



Widespread Panic, a rock band from Athens, Ga., was scheduled to play tonight at Rudder Auditorium.

Lack of Widespread support prompts last-minute axing of concert

The Widespread Panic concert scheduled for tonight at Rudder Auditorium was canceled Tuesday because of poor ticket sales, a representative of Pace Concerts said. Pace was sponsoring the concert in conjunction with MSC Town Hall.

Brad Roosa, a talent buyer for Pace, said Widespread Panic and Pace made a "mutual decision" to cancel the show.

"The band really wanted to play in College Station," Roosa said. "But we had sold under 1,000 tickets. We went to them (Widespread Panic) with the facts and said we can hold this and maybe come back and try to do this right."

He said the band and Pace were aiming for a sell-out show.

Stacy Pogue, Town Hall assistant vice-chair of club shows and a senior geography major, said she never expected the show to sell out because ticket sales had been slow for weeks.

"I'm kind of surprised and disappointed that it was canceled at the last minute," Pogue said. "It's certainly not something Town Hall wanted to happen. We are sorry."

Refunds for tickets purchased at the box office in the Rudder complex will be available beginning at 9 this morning. Those who bought tickets at other locations should try returning their tickets where they were purchased.

Athens band raises level of chaos on latest release

By KAREN JANES
THE BATTALION

What do you get when you cross a Yankee, a Texan, a guy nicknamed "Panic," the Allman Brothers and Santana? You get Widespread Panic.

Widespread Panic is a six-member band with roots in Athens, Ga.

The band, whose members have been together for almost 11 years, began when guitarists John Bell and Michael Houser played acoustical duos together while students at the University of Georgia. After acquiring a bass player and a drummer, the group agreed on the name "Widespread Panic," after Houser's nickname.

"In a way, the name Widespread Panic seems to accurately reflect what we've always done," Bell said. "When we're playing, it's a moment of chaos and communication — it's the challenge of carrying on a six-way musical conversation. That's what brought us together in the first place, and that's what keeps us going."

Dave Schools, bassist and vocalist, said the band's sound has been influenced by many years together.

"When we started out, there was never any plan," he said. "We just wanted to get away with having our freedom, and over the last 10 years we've grown up together. That's really what's responsible for the band sound."

Widespread Panic's latest album, *Bombs and Butterflies*, is the long-awaited follow-up to *Ain't Life Grand*.

Percussionist/vocalist Domingo Ortiz said the band had 20 songs ready by the time they recorded *Bombs and Butterflies*, but could pick only nine for the compact disc.

"It was a tough decision," Ortiz said. "The ones that didn't make the cut will be put in the next album."

Ortiz credits artists such as Neil Young, Yes, The Neville Brothers and George Clinton as Widespread Panic's influences. However, the band members' histories also contribute to the band's style.

"Being from different areas of the country, we are big influences on each other," Ortiz said.

Widespread Panic's music has reached a broad audience partly because of radio play.

"Radio play is an important key," Ortiz said. "It's helped us reach a lot more people. When we perform all-ages shows, we have folks there that are 10 or 11 years old. They get real excited about the music and going to see a band perform."

Both Ortiz and Bell expressed a thrill for performing live.

"When we're playing a song live, we don't just regurgitate what's on the album," Bell said. "We try to blow the doors off. That challenge—the desire to elevate it to a different level—that's what gets us out of bed each morning."

Ortiz said the best way to experience Widespread Panic is live.

"It's hard to recreate the excitement (of the music) in the studio—it's a sterile environment," he said. "When we play live, the audience excites us—they make it happen."

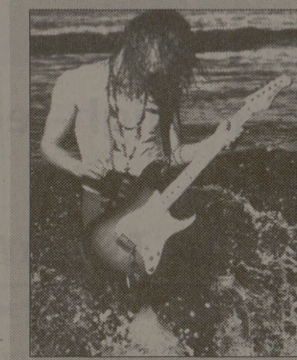
WEEKEND PREVIEW

Thursday
April 10

Ruthie Foster, a blues musician from Bryan-College Station, is playing at the Palace Theatre at noon.

Heywood, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Club Ozone at 9 p.m.

Cory Morrow, a country & western artist from Austin, is playing with Highway 6, a country & western band from Bryan-College Station, at 3rd Floor Cantina at 10 p.m.



Gary Hoey

Surf rock is catching a wave into Bryan-College Station tonight.

Gary Hoey, a surf music guitarist, will play at the Dixie Theatre at 9:30 p.m. with **The Almighty Ultrasound**, a rock band from California.

Hoey, whose most familiar recordings include the *Endless Summer II* soundtrack and *Animal Instinct*, is playing in support of his latest release, *Bug Alley*. *Bug Alley* features Hoey's standard ocean-inspired original work, as well as covers of "Wipeout" and Santana's "Black Magic Woman." Hoey also diverges from his normal instrumental format and offers his vocals on two tracks.

Dick Dale, an early pioneer of surf music, called Hoey one of his all-time favorite guitar players in a 1996 interview in *Guitar Player* magazine.

The Almighty Ultrasound is touring in support of their major record label debut release, *Sonic Bloom*. The band describes its music as a seductive, industrial-rock mix.

"We just like cool sounds," said guitarist Britt Wilson. "It's the not knowing — the experimenting — that makes it so cool for us."

John Reyna & Tubie Pushee, a classic rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Fitzwilly's at 9 p.m.

Ronnie Satterfield, a rock and country entertainer, is performing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

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

Friday
April 11

Breedlove, a blues/rock band from Austin, is playing with **Jazztop**, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, at Dixie Theatre at 10 p.m.

Pat Green, a country folk singer from Waco, is playing at Marooned Records at 5 p.m.

MSC Film Society is showing **Top Gun** at Rudder Theatre at 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Ronnie Satterfield, a rock and country entertainer, is performing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

Storyville, a rock band from Austin, is playing with **Ruthie Foster**, a blues musician from Bryan-College Station, at 3rd Floor Cantina at 10 p.m.

Two Paces West, a classic rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java at 9:30 p.m.

United Way Night, featuring a jitterbug contest and performance by the **Aggie Wranglers**, will be held at Hurricane Harry's at 10 p.m.

The Voodudes, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Fitzwilly's at 9 p.m.

Saturday
April 12

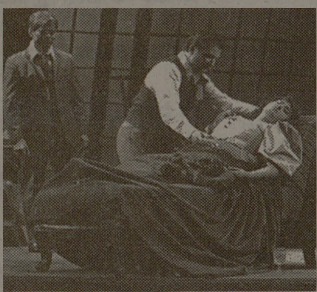
The Bellamy Brothers, a country & western band, are playing at a United Way benefit at Starlight Ballroom in Brenham at 10 p.m.

Miss Molly & the Whips, a blues/rock band from Austin, is playing at 3rd Floor Cantina at 10 p.m.

Old Army, a country & western band from Bryan-College Station, is playing with **R. Creeger**, at Fitzwilly's at 9 p.m.

Ronnie Satterfield, a rock and country entertainer, is performing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

Michelle Solberg, a folk singer from Austin, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java at 9:30 p.m.



It's sort of a 19th-century
Friends
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La Bohème

Saturday, April 12, 8pm & Sunday, April 13, 2pm
Rudder Auditorium For tickets call 845-1234

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