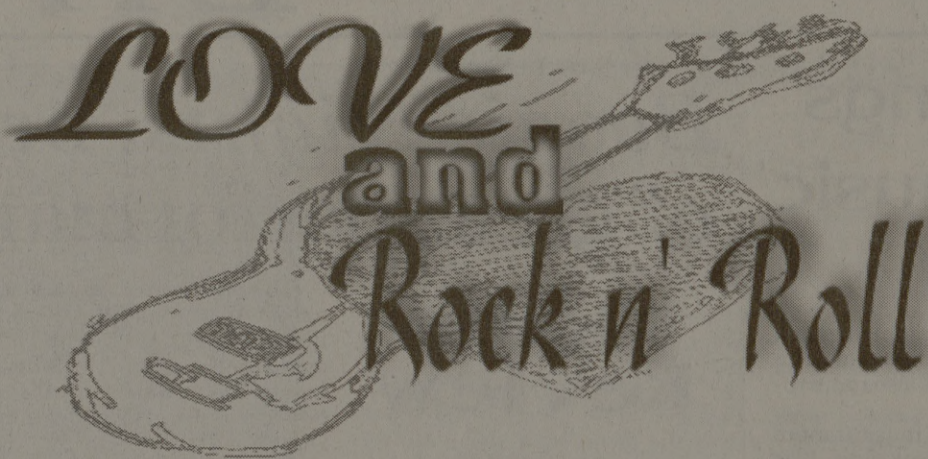


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BY STEPHEN WELLS
Staff writer

For a musician, being a member of a band is a labor of love. Laboring over a difficult melody line and loving the reaction of a good crowd feel equally fulfilling. For two A&M student musicians, the term "labor of love" takes on a deeper meaning.

Chris Pate, a junior environmental design major, and Rebecca Torrellas, a sophomore journalism major, are both members of local rock bands. Torrellas is the lead singer for Spencer's Rocket and Pate is the lead singer/guitarist for Linus. Recently, Pate decided to join his Torrellas' band as a guitarist.

The music business of College Station served as a backdrop for the two songsters' first chance encounter.

Torrellas said she heard of Pate through a friend of a friend.

"I thought 'hey, they're [Linus] a pretty popular band in College Station; we can open for them.' They told me Chris knew who I was, but when I called, he said he didn't know me. I told him I was the singer for Spencer's Rocket, and he wanted to open for them."

Pate said after their conversation, he went to pick up a demo tape from Torrellas, and that is how they met.

Torrellas said some friends have shown negativity toward Pate and Torrellas mixing their personal lives with business.

"Even now when I tell people Chris is in the band, they tell me that it's a big mistake," Torrellas said. "They say if we ever break up, he'll leave the band, and we'll never amount to anything."

Thanks for the vote of confidence!"

Both Torrellas and Pate said they have had no problems at all with the members of either band about their relationship.

"It's been fun because both bands get along," Torrellas said. "We usually don't book our shows together, so when we go to each others' show it's because we want to, not because we have to."

Another advantage for the musical couple is their ability to avoid the nights when nobody can think of anything to do. They can just as easily pick up a guitar and sing instead of going out for the traditional dinner and a movie.

"A good thing for Chris and I is that we both like music," Torrellas said. "That way, we can just get together and make music."

When it comes to the bands, both are careful about not stepping on each others' artistic toes. To avoid creative differences, Pate and Torrellas have divided the responsibilities for songwriting.

"She writes the music for Spencer's Rocket, and I write the music for Linus," Pate said. "I may make up a guitar part for some of their stuff, but she does the rest."

When it comes to criticism, though, honesty is always the best policy. Torrellas said the two are not afraid to point out the other's weaknesses in music.

"I'll be the first person to tell him, and he'll be the first person to tell me when something sounds bad," Torrellas said. "He may get upset, or I may get upset, but in the end, it makes us both sound better and look better."

The most important aspect of their relationship is not the music. As in any case where two people fall in love, the feelings are based on shared experience and sympathy. Pate said Tor-

The lead singers of rock bands Linus and Spencer's Rocket have found love in the most unlikely of places ... on stage

rellas appeared at a time in his life he needed someone, and she fit the bill perfectly.

"She has helped me through some pretty hard times, emotionally," Pate said. "Music was the only way I had to cope with it before she came."

A mutual appreciation for music strengthened the bond between them, Pate said.

"Other people I've dated haven't been very musical," Pate said. "I've found someone that think on my level and that I can create music with."



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION
Rebecca Torrellas, lead singer of Spencer's Rocket, and Chris Pate, singer of Linus share stage time

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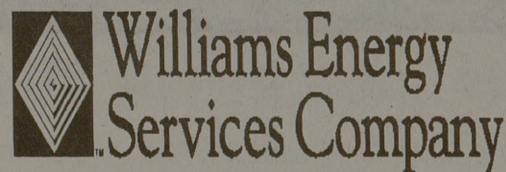
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C&D Conference Room
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MACAY

Continued from Page 3

The instruments used in Indian classical music are not restricted to the sitar.

Both north and south Indian music styles use percussion instruments such as two headed drums.

Violins are played in a sitting style

similar to how a cello is played. Flutes and other wind instruments are also incorporated.

In the last few years, the music has been jazzed up by adding electronics and keyboard.

Grama Praveen, secretary of SPIC MACAY and a mechanical engineering doctorate student, said the organization is a national organization that began in 1971. The Texas A&M

chapter began in 1989.

"We (SPIC MACAY) have lectures about Indian music and dance, concerts and dance performances," Praveen said.

"We have brought several dance troupes over the last couple of years, and we try to have at least two concerts every semester."

"The audience response has been great. We have had more than 200

people come for our concerts and we encourage more to attend."

Praveen said the artists are brought to America by the national organization, and then the local chapters invite them to their respective campuses.

"The artists are the most popular in India," Praveen said. "To see them in India, a person would have to pay big time."

The Texas A&M University Student Publications Board is accepting applications for

Editor
THE BATTALION
(including radio and online editions)
Spring 1998

The Spring '98 editor in chief will serve from Jan. 12 through May 8, 1998.

Qualifications for editor in chief of *The Battalion* are:

- Be a Texas A&M student with a minimum 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of appointment and during the term of office;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable daily college newspaper, -OR-
- Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, -OR-
- Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), JOUR 301 (Mass Comm Law) and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Francia Cagle in the Student Publications office, room 012 Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1997. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting beginning at 1 p.m. Monday, November 17, 1997, in room 221F Reed McDonald Building.

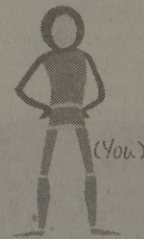
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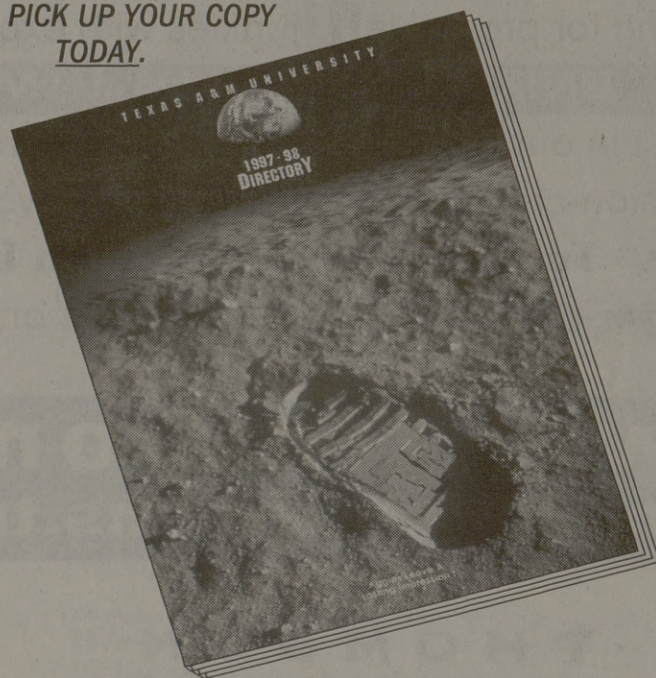
Even if the schedule fills up, come to the placement center and see us. We will make time to interview everyone!

Recommended Information Session
November 4 at 5:00 pm
Rudder Tower

- Grads considering career opportunities
 - Sophomores & Juniors seeking Summer Intern Position.
- For more information contact Jennifer Kinnard at 764-8219

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