

# Friends just the same

## UT & A&M pals dismiss rivalry

By MELANIE BENSON  
 THE BATTALION

Some Aggies lost more than a football game last November when Texas A&M played the University of Texas.

Rick Hall, a sophomore biochemistry major at A&M has had the honor of buying meals for his friend Billy Corbett, a sophomore biology major at UT, for the second straight year.

"I've enjoyed the free meals," said Corbett, who looks forward to more in the future.

Corbett enjoys the friendly rivalry he and Rick have during the yearly A&M-UT football game.

The differences between A&M and UT are welcomed by Hall and other Aggies. Although there are many things that naturally divide the two schools, friendships are not suffering.

Some Aggies pride themselves in being different from students at

other universities and look at themselves in a different light from UT students, who may label Aggies as "weirdos," "ultra-conservatives," and "freaks."

"From the outside looking in, it must be difficult to understand Aggies," Hall said.

"There is something beyond school spirit that truly unites us."

For Corbett and others who attend the UT, the world of Aggieland is on a different planet.

Corbett is originally from New Hampshire, and looked at A&M as a university for farmers, and continues to wonder about whooping and 12th Man towels.

Corbett said Hall was not happy when he decided to hide Hall's 12th Man towel in a water bottle.

"I never realized his 12th Man hankie meant so much to him until that day," Corbett said laughing.

One set of fraternal twins has a different perspective on the rivalry.

Jason Cargo, a senior meteorology major at A&M, and his brother, Jon, a senior microbiology major at UT, have done everything together since birth.

They had the same group of friends, went to the same hangouts, and shared the same car.

When choosing universities, they decided a clean break was needed.

The twins said that attending different universities has created a friendly rivalry back at home.

Jon is known for sticking Longhorn stickers on everything, at which Jason says, "It gives me a chance to show Jon how much I love UT as I saw the horns off."

Jon Cargo wanted a larger city with more opportunities for job employment and internships, and felt a less traditional school with more free-thinkers suited him.

"Austin provides a more diverse way of using my time and my

See FRIENDS, Page 4



# New name, debut album come with birch county's return

By MICHAEL SCHAUB  
 THE BATTALION

The last time Dallas' birch county played in Bryan-College Station, it had a different name, a different lineup, different songs, no album and no label.

Other than that, not much has changed.

The band, formerly known as Wonderland, brings its unique groove-centered rock to Bryan's Dixie Theatre tomorrow night at 9:30.

Lisa Taylor, lead vocalist, said the sound is "from the soul canyon."

"It's groove-oriented, yet ... I don't know," Taylor said.

Brett Bledsoe, guitarist, said he draws influences from musicians as varied as Pearl Jam, The Black Crowes, Beck, Tool and Jeff Buckley. "There's a big variety," Bledsoe said, "but it's still all around the groove."

Birch county's rhythmic groove became twice as intense last July when the band added guitarist Paul Reid to the lineup.

"It completely broadened everything," Bledsoe said of the addition. "The music got a little heavier."

After adding Reid, the band changed its name from Wonderland to the nature-themed "birch county." They thought Wonderland was too child-like.

The band hired David Castell, national-acclaimed producer, who co-produced and engineered birch county's self-titled debut album.

Roger Bishara, the manager, said Castell had initially refused to work with local bands, but changed his mind after seeing

birch county perform live.

"Castell is brilliant," Taylor said. "He's basically part of our band."

Castell is working with former Pearl Jam drummer Dave Abruzzese's band Green Romance Orchestra, but he took time to work with birch county in preproduction.

Birch county, which also includes bassist Gary Burkhardt and drummer Robbie "Cranky" Dibble, has played at the Ticketmaster Showcase in Dallas and the Philadelphia Music Conference.

The single "Paris," a powerful pop-oriented song, has had heavy air play in Dallas, San Antonio, Denton and Bryan-College Station markets.

The band's five-track album was released on Bishara's Pilot Records. It was recently awarded first honorable mention in the Dallas Observer's list of the Best Texas Albums of 1996. The record release was held at Dallas' Trees Lounge.

Taylor said birch county's dynamic live show was not sacrificed in the transition.

"We try to do something different, a little off-the-wall, while keeping something there for everybody," she said.

The band's show drew over 13,000 listeners last year at San Antonio's annual Fiesta Oyster Bake at St. Mary's University, and will play there again this year.

The band has shared the stage with Deep Blue Something and Better Than Ezra.

Bledsoe said audience reaction is almost always positive.

"Audiences are really intent on us. They don't know what to think," he said. "We're intense, kind of in-your-face."

Bledsoe said he



birch county

### WEEKEND PREVIEW

Friday, January 17

**The Backdoors**, a Doors cover band from Miami, FL, is playing at 3rd Floor Cantina at 8 p.m.

**Blue Velvet**, a blues and oldies band, is playing at Fitzwilly's at 8:30 p.m.

**Common Groove**, a blues/rock band from Bryan-College Station is playing with **Blue Earth**, a blues/rock band from Bryan-College Station, at the Cow Hop at 9 p.m.

**Freudian Slip**, an improv comedy act, is performing at Rudder Theatre at 9 p.m.

**Jasmine Blue**, a blues band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java at 9:30 p.m.

MSC Forsyth Center Galleries are showing the glass painting **Look for**

**the Label**, the watercolor **Life, Love and Death**; and Winslow Homer's painting **Winding the Clock**, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Sleepers**, a movie hosted by the MSC Film Society, will be shown at Rudder Theatre at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

**Ronny Spears**, a country & western artist from Dallas, is playing at the Dixie Theatre at 8 p.m.

**David Trout**, a comedian from Lubbock, is performing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

The Visual Arts Gallery is showing the exhibit **Patterns**, an oil painting with images of African-American heroes, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, January 18

**Burch County**, a rock band from Dallas, is playing with **Jazztop**, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, at the Dixie Theatre at 8 p.m.

**Freudian Slip**, an improv comedy act, is performing at Rudder Theatre at 9 p.m.

**The Kingfisher's Wing**, a full-length play by Bill George, will premiere at 201 MSC at 8 p.m.

**Latin Cheese** is playing at Fitzwilly's at 8:30 p.m.

**A Mexican and International students party** is being held at 3rd Floor Cantina at 9 p.m.

MSC Forsyth Center Galleries are showing the glass painting **Look for the Label**, the watercolor **Life, Love and Death**; and Winslow Homer's painting **Winding the Clock**, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Sleepers**, a movie hosted by the MSC Film Society, will be shown at Rudder Theatre at 9:30 p.m.

**Throwaway People**, a blues band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at the Cow Hop at 9 p.m.

**David Trout**, a comedian from Lubbock, is performing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

**Brian Whitaker**, a classic rock musician from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Sweet Eugene's

**Ronny Spears**

# Comedy Corner to feature stand-up acts

By Michael Schaub  
 THE BATTALION

Downtown Bryan's newest and only comedy club sits on the same corner as a pharmacy, the county's Democrat party headquarters and a carpet store. The area is known to be historic, but it is not known to be people laugh.

But Rami Cerone, owner of Caffe Capri, says he hopes to change that when his Comedy Corner opens Saturday night.

"Whenever I go out of town, I go to comedy clubs," Cerone said. "That was something Bryan-College Station didn't have."

So Cerone, the 24-year-old Bryan restaurateur decided to open the small comedy club on the second floor of his downtown Bryan restaurant.

Cerone said support for the club has been good, and he expects to

sell out Saturday night's show, which features comedian Kenneth Cox.

The idea behind the club is to give Bryan-College Station residents something a little different to do, besides strolling down Northgate or line dancing at bars.

"You want something different," Cerone said.

The restaurant sits at the corner of Main and 24th streets in downtown Bryan.

The small club seats about 80 people and is decorated in the same vein as the restaurant — an unconventional mix of masks, murals, and framed prints of everything from Marc Chagall's art to a blood-red Ferrari.

"If I've seen it before, I don't want

it," Cerone said of the restaurant and club's eclectic decor.

Cerone said he expects an audience as diverse as the club's interior.

"It's going to be a cool mix of students and old people," he said without a hint of irony.

Student reaction to the club seems to be positive.

Emily Kryzak, a member of local improvisational comedy troupe Freudian Slip and a junior speech communications major, said she thinks the comedy club's opening is a step in the right direction.

"I guess comedy is one of the more liberal aspects of the school," says Kryzak. "It's great. Everyone

See COMEDY, Page 4

**"It's going to be a cool mix of students and old people."**

Rami Cerone  
 Caffe Capri and Comedy Corner owner

## CLUB OZONE

Bryan-College Station's Newest Rock & Roll DANCE CLUB.

- No Cover for the Ladies for the rest of January
- Men Over 21 only \$2.00
- Men Under 21 only \$3.00
- \$1.00 Domestic Longnecks and 75¢ Bar Drinks From 8-11 PM Nightly

OPEN TUES-SAT NIGHT  
 CALL 846-3195 For Info.

103 Boyett across from E-Z MART in Northgate

## May Graduates

Official Texas A&M Graduation Announcements

On Sale Now

January 3 - February 21, 1997

For Information and to place your order access the Web at:

<http://graduation.tamu.edu>

MSC Box Office 845-1234 Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**BIG MEAL DEAL \$5.99**

IT'S ALMOST MORE THAN YOU CAN EAT!

**SWENSEN'S**



1/3 LB. HAMBURGER WITH FRIES

+

LARGE SOFT DRINK

+

SCIPER SUNDAE

GOOD FOR UP TO 4 PER COUPON

Culpepper Plaza College Station, Texas

EXP. 1-23-97

EXTRA CHARGE FOR BACON & CHEESE