

Aggielife

New four-in-one club plans opening in CS this weekend

BY BETH FOCHT
The Battalion

Texas A&M students' woeful cries of "there is nothing new to do in Bryan-College Station" finally have been answered with the opening of the new dance club The Epicenter.

This club brings something new to Bryan-College Station — four clubs in one.

The Epicenter is located in the Chimney Hill Shopping Center at the intersection of University and Tarrow Drives in College Station. People of age 18 and older will be welcome at The Epicenter, and the club will stay open until 2 a.m.

The Epicenter will offer a dance/techno club, a swing lounge, a disco club and a sports bar all under the same roof.

Each area of the club will open at different times throughout the next few months.

Casey White, general manager of The Epicenter, said the dance/techno area is opening this weekend.

"With the theme of the dance room, Halloween weekend seems like the perfect time to open," he said. "There are incredible paintings all around the room, an out-of-this-world light show, and we are hoping to have a variety of DJs mixing the music."

Tony Guerrero, a sophomore speech communication major and hired dancer at The Epicenter, said this club is something people would not expect to find in Bryan-College Station.

"This club is for people who want to dance," Guerrero said. "As a dancer in the dance/techno area, my job is to be part of the scenery and to get the crowd dancing. It is definitely going to be an experience like people have never seen before."

White said he had no idea the club already would be getting such a positive reaction, especially with it not being open.

"I cannot begin to describe all the responses The Epicenter has received, especially the swing club," White said. "The city of College Station has been wonderful with helping with this project and we are looking forward to this club being a great success."

The dance/techno area will offer a versatile mix of European, rock

and house music.

White said this area of the club could be compared to a top-of-the-line dance club in New York or Los Angeles.

"The dance/techno area is like being zapped inside a dance club in New York," Guerrero said. "There are intense lights and an out-of-this-world atmosphere. It is going to blow people away."

Later to open in The Epicenter are the swing, disco and sports bars.

The most anticipated, the swing area, will be the most dramatic room, White said.

"We wanted to capture the energy of the swing music and of this era in the room," he said. "The room consists of murals, curtains and everything has curves to it. It makes you think of cocktails and martinis."

The music of the swing area will consist of live swing bands and a variety of music played by a DJ.

Swing dancing lessons will be offered through The Epicenter when the club opens.

The disco area will be a jump back into the *Saturday Night Fever* movie set with a light-up disco floor and red vinyl seats.

The music will consist of a variety of disco hits of the '70s.

The sports bar will be more familiar to Bryan-College Station club patrons.

Pool tables, over-sized chairs and a large video wall will make up the interior of this area.

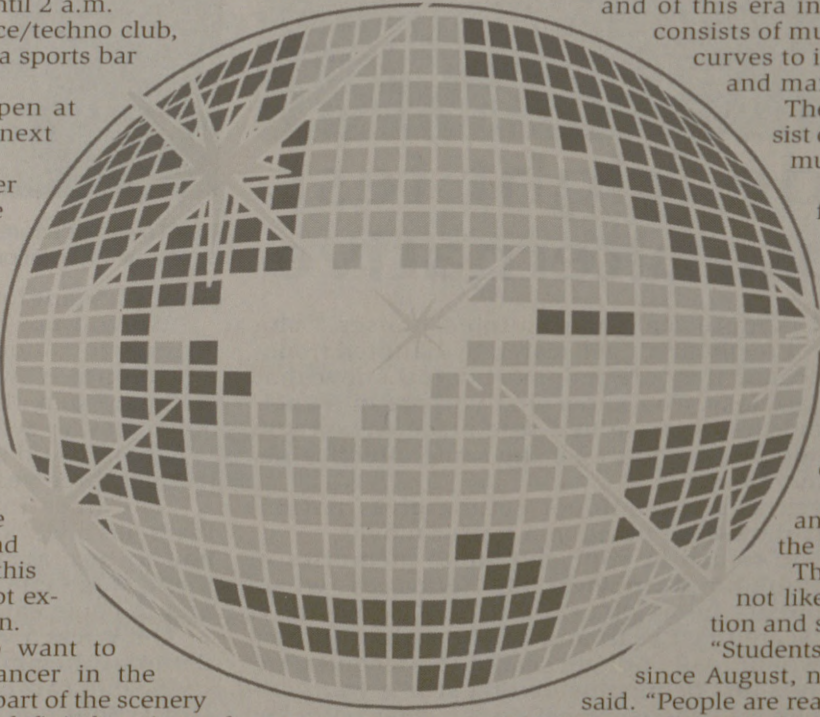
The Epicenter offers people who do not like country dancing a different option and something new, Guerrero said.

"Students have been talking about this club since August, not even knowing the name," he said. "People are real excited about something different coming to Bryan-College Station."

Megan Garrard, a junior management major, said she is looking forward to the opening of The Epicenter.

"It is about time a club in Bryan-College Station is not focused on the country scene," Garrard said. "The club will also bring a variety of new dancing styles to the area including swing and disco dancing."

"With the opening of The Epicenter, students will not have to go to Austin to find a different kind of dance club. We will have one here."



CD REVIEWS

Various Artists
Soundtrack to
Permanent Midnight
CD Courtesy of Geffen
Records

The soundtrack for *Permanent Midnight* is a great blend of techno and alternative/mainstream music. From the opening track performed by The Crystal Method to the last song by Embrace, the techno groove is alive and well-represented.

"Now Is The Time" by The Crystal Method is a highly infectious song guaranteed to get people dancing on their desks.

Another strong performance is turned in by Art Alexakis of Everclear in "Overwhelming."

The soundtrack is a great mesh of music for the fully techno-minded and those who are considering it.

— Manisha Parekh

Michelle Lewis
little leviathan
CD Courtesy of Giant

To call Michelle Lewis' *little leviathan* outstanding is an understatement. With her tight vocals and musical arrangements, Lewis is in the running for best new artist.

The first track, "Nowhere where," has been getting some local radio stations. While it is a representation of Lewis' talent, she shines on the upbeat songs, such as "Homesick" (don't let the title fool you).

The only weaknesses *little leviathan* has are the lyrics on some tracks have a tendency to be "deeper thou" and evoke nightmares of occasionally, but those moments are few and far between.

If radio stations are interested in playing music by talented musicians, plan on hearing a lot from Lewis.

— Manisha Parekh

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Gifford: My cheating made us stronger

NEW YORK (AP) — Frank Gifford says his cheating on Kathie Lee made their marriage stronger.

Gifford went public Tuesday with his thoughts on the scandal that filled the tabloids last year. He and his wife now "have a love affair," he said on CNN's "Larry King Live."

Last year, the *Globe* published photographs of the football Hall of Famer embracing a woman in a hotel room.

Gifford did not deny the relationship, former flight attendant Suzen Jones.

It was "the most stupid thing I've ever done in my life," he said, in a raspy voice, he said the extramarital affair nearly caused him to lose "a woman I love very much and my two kids."

He said the marriage, "is probably stronger because of what happened."



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