

The passion of country music fills the heart of A&M senior Brent Blaha.

Countrytime

By APRIL TOWERY
Staff writer

Local country singer and senior mechanical engineering major Brent Blaha gets a look of passionate ambition in his eyes when he talks about his music.

"I want to start a fire with a spark," he said. His eyes light up. "That could be a song," he said. He turns to his girlfriend. "Write that down for me — start a fire with a spark." Blaha combined his voice and songwriting ability with the creative writing juices of University of Texas chemical engineering major Lane Lostak. The duo's first album is set for release at the beginning of Fall 1998.

Blaha's philosophy is that anything can happen, but you need to have a backup plan. Making it big happened for other country musicians who passed through Texas A&M — Lyle Lovett, Rick Treviño and Robert Earl Keen.

"Who's next?" Blaha said. "That's the dream, if I could be who's next."

"I've had the chance to talk with some of those guys and asked them what it takes. The consensus is that they wish they'd finished school. I think I owe it to myself and some of these guys I look up to to do that."

The first single from his album, "Learning from the Past," is already being played on local country radio stations and at dance halls.

PLEASE SEE **BLAHA** ON PAGE 4.

Tradition brings diversity to A&M

By STEPHEN WELLS
Staff writer

In 1993, the Ku Klux Klan decided to hold a rally in College Station to recruit new members from the community. Several student leaders opposed the idea of the KKK coming to A&M and decided to hold an outdoor festival celebrating cultural diversity and exposing students to what the outside world had to offer on the same day the KKK rally is held.

Thus, the first Whoopstock was held at Texas A&M.

Whoopstock is now an annual festival held on the O.R. Simpson drill field. The festival includes all manner of performing arts, foods and displays from various cultural groups who call A&M home.

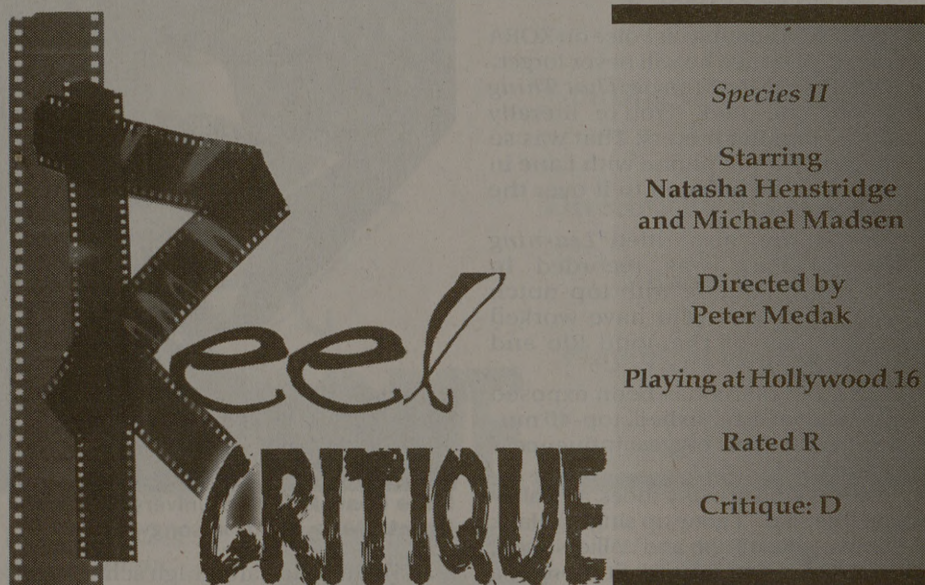
Christina Wright, director of administration for the Whoopstock committee, described the premise behind the event.

"It's basically a big carnival," Wright said. "We have all kinds of different groups coming in to perform, booths where people can do body painting or art, concession stands and activities going on throughout the day."

PLEASE SEE **WHOO** ON PAGE 4.



QUATRO OAKLEY/THE BATTALION



Species II

Starring
Natasha Henstridge
and Michael Madsen

Directed by
Peter Medak

Playing at Hollywood 16

Rated R

Critique: D



TRAVIS
IRBY
staff writer

Every so often a sequel comes along surpassing the original in quality to such a degree that audiences are left breathless and wishing for more.

Species 2 does not represent one of those films.

The original Species was a slickly produced piece of sci-fi fluff. Its clever take on the '90s adage, "sex can kill," was heightened by the use of the gorgeous Natasha Henstridge as the horny (literally and figuratively), murderous alien.

The film was a financial success and enjoyed a loyal following. Rather than leave the film on a high note, the muckity-

mucks in Hollywood decided that if it isn't broke, then break it. The end result is Species 2, easily one of the worst movies of the year.

The plot, which is light years from the original, involves a mission to Mars gone terribly wrong. Apparently the mission's lead astronaut has been infected with some nasty alien dirt. The devil dust makes astronaut Patrick Ross (Justin Lazard), now a national hero since returning from the Mars mission, a libidinous monster.

He has sex with his victims and then they die after giving birth to alien/human hybrids. This film is a real champion of motherhood.

The military decides the best way to capture Ross is by bringing back the alien from the first film, now called Eve (Natasha Henstridge).

PLEASE SEE **SPECIES II** ON PAGE 4.



Press Lennox (Michael Madsen) encounters an alien lifeform in Species II.

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CHEMISTRY

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Gay Awareness Week April 13-17, 1998

- Monday: "It's Elementary"
Talking About Gay Issues in School
Rudder 301, 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday: Rev. Jerry Cook
Koldus 146, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday: Supporting Gay Youth
Rudder 410, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday: Speak Out
Rudder Fountain, Noon

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Knight has been on Forbes' "200 Best Small Companies" for the past three years. We anticipate growth of 25% - 30% per year over the next 3 - 5 years.

For more information on Knight and our interview schedule, please see the Career Center.

The Cue at Northgate

www.thecuepool.com

Student Specials

Monday

FREE POOL

Students over 21 w/ valid A&M ID
minimum 1 drink purchase

Wednesday

Ladies Free Pool

6 p.m. to close

Drink Specials

\$1.00 Well & \$2.00 Call Drinks
every night til 9:00

Friday Night
Midnight Yell
Kyle Field

Saturday
Bevo Burn BBQ
11 AM-2 PM
Featuring
Roger Creager
\$6 in advance / \$7
at gate

PARENTS' WEEKEND '98

APRIL 17-19

CONTINUING THE TRADITION

Saturday Night
Family Night at the Hall of Fame
8 PM - 1 AM

Sunday
9:00 AM
All-U Awards Ceremony
Rudder Auditorium

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