

Gary Delz Trio "juice up" traditional blues

By BRANDON TRUITT
THE BATTALION

Gary Delz's mother started a career for her son before he even started preschool.

"My mother bought me my first drum when I was two," Delz said. "So I guess I've been playing about...about...s---t, how old am I anyway?" He pauses, spitting out numbers under his breath. "I guess it's been almost 34 years." His voice reflects his amazement at the passage of time.

His most noteworthy years came with Delz' tour with the yodeling Don Walsler. He played on both Walsler's first album and his archive albums.

Delz gave up his drumming job for Walsler for a better position behind the then more popular Gary P. Nunn. Since then Walsler has almost become a legend in the country music counter culture.

Delz sounded disappointed at missing Walsler's once-in-a-lifetime performance at last year's Olympic games.

"Almost as soon as I left Walsler, his career exploded," Delz chuckles. "Who knew?"

He gave up drumming for Nunn over two years ago, mostly to spend more time with his family and his two children, but also to take a break from the country music scene.

"When I left, Gary P. Nunn was playing 200 plus shows a year," Delz said. "And touring isn't all fun. It's a lot of traveling, a lot of being away

from home, a lot of being away from my family."

Even though the rigorous schedule might be a sign of success, Delz said he had a difficult time enjoying it when he was disconnected from the ones he loved.

He formed the Gary Delz Power Trio shortly after his departure from Nunn.

"Really, I just wanted to keep playing, to keep drumming," he said. "It's what I love," he says.

Although the band is named after Delz and he is much of the driving force behind their music, he is still somewhat behind the scenes as

a rock band and a blues band. Delz has been called everything "alternative blues" to "blues rock."

Delz says the band's sound is most comparable to a continuum of what blues artists Steve Vaughan and Freddie King did years ago.

"We're picking up where they left off, keeping it alive, and juicing it up," Delz said.

The "juice" he speaks of comes in the form of powerful instrumentation rather than vocals, he said. He said the real talent in any band is how well they blend



The Gary Delz Trio

a drummer.

Corpus Christi native Jeff "El Jefe" Anderson fronts the band providing vocals and what Delz calls "a fiery, gutsy, Stratocaster" sound on lead guitar.

Delz said Anderson is a "full blown pro" whose "powerhouse guitar playing" awes audiences into near-hypnotic states.

Kit Griffin completes the trio and lays down basslines heavily influenced by his jazz background.

Delz said the band's sound is a combination of each member's background. They are a jazz band,

ed about the trio's first show in College Station and he hopes to get a large student turnout.

"It is really the college students that are keeping blues alive," Delz said. "I mean, if you walk into the tone's (an Austin blues club) it's nothing but students."

Delz said the students of Texas A&M should take advantage of every opportunity to see his show.

"I have a daughter in second grade and an eight month old baby," he said. "In a few more years my night life will be watching the league and going to PTA meetings."

"The music will be more mainstream, as to attract a larger crowd."

Johnny Oats
owner of Club Ozone

nesses in the community with help and support from his family.

His eldest son helps run the Club and his wife handles the financial aspects of the family-owned businesses.

Oats said he frequents the Statehouse at home in College Station, and credits this to the students.

"Although I'm not an Aggie, I love this school and feel they have accepted me as one of their own," Oats said.

OZONE

Continued from Page 3

"I know I have competition from other bars on Northgate, but my plan is to keep the prices affordable in order to draw in the average college student," Oats said.

Fran Penedrgrass, a senior recreational parks and tourism sciences major, frequents places on Northgate like The Dixie Chicken. She said opening a club close to Northgate offers something to do after hours.

"Having a club on Northgate that stays open after the rest of the bars

close gives students somewhere else to go," Penedrgrass said.

Club Ozone will offer nightly drink specials from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Oats has plans to open another establishment in Bryan-College Station.

"I have opened these places simply because there was a need," he said.

Oats is a graduate of Sam Houston State University, and has opened a variety of different busi-

Nothing personal

Student's show axed over homosexuality flap

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas school official pulled the plug on a student-produced television show that featured a man in a dress discussing his homosexuality.

Robert Hinkle, an official with the Dallas Independent School District, said he made the decision because "maybe there was a constituency out there that wasn't prepared maturely for accepting

this information."

School officials are crafting guidelines to regulate the programs students broadcast over a school cable channel.

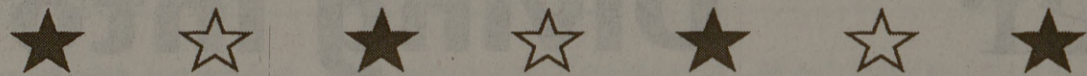
"Getting Personal" was unplugged after a December episode featuring a gay man wearing a blonde wig and black dress as a guest. Lincoln High School student Tserilyn Tse produced the episode

with the approval of her teachers, parents and principal.

"I didn't do that show because personally I like gays or I hate gays," Tse told Dallas television station WFAA. "I did this show because I want you to know more. From what I understand, education is basically teaching somebody to go out and get the knowledge for themselves."



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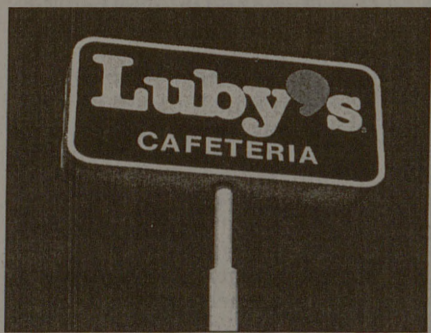


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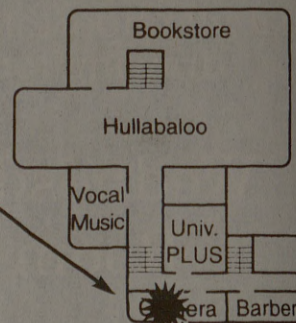


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