

THE BATTALION
AGGIELIFE

Just don't call them Hootie

Ty and the Semiautomatics bring their own sound back to Bryan

By BRANDON TRUITT
THE BATTALION

Bryan native Ty Southerland of Ty and the Semiautomatics does not like to compare his band to anything, but his favorite comparison come when a caller on a Shreveport radio station described them as "a really pissed-off Hootie and the Blowfish."

Ken Source of Jam magazine wrote, "think of Dave Matthews playing and dancing while Darius (Hootie) sings."

Southerland said the main difference between Ty and the Semiautomatics and other bands, especially Hootie, is the "honest and straightforward songwriting."

The songs are "one big flow of emotion," Southerland said. "This is who we are, and who we have been."

Exactly who the band has been has a special history in the Bryan-College Station area because of Southerland's heritage.

The band formed two years ago while Southerland was home on vacation from Sam Houston State University.

One of the songs on its new album *Rapid Delivery* is named "College Station."

Another song on the album was inspired by five oak trees by a church on Northgate.

Southerland's Bryan roots give the band built-in popularity, but he attributes most of it to other people.

Southerland said he believes much of the College Station following is due to Roger W.W. Garrett



Ty and the Semiautomatics, a rock band from Bryan now based in Houston, is playing two shows this week of KTSR, who put Ty and the Semiautomatics on heavy rotation at the station.

"He started a snowball effect that has yet to stop," Southerland said.

The band spent 1996 taking advantage of that snowball effect in the South, developing a steady following in Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Their southern appeal is no surprise to Southerland, who says Ty and the Semiautomatics have been heavily influenced by regional bands like Better than Ezra and Dead Eye Dick.

In the Semiautomatics' music

there are tones and riffs reminiscent of other southern rockers such as Eric Johnson, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Ian Moore.

The band's music is not completely southern in style, though, and Ty says another unique aspects of the band is its versatility of melodic rock.

Its list of billings reflects its broad appeal. The band has played with No Doubt, Tripping Daisy, Molly Hatchet, Dead Eye Dick, Wayne Toups, Podunk, Average White Band and Ian Moore.

The band has also been talking to numerous record companies about work on their next album.

Southerland said the band has an offer pending right now that it is far from final because band could possibly find a better offer.

If the snowball keeps rolling the way it has through the South, Ty and the Semiautomatics could soon become a household name.

Southerland is returning to Bryan this weekend to perform in shows for the Mardi Gras Festival downtown Bryan. The first show will be Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the festival. Later that evening the band will play with Jazztop at the 3rd Floor Cantina.

Unspoken Word breaks Silence

By MICHAEL SCHAUB
THE BATTALION

Unspoken Word guitarist John Montague has lived for two years with a kind of musical cabin fever.

"We've played every club in San Antonio at least 55 times," Montague said. "College Station will be our first out-of-town venue."

The alternative band will play at the Cow Hop on Northgate Saturday at 11:30 p.m.

Unspoken Word formed in Bandera two years ago as the result of a long friendship between Montague and guitarist/singer Tybor Cook.

"Tybor has been a musician since the day the boy could walk," Montague said. "He's an amazing musician."

The band is based in San Antonio, where it has become a fixture at such clubs as Rock Island and White Rabbit.

Unspoken Word released its first album, *Silence*, about a month ago. The album was released in San Antonio, but plans for statewide release were hindered because the band neglected to print bar codes on the album.

"All it took was some lines and some damn numbers, man," Montague said. "Hopefully we'll get picked up by a label and we won't

have to worry about that." The band has been approached by representatives of two major record labels, Montague said.

"We put our hearts into that album," he said. "If we never go anywhere, we're immortalized on that thing."

The songwriting duties on *Silence* are mainly split between Montague and Cook. Cook's lead vocals evoke echoes of Smashing Pumpkins singer Billy Corgan.

Silence was the result of almost two months of recording at San Antonio's Tribal Studios. The album's release met with a hostile review from the San Antonio Current, an "alternative" newspaper.

"After that review, I called (music columnist) Jim Beal Jr. with the San Antonio Express-News," Montague said, "and I said, 'Mr. Beal, if you don't like our record, just throw it away.' He said, 'You get reviewed in the Current?,' I said, 'Yes, sir.'"

"The next week, he wrote, 'If you're going to play music for anybody but yourself, you've got to have thicker skin.'"

Montague sent copies of *Silence* to club owners and radio stations around the state.

"Good things have happened to us," Montague said. "Bassist Jake Frazier is like a virtuoso; the guy can

play anything. And drummer Roger Rizner, that kid's been playing since the third grade. I'm the only slacker in the band. I can't keep up."

Playing in College Station is an accomplishment for the band, Montague said.

"We're stoked," he said. "We've had some pretty good luck. The show ought to be cool."

The show will also be an opportunity for the band to play at the alma mater of one of its heroes — fellow Bandera native Robert Earl Keen Jr.

"I see Robert Earl taking out his trash all the time," Montague said. "He lives half a mile from my mom."

Although the guitar pop of Unspoken Word bears little resemblance to Keen's country-folk fusion, band members look up to the singer's iconoclastic style.

"I think Keen's the best songwriter in the world," Montague said. "He's one of my favorite artists. He gets to make his living playing music, and that's what our band hopes for. Someday."

Unspoken Word will play at the White Rabbit in San Antonio and Rev's Down Under in Bandera after its appearance at the Cow Hop.

Montague said the band does not intend to forget its Bandera roots.

"We're country boys, I guess," he said, "but we play rock 'n' roll."

RODEO

Continued from Page 3

Kate Charter, a junior agricultural journalism major who worked at Texas State University for a year, said she got quite a few business cards while there.

"I made a few business cards that I enjoyed working with," Charter said. "I would not mind working for them for a job recommendation."

Besides the work experience, professional contacts, the Rodeo also provides food and hotel

"I had a part in what was going on behind the scenes."

Rhonda Reinhart
Junior journalism major

The job perk students remember most is the chance to see the Rodeo. "I was at a Selena press conference a couple of years ago and I sat in the second or third row," Hearn said.

Rodeo internship program expands students business contacts, experience and exposure.

"It's more than likely, it's not going to be an Aggie running the Rodeo during George Strait," Lacey said. "More than likely they will be holding the wire."

Co-op Career Fair
February 10 and 11

Students currently or previously registered in a Co-op class —

Pick up your **FREE t-shirt** at the Co-op booth.

STAR WARS

BUYING ANY AND ALL

Star Wars merchandise/advertisement material. Whole collections or single items. Toys, Food Premiums, Store Displays, Coins, Original Art, Prototypes, ... etc.

Contact Wayne at 847-1972

CINEMARK THEATRES

MOVIES 16 HOLLYWOOD USA
BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION
Hwy 6 Bypass @ Hwy 30 764-7592

FRI-SAT-SUN

MOTHER (PG-13)
11:20 1:50 4:20 7:10 9:40 12:20

PIERCE CREATURES (PG-13)
1:45 6:45

THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT (R)
11:00 3:55 9:00 11:45

JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
12:45 3:45 6:45 9:45 12:25

SCREAM (R)
11:45 2:15 4:45 7:10 9:45 12:15

BEVERLY HILLS NINJA (PG-13)
11:40 1:50 4:00 6:50 9:10 11:30

EVITA (PG)
12:45 3:45 7:00 9:55 12:45

THE PEST (PG-13)
11:45 2:15 4:45 7:00 9:15 11:20

STAR WARS -1ST PRINT- (PG)
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00 12:45

THE BEAUTIFANT AND THE BEAST (PG)
11:30 1:55 4:20 7:20 9:50 12:30

GRIDLOCK'D (R)
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:50 10:05 12:25

THE CRUCIBLE (PG-13)
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00 12:45

DANTE'S PEAK (PG-13)
11:00 1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30 12:00

STAR WARS -2ND PRINT- (PG)
1:00 3:45 6:30 9:15 12:00

IN LOVE AND WAR (PG-13)
11:05 1:35 4:05 7:05 9:50 12:35

PORTRAIT OF A LADY (PG-13)
1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30

MICHAEL (PG)
4:35 6:55 9:15 11:45

MEET WALLY SPARKS (R)
12:00 2:15

\$3.75 MATINEES
EVERY DAY BEFORE 6PM
AFTER 11PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY

MSC FILM SOCIETY

Now Showing:

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
ROMEO & JULIET

Friday, Feb. 7
7:00 and 9:30pm
Romeo and Juliet

Saturday, Feb. 8
9:30pm *Romeo and Juliet*

Tickets \$2.50 in advance and \$3.00 the night of the showing. All films shown in Rudder Theatre Complex.

Questions? Call the Aggie Cinema Hotline (847-8478).

Persons with special needs call 845-1515 within 3 days of the showing.

Website: <http://films.tamu.edu>

Place Your Ad In
THE BATTALION
Call 845-0569

Chelsea Street
Pub & Grill

POST OAK MALL
693-6429

Mon-Sat
9pm-No Cover

Rock and roll, a little country and a lot of comedy!

REED BOYD

THE BRIDE WEIGHS 600 LBS. THE GROOM IS 9 INCHES TALL

Join us for Messina Hof's annual old-world Marriage Of The Port Ceremony.

Feb. 8 thru Feb. 22

You'll enjoy the traditional blending of brandy with superb red wine to create our globally acclaimed Gold Medal winning **Papa Paulo Port**.

The ceremony takes place with each free tour:

Weekdays: 1 & 2:30 pm
Sat: 11 am, 12:30, 2:30 & 4 pm
Sun: 12:30 & 2:30 pm

It's fun. It's free. And, it's romantic. You might even shed a happy tear... or watch a barrel blush.

(No reservations required.)

DELIGHT YOUR LOVE

With The Marriage Of The Port Reception & Dinner

7pm, Saturday
February 22, 1997

It's a candlelight, gourmet, four course medley of exquisite Mediterranean delicacies including a flaming dessert.

Just \$65 per couple:
\$37.50 singles.

Reservations by 2/19
Designer Events
(409) 778-9463

Messina Hof
4545 Old Reliance Road
(409) 778-9463

THE PERSONAL ROMANTIC GIFT

You can put your personal message on a custom wine label for only \$12.99 which includes the Blush wine. Choose from three labels. Labels while you wait - Phone orders OK - We ID

AGGIE RING ORDERS
THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS
CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER
DEADLINE: February 12, 1997

Undergraduate Student Requirements:

- You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of 95 credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated and passed, cannot count as additional credit hours.)
- 30 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University, providing that prior to January 1, 1994, you were registered at Texas A&M University and successfully completed a fall/spring semester or summer term (I and II or 10 weeks) as a full-time student in good standing (as defined in the University catalog).
- 60 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you do not qualify under the successful semester requirement. Should your degree be conferred with less than 60 resident credits, this requirement will be waived after your degree is posted on the Student Information Management System.
- You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
- You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements

If you are a May 1997 degree candidate and you do not have an Aggie ring from a prior degree, you may place an order after you meet the following requirements:

- Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and
- You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

If you have completed all of your degree requirements and can obtain a "Letter of Completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies, the original letter of completion, with the seal, may be presented to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

Procedure To Order A Ring:

- If you meet all of the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office no later than Wednesday, February 12, 1997 to complete the application for eligibility verification.
- If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring on April 22, 1997, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Visa or Mastercard (with your name imprinted) no later than February 14, 1997.

Men's 10K	\$314.00	14K	\$428.00
Women's 10K	\$174.00	14K	\$206.00

Add \$8.00 for Class of '96 or before.
The ring delivery date is April 22, 1997.

60 FT DOLLS
"THE BIG 3"

60 FT DOLLS the big 3

HOT OFF THE HEELS OF THE "SUPERNATURAL JOY" EP, THE 60 FT DOLLS RETURN WITH THE FULL LENGTH ALBUM "THE BIG 3"

THEIR SOUND HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A HYBRID OF THE BEATLES, THE JAM AND THE SEX PISTOLS.

SALE PRICED \$10.95 THRU 2/21

marooned

"THE" RECORD STORE IN B/C/S
110 College Main 846-0017

PROFITABLE NUMBER! **845-0569** THE BATTALION CLASSIFIEDS