

Ska's the limit

Evil Skaneevil plays The Cow Hop Feb. 26

BY APRIL TOWERY
Staff writer

It's a cold Thursday in February. Six Aggies have gathered, not to drink beer or go galavanting around Northgate. While their peers are out partying, these young musicians are playing "La Bamba" in storage shed.

The students are the members of Evil Skaneevil, the only ska band in Bryan-College Station. The band originated about two and a half years ago in Lechner Hall.

Ed Goodwin, vocalist and guitarist and a senior business analysis major, rounded up his friends and decided to form a band to play in a talent show the dorm was hosting.

After going through several name changes, and adding and subtracting members along the way, Evil Skaneevil was born. The band started out as Inane Asylum, then went from Skatastrophe to Swinging Idiots. Lead vocalist and senior English major Adam Cruz said the process of selecting a name was difficult.

"It accurately represents us, except we're evil," Cruz said.

Tenor sax player and senior mechanical engineering major Matt Elliott interjects: "Some of us are," he said.

Goodwin throws in his two cents on the accuracy of the band name.

"Oh, yeah, and we don't do any stunts," he said.

Such joking is part of the relaxed atmosphere created by the band members. Although each member has different ideas for

his or her future, they are united by long-lasting friendships and the pleasure that their music brings them.

Bassist Bryan Luikart, a junior molecular and cell biology major, said he enjoys playing ska music because it is something different.

"It's a lot of fun, and as a bassist, I actually get to do stuff," Luikart said. "In high school, I was all depressed and listened to heavy metal, and it just wasn't worthwhile."

Guitarist and senior biomedical science major Toby Gray agreed that ska music is more uplifting.

"All our angst drained away," he said.

Besides being the only ska band around, another aspect makes Evil Skaneevil unique — the band's female drummer. Tammy Boren, a senior environmental design major, fits right in with the guys.

Gray said having six members creates variety in the band.

"We're diversity in action — gender diversity, ethnic diversity ..." he said.

Each member of the band comes from a different background and listens to different music, bringing together a unique blend of musical influences.

Goodwin credits Less Than Jake and Reel Big Fish for his ska influences, whereas Elliott listens to The Police in his spare time.

Gray smiles as he thinks about the variation, and it is obvious another joke is coming on.

"I like Lee Ann Rimes and Marilyn Manson," he said.

The band members laugh and everyone has to add a comment.

"No way, she's 14," Elliott said. Boren pipes up.

"She's scary," she said. "She's like the Welch's Grape Juice girl."

Cruz, always thinking musically, also has a comment.

"We should write a song about her," he said.

Although each member generally writes his or her part to the original Evil Skaneevil songs, Goodwin usually writes the lyrics.

"We come up with a theme that's troubling society," Goodwin said.

Elliott can't resist.

"And then we write something else," he said.

This laid-back atmosphere created by the band members is exactly the image projected onstage.

"Performing live feels about how it feels practicing, but hotter," Boren said.

Evil Skaneevil members have but one request for local fans planning to attend their show.

"People need to get crazier," Goodwin said. "There needs to be more riots."

Luikart said their shows directly involve the audience.

"It's awesome when the crowd goes wild," he said.

Gray, always the jokester, has a response.

"Uh, that's never happened," he said.

Although there may not be any riots, Thursday's show promises to be an experience music lovers will not soon forget.

"Probably none of us will be career musicians," Luikart said. "We just screw around a lot, but we have a lot of fun."



EVIL SKANEEVIL MEMBERS (PICTURED) ARE: TOBY GRAY, GUITAR; ED GOODWIN, GUITAR AND VOCALS; ADAM CRUZ, LEAD VOCALS.

People in the News

Photographers jailed for getting too close

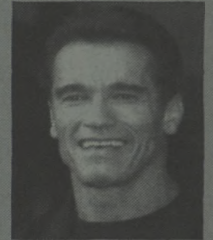
SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Two celebrity photographers were sentenced to jail Monday for boxing in Arnold Schwarzenegger and wife Maria Shriver with their vehicles as the couple drove their son to school last year.

Giles Harrison, 29, received 90 days for

false imprisonment. Andrew O'Brien, 31, got 60 days.

They remain free on \$1,000 bail pending an appeal.

The photographers, working for the Splash news and photo agency, followed the couple from their home on May 1. Harrison, in a Chevro-



Schwarzenegger

let Blazer, was videotaping. O'Brien, in a Jeep, had a still camera.

At one point, Harrison and O'Brien had the couple's Mercedes-Benz, driven by Shriver, squeezed between them on a street, forcing her to stop, prosecutors said. Then they swarmed around the car at the preschool.

The confrontation occurred as Schwarzenegger was recuperating from heart valve surgery. The photographers were hoping to get the first post-surgery pictures.

Shriver testified it was like being "a caged animal."

Streisand falls sick before performance

NEWYORK (AP) — Barbra Streisand is running a fever but hopes to recover in time to perform at Wednesday's Grammy awards, her spokesman said Monday.

Illness forced Streisand to cancel a Sunday rehearsal with Celine Dion for

their duet.

"She is still running a fever and remains on medication, but rehearsal times are being coordinated in the event that she recovers quickly enough to permit her participation," Streisand spokesman Dick Guttman said.

Streisand is nominated for two awards.



Streisand

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