

The Blues Other Brothers

Diving into the Ozone

BY MELANIE BENSON
 THE BATTALION

Club seekers have a new place to go this Saturday night: Club Ozone.

It sits at the former location of the techno club Vertigo, at 103 Boyett across from the E-Z Mart on Northgate.

Johnny Oats, owner of both Club Ozone and the pool hall The Cue next door, said he plans for the new club to attract a more diverse crowd than Vertigo. He attributes Vertigo's downfall to music that attracted only narrow audiences.

"The music will be more mainstream, as to attract a larger crowd," Oats said. He has been working with D.J.s from Austin to get fresh ideas.

To add variety, Oats has set themes for each night. Tuesday is disco-retro, Wednesday is dance mix, and Thursday live bands will play. Friday and Saturday will feature 90s radio music, with special club mixes after 1 a.m.

Oats, father of three, said he understands what young people want when they go to a club.

Jonathan Kraatz, a senior journalism major, said students are ready for something new.

"A new club would be a welcome addition to Northgate," Kraatz said. "More variety is needed in this town."

The atmosphere of the club is set by the black and white paint-

ed walls and vaulted ceilings.

On one wall, visitors appear to be looking down on a city from the top of a skyscraper. Another wall greets club-goers with a huge "gig 'em."

A new dance floor was added to include a two-level stage in the center, additional disco lights and a back service bar for beer.

Oats has also given students something to occupy their time in case dancing is not their specialty.

"I have put pool tables on one side of the bar and TVs around the bar that are tuned to the sports channels," he said.

Oats said he lowered the volume of the music so people can speak more freely and because he wants the club to be more comfortable.

Club Ozone will not play techno music, unlike Vertigo, which appealed to some students.

Keith Randolph, a senior environmental design major, purchases the dance music for Marooned Records of College Station.

"Vertigo played a lot of good underground music," Randolph said.

Oats said he has two simple strategies to help guarantee success for his new club.

He is bringing in live bands on the college circuit, and said he will not gradually raise the club's prices.

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Sporting sunglasses, hats and tuxedos, these musicians shun "laid-back, cry-in your-beer-type blues."

BY SHEA WIGGINS
 THE BATTALION

They are not Jake and Elwood with choreographed kicks and spins, but they are two brothers who sing the blues with a 10-man backup band and choreographed spinning trumpets.

The Blues Other Brothers, a rhythm and blues and classic rock 'n' roll band playing at the OPAS Guild Gala Saturday night, is not a copy of Jim Belushi and Dan Aykroyd, but a fast-paced, in-your-face, 12-man band with members from all over the country.

Ken and Larry Allison, the lead vocalists and "real" brothers of the Blues Other Brothers, have led the band to almost every major city in the United States as well as cities in Europe for over 12 years.

Ken Allison said the band wears sunglasses, hats and tuxedos and plays everything from James Brown to Wayne Cochran and the CC Riders.

"We are an up-and-exciting-type act," Ken Allison said. "We are not a laid back, cry-in-your-beer-type blues."

Ken Allison said the backup band, also referred to as the 10 Most

Wanted, is comprised of three trumpets, two saxophones, one trombone, one guitar, one bass and two drummers.

"Our youngest player is 23 years old, but we have a guy from New York, and even a member that is a schoolteacher from Houston," Ken Allison said.

Ken Allison said the band has met celebrities Winona Judd and Frank Sinatra, and played at President Reagan's Inaugural Ball and the Main Stage in Disneyland.

Larry Allison said he makes up most of the choreography for the band.

"I have been on the road for more than 20 years doing this," Larry Allison said. "We get the horns spinning, everyone moves at the same time and in between playing we have steps and routines."

Larry Allison said the Blues Brothers opened the door for big bands in the modern music industry.

"When we were naming the band, we need something with blues in it," Larry Allison said. "They were the Blues Brothers, and we were the other guys, so now we are the Blues Other Brothers."

The Blues Other Brothers will play Saturday at the College Station

Hilton at 8 p.m. and at 10 p.m. Little Richard, rock 'n' roll legend from the '50s, plays at 11 p.m.

Jennifer Posa, OPAS director of Board/Guild student relations and a senior English major, said the original plan was just to bring the Blues Other Brothers.

"That is how good they are," Posa said. "But Sherry and David Davidson, the honorary co-chairs, mentioned getting a big name to come, so we started with Jerry Lee Lewis and ended up getting Little Richard to come."

Posa said she estimates the event

will be a sellout. She also said she has heard great things about the Blues Other Brothers.

"Anyone who has seen the Blues Brothers knows their type of music," she said. "They are Motown blues that you can dance to, which is more fun than anything else."

Ken Allison said he has played in Houston, but has no idea where College Station is.

"This will be a real trip," Ken Allison said. "I hope a lot of students can get there and enjoy it. This will be quite a show."

Good golly, it's Little Richard

Rock 'n' roll musician Little Richard is scheduled to perform Saturday at the College Station Hilton at 11 p.m. for the OPAS Guild Gala.

According to the New York Times, Little Richard is "the original wild man of rock 'n' roll." He contributed to the modernization of rock music in the 1950s and sold more than 32 million records internationally by 1968.

According to a press release, Little Richard's performances are energetic and humorous.

"Entertaining is a way to spread joy," Little Richard said. "You've got to do that before you can begin to help others."



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Club Ozone is a new rock 'n' roll club at University and Boyett. It will feature '50s music and disco, club dance mixes and live music.

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