

## WEEKEND PREVIEW

### February 27 Thursday

**Breedlove**, a blues/rock band from Austin, is playing at 3rd Floor Cantina at 8 p.m.

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

**Latin Cheese Quartet**, a cover band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Club Ozone at 9 p.m.

MSC Cepheid Variable is presenting **Ninja Scroll** in 201 MSC at 7 p.m.

**Piedmonte**, a Latino band from Venezuela, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java at 9 p.m.

**Sneaky Pete**, a sing-a-long artist from Bryan-College Station, is playing at the Cow Hop at 9 p.m.

**David Trout**, a rock 'n' roll comedian, is performing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

**The Woodies**, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Fitzwilly's at 10 p.m.

### February 28 Friday

**Ruthie Foster**, a blues musician from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Dixie Theatre at 8 p.m.

**Southern Backtones**, a rock band from Houston, is playing at the Cow Hop at 10 p.m.

**Lost Prophets**, a rock band from

Bryan-College Station, is playing at Double Dave's at 8 p.m.

MSC Film Society is showing **The Princess Bride** at Rudder Theater at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

**Don Overby**, a classic rock musician from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Fitzwilly's at 10 p.m.

**Matt Rosin**, an ethereal gothic musician from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java at 9 p.m.

**Chubby Terrier and the Bayou Swamp Band**, a cajun zydeco band, is playing at 3rd Floor Cantina at 8 p.m.

**David Trout**, a rock 'n' roll comedian, is performing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

### March 1 Saturday

**Ruthie Foster**, a blues musician from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java at 9 p.m.

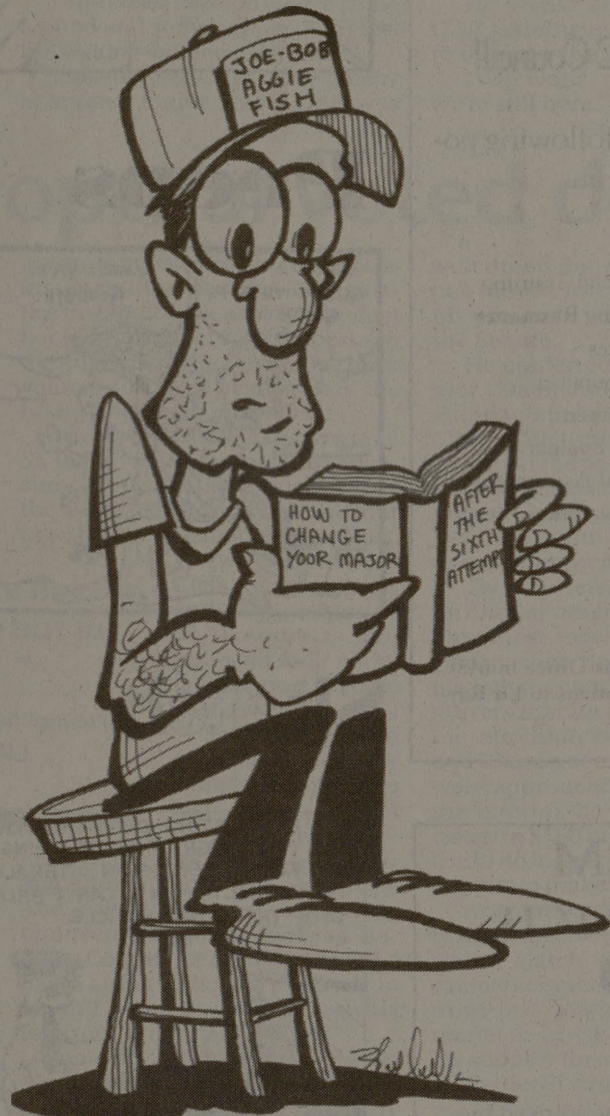
**Magic Rockers**, a classic rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Fitzwilly's at 10 p.m.

**Ronny Spears**, a country and western musician, is playing at Dixie Theatre at 8 p.m.

**David Trout**, a rock 'n' roll comedian, is performing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

**Throwaway People**, a blues band from Bryan-College Station, is having a CD release show at the Cow Hop at 10 p.m.

# Decisions, decisions...



## Some students try several majors in search of perfect one

By AARON MEIER  
THE BATTALION

In the Pauly Shore movie *Son-in-Law*, Shore plays a professional student with more majors behind him than most colleges offer. While his endless string of majors provides comic fodder for the film, some students at Texas A&M can relate to "The Weasel's" quest to find a major.

Scott Phelan, an education administration graduate student, tried five majors at two colleges, amassing 200 credit hours before finally graduating.

Phelan began college as an aerospace engineering major in 1988. He switched to electrical engineering, then to engineering technology electronics, followed by engineering technology telecommunications. Finally, he moved to the College of Business and graduated with a degree in management in 1995.

"I wasn't in the engineering program for myself," Phelan said. "I was doing it because my parents wanted me to."

Phelan said he realized his major posed many scholastic obstacles when he started school.

"A lot of people started off aerospace [engineering], then reality quickly hit and we decided we needed to find something

else," he said.

John Kerrigan, a senior marketing major, initially studied speech communications at the University of Texas at San Antonio, but decided to take a different academic path when he transferred to A&M.

"I wanted a high-paying job, and there didn't seem to be many in speech communications," Kerrigan said.

He became a sociology major before finally settling on a marketing major.

Kerrigan said his other majors assist him in more ways than he expected. "My other majors have enhanced my experiences as a marketing major," Kerrigan said. "Sociology helped me because marketing deals with how people interact with each other. Speech communications helped because I am now able to speak in front of large crowds during classroom presentations."

Paul Santoya, a sophomore political science major, agreed that his experience as a mechanical engineering major helped him to prepare for his current studies. He said the organizational skills he learned have helped him budget his time efficiently.

Phelan said that his numerous major changes became more annoying than beneficial after a while.

"It became really frustrating when a lot of the courses I had tak-

en wouldn't apply to my new major, extending the amount of time it took me to graduate," Phelan said.

Phelan's family also became perturbed with his chronic changing. "After a while, my parents just wanted me to get out of school," Phelan said. "Not to mention my grandfather, who was paying for everything. When I finally graduated, they were more relieved than anything."

**“Your degree is going to be with you the rest of your life. If you don't enjoy what you are majoring in, you might as well get out now.”**

Russell Grones  
Senior marketing major

Santoya said his parents supported him in his changes in majors.

"My parents just wanted me to make sure I knew what I was doing and not jump into it blindly," Santoya said.

Kerrigan offers advice to students

considering changing their majors.

"I would suggest looking at the college you want to major in," Kerrigan said. "Make sure the degree can take you where you want to go in life. Talk to people that are in the major and see what they say about it."

Phelan suggests not wasting any time when thinking about changing majors.

"If you are considering changing majors, the first thing you should do is go talk to an adviser," Phelan said. "Find out what classes you are going to lose and try and get back on schedule as soon as possible."

Russell Grones, a senior marketing major, said other things besides time should be considered before changing majors.

"If you are uncertain about what you want to do, taking time off from school and trying to get a bearing on what you want to do with your life is a real possibility," Grones said. "Don't waste time and a whole lot of money before you realize what you want to do."

When considering a major, a student should always consider happiness above all things, Grones said.

"Your degree is going to be with you the rest of your life," Grones said. "If you don't enjoy what you are majoring in, you might as well get out now."

## Local alternative rock band Fysher thrives on instrumentation, acoustics

By MICHAEL SCHAUB  
THE BATTALION

The members of Fysher have been together for only three months, but drummer Brian Beadle already knows the band's songs forward and ...

"I hum the songs before I go to bed," Beadle said. "I can play these songs backward."

"We're going to do that next show," guitarist and singer Sean Smith said.

Fysher will bring its acoustic rock to Bryan's Dixie Theatre tonight.

Guitarist and singer Chris Montes said Fysher formed in mid-November of last year, from the ashes of two now-defunct bands.

"I just called Brian up, looking for a drummer for a new band," Montes said. "He said he knew a guitarist and I told him to bring him over. It turned out we were all interested in the same types of music."

With Montes' former bandmate Cliff Buckley on bass, the band was playing original songs and covers within weeks.

"We've mixed so well together, it's kind of scary," Beadle said. "We all just clicked."

Fysher takes its cue from such alternative rockers as Dave Matthews Band, Jackopierce, Vertical Horizon and the Grateful Dead. "The music's not folk; it's fast, upbeat rock," Montes said. "It makes you want to hop around."

As in Dave Matthews Band, attention is paid to all instruments, Montes said.

"The whole emphasis is on the instrumentation," he said. "Each

song has a lot of different rhythms."

The band's instrumentation is not entirely acoustic, Buckley said. "The leads are more electric, but the rhythm section is acoustically based," he said. "We tend to mix the songs up, have a different twist each time."

Fysher got its first break last year, when club owner Willie Bennett heard Montes and Smith play an acoustic set at an open-microphone "singer-songwriter's night" at the 3rd Floor Cantina.

"After that, he offered us the opening act spot for Vertical Horizon," Smith said. Fysher will open for the Washington, D.C., folk band again March 22.

"Then there was the time we played Madison Square Garden," Beadle said. "Phish opened for us."

Maybe not, but Fysher has booked shows in downtown Bryan well in advance—a far cry from its roots of playing at Double Dave's.

The band is trying to raise enough money to produce an album, Montes said, but for now it's concentrating on its live show.

"Without acting, we try to keep the audience interested and involved," Montes said. "When we're playing, it feels like we're someplace different. We're not up there; it feels like we're in it."

Band members hope to help revitalize Bryan-College Station's live music scene by working with other bands, Buckley said.

"We all need to work together on it," he said. "If people saw what was going on, the music scene would be so much more happening."

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Fysher

## Theater Arts Program goes Ape

Students perform award-winning Eugene O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape*

By MICHAEL SCHAUB  
THE BATTALION

The Theater Arts Program might be Texas A&M's best-kept secret, but actor Guillermo De Leon has known about it intimately for three years.

"There are seniors in the dressing room for this play saying, 'Man, I should have been doing this my whole time here!'" De Leon said.

The Theater Arts Program will perform *The Hairy Ape* today, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Forum.

The play, written by Nobel Prize-winner Eugene O'Neill, deals with social interaction between the rich and the poor in American society, director Robert Wenck said.

"It deals with the feeling of despair the have-nots have," Wenck said. "The message is well-taken today. The problem's worse now."

De Leon, a junior theater arts major, said O'Neill's message is still relevant.

"It has political undertones," De Leon said. "I think it is something students should see, especially if they've been in the workforce."

Although the daily rehearsals have been intense, De Leon said, the actors are having fun with the play.

"We've been working since the beginning of the semester," he said. "We've had some really good nights."

Wenck, an associate professor of speech communication and theater arts, said he is having fun watching the students.

"The play calls for a lot of understanding, and the students have a really good grasp," Wenck said. "It's a huge assignment for Billy De Leon, and he's doing an excellent job."

The play will be De Leon's 12th production at A&M. He has worked before in plays such as *Othello*, *The Crucible* and *The Madwoman of Chaillot*.

But his true calling is playwriting and directing, he said. The Theater Arts Program will perform his original play *La Llorona* later in the semester. De Leon will direct.

"It's about a legend, a woman who drowns her children and is cursed to walk the night," De Leon said. "The play deals with why this

woman would drown her two kids. I tried to create my own mythology."

De Leon said he is pleased with the work of director Wenck.

"He's very laid back," he said. "He lets us work on our own, and gives us good insight."

Still, the Theater Arts program suffers from lack of recognition, De Leon said.

"I wish the school would at least acknowledge Theater Arts as a department," he said. "We all wish we had better facilities. We don't do nearly enough as we should be doing."

The absence of a full-fledged fine arts program makes the university suffer, Wenck said.

"We're the only major university without a college of fine arts," Wenck said. "We have no departments of music, theater, dance, or art. We miss those things, and we're certainly big enough to have them."

The program does the best with what it has, De Leon said.

"The energy level tends to be a little low," he said. "I wish I could do more to get people's attention."