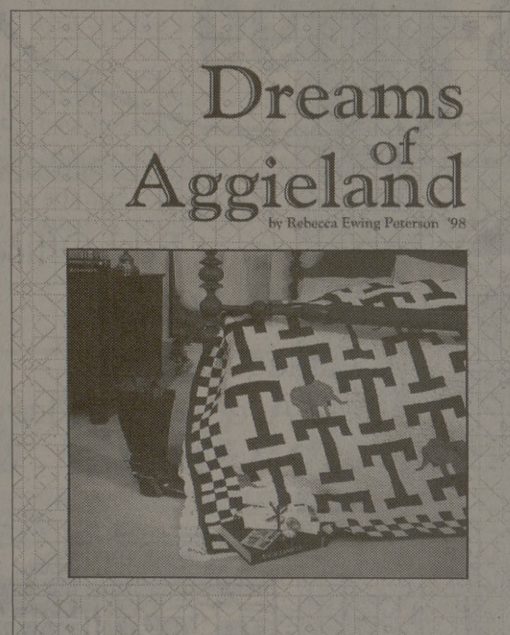
Upon completion, she marked the book under the publisher heading of Good Bull Press, at Newman Printing in Bryan printed.

Peterson said quilting satisfied her urge to construct, and it also satisfied the textural and color interests she had.

"Quilting is also a very nurturing kind of thing," Peterson said. "When you make a quilt, you put a great deal of yourself into it. And generally it's something you do for someone you love as opposed to doing for material consideration or for selling."

Peterson recommends quilting for anyone. "Quilting, I would recommend for anyone who wants or desires a constructive way to express themselves, particularly those people who are mechanically inclined, who like building things," Peterson said.

"Quilts give you a real sense of building because of the step-by-step layering and the processes involved in quilting."



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