O I'm upset! We just broke up and I need to talk to someone. O I think I hate my major. O I'm worried about my grades. How can I see someone at the counseling service? Mom just called & I'm worried about home. O I'm so lonely. Can we talk a while?



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New Kid in Town

Music publishing company 'Hopes' to make sta

By Brandi Ballard

t takes more than just a guitar and a singer for a band to cut a record. It takes effort, disappointment and most importantly, it takes a publishing company.

Hopes Creek Music, Brazos Valley's own music publishing company, hopes to help local talent land big breaks with record labels. Hopes Creek Music is the only one of its kind within 100 miles.

"Hopes Creek Music is the first all-out, fully aggressive publishing company that Brazos Valley has seen," said Ron Piwko, president of Hopes

The company got started when Piwko and Willie Bennett got together. The two met when Bennet helped Piwko's band The Texas Woodies get signed to a record label. Together they formed Hopes Creek Music and now plan on expanding the business to take in other local talent.

Bennett has been in the music business for 25 years. Bennett has connections within the Texas industry and Piwko met people in the music industry during his stint as a staff writer in Nashville. "I have friends in the music business here,

and they just do not know how to get a record cut and dealed," Piwko said. The company has been in business since Feb.

7, 1996, but the word about them is just now starting to get around.

We really got active this past July," Bennett said. The name, Hopes Creek, comes from the street Piwko lived on next door to Lyle Lovett.

talent in the College Station area. "I feel that College Station is the epicenter of

Bennett said there is a tremendous amount of

the music industry," Piwko said. But Hopes Creek Music will not help just any band sign to a record label. The band must first sell themselves to the company. Bennett said publishing companys looks for originality in bands.

"They must have songs that set them apart," he said. "And they have got to be radio friendly." Bennett said that if a band cannot be played on the radio, then there is no point in signing

them. A really good blues band just will not get being published, Texas Woodies and Re

'They (the band) need to bring me a pre-taped demo of good quality," Bennett said. "Then, if I like it, I will send them to a recording studio to

record the best four or five songs they have.

Bennett then sends that record to different first, he has to solicit the biography of the band. Submission, which consists of a demo, a black and white glossy photo, and a brief biography. Bennett must call the record company before the submission arrives and let them know who he is

and what he is sending. "If the label likes what they hear, they will call you back and ask if you have anything more that the group has done," Bennett said. "If they call you back, that is a really good sign."

Bennett says the company now has two bands

tion. He soon hopes to get a contract wi group Haywood.

It is a publisher's job to get a band and deal. A booking agent's job is to get the live shows.

Hopes Creek Music is strictly a pu

'The main objective for a publishing ny is to get their client signed," Bennetts The process can take from two month years. Of course, there is always the possil

Bennett said a band may want to avo ing their own label because the industry

a band to form their own independentre

fer to them as a "vanity" CD on a "vanity" Bennett and Piwko saw a need in Coll tion and are trying their best to fill it.



Willie Bennett, owner, and Ron Piwko, president of Hopes Creek Music, a music publishing com

Thursday, November 20

Clay Blaker, a country musician, will be performing with Brian Duckworth, a country musician, at 9:30 p.m. at Shadow Canyon.

Breedlove, a rock band from Austin, will be playing with The Texas Woodies, a band from Bryan-College Station, at 9 p.m. at The Dixie Theatre.



Reckless Panhandlers

Reckless Panhandlers, a classic rock band from Bryan-College Station, will be playing at 9 p.m. at Fitzwilly's.

Ruthie Foster, a folk and blues musician from Bryan-College Station, will be hosting her CD release party at 5 p.m. at Marooned Records.

The Theater Arts Department presents Bertolt Brecht's "The Good Woman of Setzuan" at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum.

Vanilla Ice, a rap artist from Miami, will be performing with Rob Base at Texas Hall of Fame at

Friday, November 21

Bobby Hall and The Ice Cold Blues Band, a R&B band from Bryan-College Station, will be playing

Linus, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, will be performing with **Squint**, a band from Bryan-College Station at 9 p.m. at The Cow Hop.

Gary P. Nunn, a country musician from Bryan-Col-

lege Station, will be performing at 9 p.m. at 3rd Floor Cantina.

The Theater Arts Department presents Berto Brecht's "The Good Woman of Setzuan" at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum.

Saturday, November 22

Ugly Americans will be performing with Sauc 9 p.m. at The Dixie Theatre.

Hamilton Loomis and the Prime Time Players

MSC Film Society will be showing Contact a and 9:30 p.m. in Rudder Theatre.

Ronnie Po, an original rock musician from Ho

ton, will be playing at 9 p.m. at Fitzwilly's.

The Theater Arts Department presents Be Brecht's "The Good Woman of Setzuan" at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum.

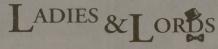
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