

The End of a

DECADE



Jackopierce founding members Jack O'Neill and Cary Pierce have been playing across the country for the past ten years. The acoustic rock band from Dallas will play their final show in College Station tonight at Shadow Canyon.

After 10 years of performing together, the founding members of Jackopierce are going their separate ways. In a farewell performance tonight, Cary Pierce and Jack O'Neill will give a new meaning to 'The Aggie Final.'

By Rhonda Reinhart
Staff writer

In 1987, Cary Pierce and Jack O'Neill gave birth to a child. The child's name was Jackopierce, and college campus music scenes would never be the same again.

Pierce and O'Neill met at Southern Methodist University when they were both freshmen in the theater department.

They were both avid music fans, and they formed a bond immediately.

The acoustic-based rock duo started out playing acoustic sets around SMU. After creating a fan base in Dallas, they went on the road and soon gained loyal fans in other parts of the country as well.

Later, they became a full band, acquiring Clay Pendergrass on bass and Carl Darling on drums.

But after 10 years and six records, Jackopierce is calling it quits.

Pierce said pursuing different avenues

seemed like the right thing to do.

"It's kind of exciting to be on the brink of new possibilities," he said.

Pierce said he is working on the songs for a record he plans to make next year, and he said people who like his music now will like what he has planned for the future.

After five years of headlining the Aggie Final, Jackopierce will perform their Aggie finale Wednesday night at Shadow Canyon.

It will be their last show in Aggieland and one of the last stops on their farewell tour. There are sure to be some fans who will find it hard to say goodbye to Jackopierce, especially fans in College Station. The band has almost become an Aggie icon and their performance at the Aggie Final will be a "tradition" many will hate to see fade.

Mark Schaberg, who promotes Jackopierce's Texas shows, said the band has had a big impact on College Station audiences.

"The interesting thing about College

Station and Jackopierce is that almost every cover band out of College Station that I've worked with has done Jackopierce covers," he said. "Every college in the nation has a big following of Jackopierce fans. A&M just happens to

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Jack O'Neill
Member of Jackopierce

be one of the biggest."

O'Neill said it seems eerie to be playing in College Station for the last time.

"It starts hitting home," he said. "But both of us know we'll probably be back

in College Station some time. It's not that anything is really ending. Some new options have opened up."

O'Neill said he has a project in the works and will have a band next year.

"I don't think of it as going solo," he said. "I'm interested in working with other people."

Jackopierce first played in College Station at an environmental conference in 1989.

Pierce said of the 1,000 people that attended the conference, only 100 came to the show. But he said it was an amazing night.

The duo sold every copy of their first cassette, "Someday You'll Understand," which is no longer in production.

"It was magical somehow," Pierce said. "Ever since then, we've had a bond with College Station audiences. College Station has always been amazing to us."

He said College Station is one of the cities Jackopierce has been playing in the longest. The group played frequently at Carney's Pub and the former

Stafford Opera House.

Schaberg said Jackopierce is being billed as its own opening act for Wednesday's performance.

The first 60-minute set will be all acoustic with Pierce and O'Neill alone on stage. After a break, the full band will return for a 90-minute set of recent material.

Schaberg said the final show in College Station will be special because of the nostalgia involved.

"They will unbury all the old stuff from the first three albums everybody always screams for," he said.

Pierce said it has been great getting back to playing acoustic shows, and audiences have been really receptive to it.

Though the band is parting ways, O'Neill is thankful for the success Jackopierce has experienced.

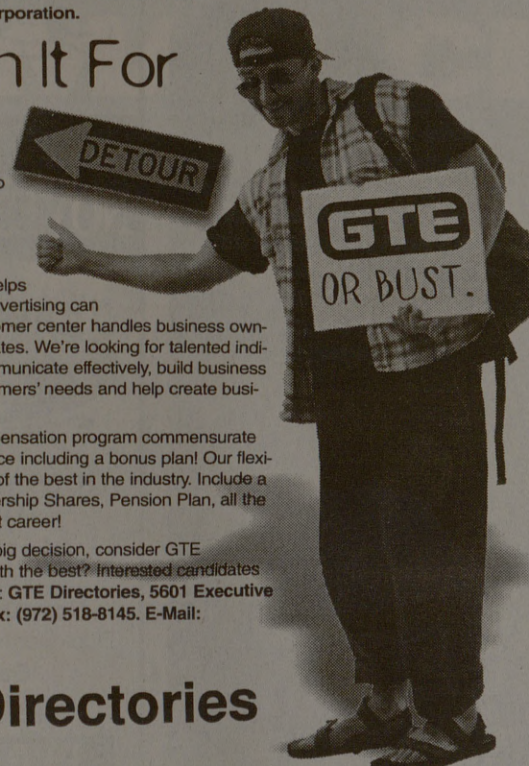
"I'm thrilled to have come this far," he said. "I never would have imagined when we started that it would be like this. It's been great."

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