



Music Forum

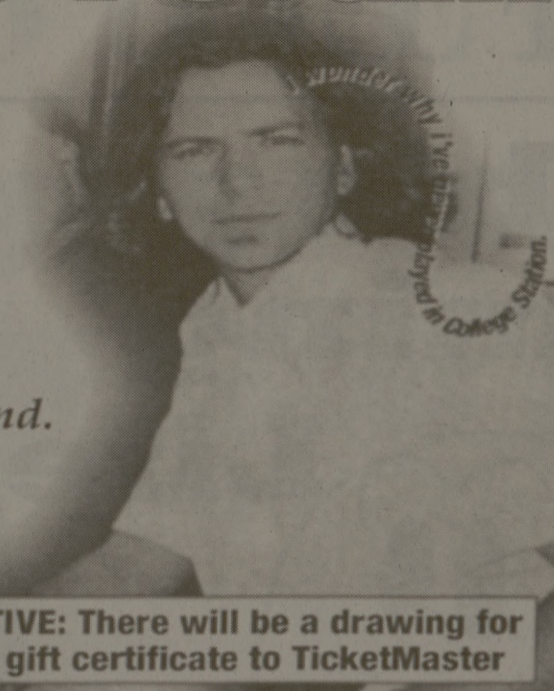
Have you ever wondered...

- why hasn't my favorite band visited College Station?
- how do bands end up playing at A&M?
- where is the local music scene?
- does College Station even have a local music scene?

...then come listen, learn, and speak yo' mind.

Thursday
November 21
7:00 pm
Koldus 111

INCENTIVE: There will be a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to TicketMaster



CLASS OF 1997

This week is your final chance to buy your Elephant Walk t-shirt, sweatshirt and hat!

Class of '97 Prices

- t-shirt: \$12.00
- sweatshirt: \$20.00
- combo: \$30.00
- hats: \$15.00
- BBQ tickets: \$6.00



ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS CLASS GIFT AND RING DANCE

T-shirts will be on sale this week in Wehner and the MSC Hallway from 9am to 4pm

the gourds

INSTORE PERFORMANCE THIS SAT. NOV. 23RD-3PM



GO TO MAROONED THIS SATURDAY AT 3 TO WATCH AUSTIN'S THE GOURDS PERFORM SONGS FROM THEIR MUNICH RECORDS DEBUT "DEM'S GOOD BEEBLE." THE GOURDS MUSIC HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A CROSS BETWEEN THE CLASH, WILCO, & SON VOLT. ALSO PERFORMING THAT NIGHT AT 9:30 @:

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AGGIELIFE

Thursday • November 21

GAMING

Continued from Page 3

"War Craft II," by Blizzard Software, is a turn-based conquest game that places the player in charge of a nation-wide war effort. The game features mystical elements such as J.R.R. Tolkien's "orcs," mean, green creatures who are the enemy. The object of "War Craft II," Bishop said, is resource management. The player has to exploit his gold, lumber and oil supplies to try to get the upper hand over the orcs. Like in real life, it's all about strategy, and the right choices can win the player the world.

"Command and Conquer," a modern-times version of "War Craft II" incorporates the same strategy, but features present-day military units.

Bishop said such games are "absorbing" — he has spent a total of 20 hours trying to complete one such game, "Ascendancy," because they require so much thought and planning. But he said he still prefers the spontaneous action of games like "Doom" and "Quake."

"War Craft II" got old," Bishop said. "Quake" doesn't seem to get old, because it has more replay value — that's the ease of multi-player."

Multi-player capability is a hallmark of modern games. A quick search of the Internet will reveal hundreds of sites where people can get into an on-line "Quake" game.

The Resident Housing Association's Technology Committee (<http://RHA.dorms.tamu.edu/quake/>) is hosting a network "Quake" game at Rud-

der Tower on Dec. 7.

But multi-player capability is just one of the ways software companies have made their products more accessible to gamers.

Many games are distributed as "shareware," cost-free versions people can buy or download from the Internet that run the first level or a demonstration of a game.

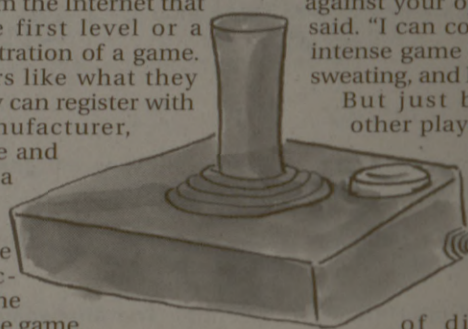
If buyers like what they see, they can register with the manufacturer, pay a fee and receive a code which will give them access to the rest of the game.

Companies are also releasing editing programs for games. These programs allow die-hard gamers to create new levels, weapons and maps for their games — allowing endless new possibilities and challenges.

"The whole attitude among programmers has changed," Bishop said. "Before, they would say, 'I didn't design it like that, so it can't change.' But it's an incredible marketing tool. If you can customize maps and levels, the replay value greatly increases."

Doug Keegan, a junior computer science major, said multi-player games and modifications keep new gamers from getting boring. Today, when he beats a game, the fun isn't over.

"Computer opponents usually get predictable, and once you've played the game 10 to 15 times, you lose interest," Keegan said. "When you play against human opponents, they are doing the same things you are, and it's very different each time."



Keegan said "Quake" is different each time because of rapid-fire action can still him jump out of his seat.

"It's part adrenaline rush, fear for your survival, pain against your opponent," he said. "I can come away from intense game literally sweating, and I have to cool down."

But just because other players get immersed in games, it doesn't mean they are all computer geeks, Keegan said.

of different play and get hooked," he said. "It's just another of having a good time."

Tony Cardella, a sophomore computer science major, said though he enjoys playing games like "Command and Conquer" and "Quake," he does not let them control how he spends his free time.

"Computer games are a substitute for going outside," Cardella said. "I'm not outside more often, but I find computer games more entertaining than anything else."

Bishop also gives computer gaming credit for promoting socialization.

"I wouldn't say computer games are limited to antisocial people," he said. "For example, my suitemate and I can get on the same network 'Quake' team stream to each other through bathroom. In that way, it has potential for making strengthening friendships."

► People in the News

Aging Borgnine stays in shape

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Trying to keep up with his co-stars on TV's *The Single Guy* is helping Ernest Borgnine stay in shape as he approaches 80.

"When they give me a call, I try to run. Not hard, but just trot in and trot back," he said in a recent interview.

Borgnine, who won an Oscar for "Marty" in 1956, starred in TV's "McHale's Navy" and co-starred in "Airwolf," also works up a sweat hiking his driveway with his wife.

"We have one of the biggest driveways you've ever seen. It's a good quarter-mile, so in no time at all you're doing a mile," Borgnine said.

Memory loss no surprise for author

NEW YORK (AP) — It's been 25

years since Hunter S. Thompson's seminal *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* was published, but he still remembers ... well, remembering was always the hard part.

"It took me about two years of work to be able to bring a drug experience back and put it on paper," the godfather of gonzo journalism said in the Nov. 28 issue of *Rolling Stone*.

Hollywood angers Nixon's daughter

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Movies like "JFK" and "Nixon" are giving young people a twisted sense of history, Julie Nixon Eisenhower says.

"It's really amazing to think how carelessly Hollywood allows historical figures to become props for the entertainment industry," President Nixon's daughter told the East Tennessee Historical Society on Tuesday. "Many young people are unable or unwilling to sort out the propaganda or artistic license from the truth."

Kid wins big for best wiener jingle

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — 9-year-old Andrew Thompson's newest Oscar Mayer Wiener Singing the Jingle, outdoing 65,000 other entries.

The youngster from Tenn., will get \$5,000 to start.

The Texas television commercial that aired on Super Bowl Sunday on Nov. 19 and a trip to the Super Bowl.

He made his debut Tuesday on Sea World and said the highlight of his evening was getting a kiss from Shamu, Sea World's killer whale.

But Andrew said that didn't compare with the reception he got at the week in Nashville, when he was welcomed by Lorianne Crook, a syndicated show "Crook & Crook, the boy said, is a better kisser than Shamu.



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Ladies STRETCH PANTS	AS LOW AS \$39 ⁹⁵	SMITH (Double Lens) GOGGLES	\$10 ONLY
Children's SKI BIBS	ONLY \$19 ⁹⁵	Men's and Ladies SKI BIBS	ONLY \$29 ⁹⁵
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10TH ANNUAL SKI EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday-Friday-Saturday-Sunday November 21-24
9 am - 8 pm

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