

Highway 6: The Last Stand

It's goodbye to College Station for Highway 6. Tonight, the band will give its farewell show at Shadow Canyon.

BY APRIL TOWERY
Staff writer



The group began playing gigs around town and practicing at the poultry science farm. "We had the most entertained chickens in the area," Miller said. "We believe egg production was up while we played." The band members headed to Lubbock to record a CD and ended up losing their drummer. Menke called senior agricultural economics major Thomas VanArsdale to fill in, and thus became Highway 6. The band has a Texas sound to its music, which they describe as the roots of country and "good beer-drinking music." Highway 6 will play its farewell show tonight at 9 p.m.

at Shadow Canyon. After two years of playing together, the band has had a few interesting experiences. Hogan tells a story of a gig the band played in East Texas. "We thought we were playing a benefit for a six-year-old girl who had brain cancer," he said. "So we went to play at the school gym, and there were more people than teeth in this town. But we decided to play for free because we're good Samaritans. There were a lot of biker-esque type people and a lady named Peewee with tattoos all over. It turns out that the benefit was for this guy whose trailer on stilts had collapsed on him and killed him. We were raising money for his casket."

Highway 6 is a crowd-interactive band. They play originals and covers of old country songs by such artists as Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and Waylon Jennings, who are the main influences of the band members. "My dad was my biggest influence," VanArsdale said. "I played in a country band with him. When I was younger, I didn't like the old stuff because there were no good drum parts." Sartor especially acclaims his girlfriend Stephanie for supporting him throughout all the practices, shows and his loyalty to the band. The band became like a family to these five men, and though they will part ways after tonight's show, they each will remember their involvement in the band as some of the best times they had in their college years. "It dawned on me at our last show when everything was meshing together and it just felt good," Hogan said. "It's a marriage, and I realized how much I'm going to miss it. It's all built on friendship. If you're not friends, it's going to show in your music." The thought of playing onstage lights a fire in the eyes of the band members. "Hearing our name, coming onstage, everyone whooping—that's pretty cool," Sartor said. Menke said it's more than just playing an instrument. "You're exposing yourself," he said. "You're setting yourself up for other people to judge you." The group's claim to fame is "The Fighting Texas Aggie Song," what they describe as one big inside joke, a satire on the life of an Aggie. "We were just kind of making it up as we went, kind of joking around," Sartor said. "We never expected it to take off like that." The album has remained the best-selling record at CD Warehouse and Marooned Records since it hit the stores in November. Fans can expect to hear "The Fighting Texas Aggie Song" at tonight's show. "It will be informal," Miller said. "We think of this as our last party for whoever wants to come." As for future plans, Menke and VanArsdale are set to play in the Black Rose Band; Hogan and Sartor will play in an alternative rock 'n' roll band and Miller will be attending music school at South Plains College in Levelland. It may be the last party for Highway 6 collectively, but the guys will come back around even after they graduate and leave town. After all, Highway 6 runs both ways.

New Playwright's Festival features student's personal play

BY APRIL TOWERY
Staff writer

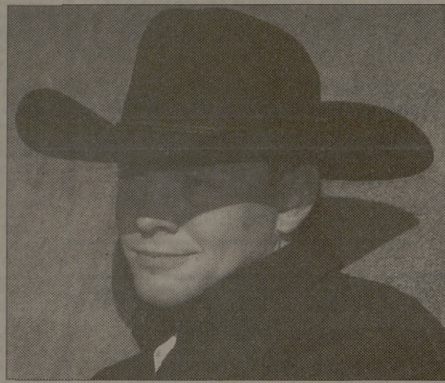
Brian Troyan is taking brotherly love to another level. The senior theater arts and English major was recently awarded the Charles Gordon Award for his original play *Epilogue*, which is drawn from his personal experiences with his twin brother Brent. The play focuses on the epic characters Beowulf and Grendel meeting in the afterlife. "Brent's my arch enemy, but he's my best friend," Troyan said. "That's how Beowulf and Grendel end up. It's about the two people least likely to have a conversation." Ironically, it was Troyan's brother who heard the news of the play's award. "He told me on my answering machine," Troyan said. "I was thrilled." It might have even been a fluke that Troyan's play was entered for the award. "I almost didn't submit it," he said. "The disk I had it on was so fried and I only had one hard copy of it, so I had to re-type the whole thing the afternoon it was due. I still wasn't happy with it, but I turned it in anyway." Actors in Troyan's play are Josh Shirley as Beowulf and Britton Douglass as Grendel. The play is showing through Saturday in the New Playwright's Festival, a showcasing of students' works, at Fallout Theater in 144 Blocker. Also playing is Guillermo DeLeon's *Watson's*. Troyan aspires to go to graduate school and someday act himself. But for now, he is interested in gaining experience in every component of film. "I think it's important to be familiar with acting, design, playwrighting and direction," he said.

Country music's Casey Lee Green drops in to College Station at Hastings

BY JAMES FRANCIS
Aggielife editor

Although Casey Lee Green's debut album has entered the international marketplace with what his record company describes as rave reviews, he obviously still enjoys the small-town feel as he will make an appearance at College Station's Hastings on May 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. A native Midlander, Green was a 1995 graduate of Midland High School. He has performed at Fiesta Texas in

San Antonio and at South by Southwest in Austin. As for the realm of performing arts, Green has been active in music and plays since the age of six. In addition to past performances, Green will make appearances with David Kersh at the Celebration of Arts street dance on May 16 in downtown Midland, Tx. and with the Thompson Brothers on May 30 in Odessa, Tx. At the Hastings' appearance, prize giveaways are planned and Green will host a live performance, as well as sign



autographs for fans. Widely known for his single, "Come Home," Green can be found on the Internet at his official Web site at <http://www.lonestar.net/clgreen/>.

A&M's Women's Chorus performs at Rudder

The Texas A&M Women's Chorus will perform in Rudder Theater on May 1 at 8 p.m. The group will be presenting its Spring Concert show with the theme of "Around the World in Eighty Minutes — A Journey Through Cultures and Movies." Ticket prices for the show are \$5 each.

Black Leaders in Science hosts its first talent show May 2 at the MSC

BY RHONDA REINHART
Staff writer

This weekend, Texas A&M students will have the chance to see their talented peers in action. The Association of Black Leaders in Science is presenting "An Evening of Stars," a talent show featuring a variety of acts by A&M students. The show is scheduled for Sat. May 2 in MSC room 201 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2.

B.L.I.S. President Anthony Edwards, a junior biomedical science major, said the talent showcase will include singers, dancers and poetry and fiction readings. About 12 acts are scheduled to perform. The performers will be competing for prizes including dinners from various local restaurants. Edwards said proceeds from the show will help B.L.I.S. put on a fall science symposium. Participants in the symposium will come from Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, and the event will include seminars, oratory contests

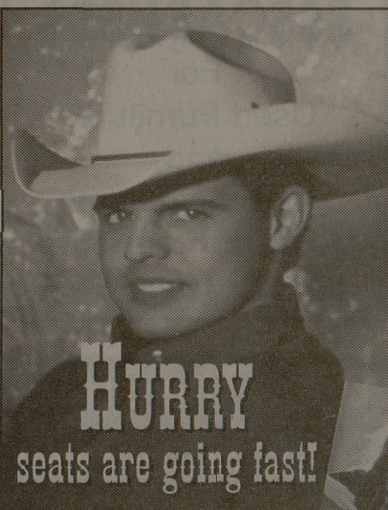
and a quiz bowl. B.L.I.S. was founded in the fall of 1997. Edwards said the group's goals include providing a support network to help black students majoring in science, to foster younger students' interest in science and to do outreach programs in the community. He added that the group's doors are open to anyone interested in joining. Edwards said he hopes B.L.I.S. will help build A&M's reputation as a university that welcomes minorities.

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