

AMERICAN INVASION

Austin funk band sets sights on pleasing dance-crazed live music fans in Bryan

BY SCOTT HARRIS
The Battalion

The first week of school is over and the homework, tests and quizzes are mounting. One last night of dancing and singing are needed to make the nerves of the school calm down.

The Ugly Americans, playing Friday night at The Theater, are the band to see, if those who feel like getting funky.

Brian LeMaster, co-owner of The Theater, said the Ugly Americans know how to put on a lively show that will have everybody danc- ing.

"They get the audience involved, and they're highly energetic," LeMaster said. They are definitely a live band and worth seeing."

LeMaster said he is expecting a large turnout to see the band.

In an interview with James Hibberd of the *Austin-American Statesman*, Bob Schneider, the lead vocalist of the group, said it is his goal to get everybody up and dancing at his concerts.

"Nothing makes me angrier—well not 'angry' but perturbed or confused or excited—than when I see someone who's sitting down looking bored at a show," Schneider said.

Bringing an eclectic sound with them to AggieLand on their trip from Austin, the Ugly Americans combine Schneider's smooth and loving rhymes with Bruce Hughes' deep bass, riffs of Charles Rieser and Adam Temple, the beats of David Robinson's drums, the keyboard of David Boyle, and the upbeat tempo of the Ugly Americans horn section.

In doing so, they have created a sound which makes it impossible for the audience not to stand up and bust a move.

The Ugly Americans, who regularly moonlight under the name the Scabs, have slowly built a reputation in cities around Texas as a



The Ugly Americans, a funk band from Austin, will play at The Theater Friday night.

band who can make the most reserved fan get up and boogie. Their newest album, *Boom Boom Baby*, has already spawned one hit single (the album's title track).

Wendy Graham, the band's publicist, said the Ugly Americans put on a tremendous show.

"It is the most pumped-up show," Graham said. "Everybody is dancing, the band keeps your attention and it is just like a big party. Definitely the best live show ever."

Incorporate the fast in-your-face rhymes of 311 along with the deep stomach turning bass of Soul Coughing and the funky horns of The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, and the Ugly Americans sound emerges.

In a press release, the band describes its sound as "Hormonally motivated, utterly liberated and hell-bent on making sure that the hard-grooving, butt wriggling masses keep partying well past dawn."

This nine-piece band brings more than a funky sound to the stage, the large numbered group have a chemistry that makes the music flow smoothly.

In a press release, Schneider said diversity is the key to their music.

"We love diversity," he said. "It's kind of like—you don't know if it's going to be a beautiful day or you're going to get your arm cut off in a bus accident. Music must reflect that unpredictability."

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Crystal lends name to endowment

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Billy Crystal wants Israeli and Palestinian children to dance and play together.

The actor has lent his name to the Billy Crystal Endowment for Peace Through Performing Arts, American Friends of the Hebrew University announced Tuesday.

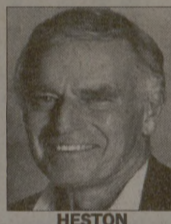
The Crystal endowment will train educators to use theater, dance and music to teach children from Israel and Palestine tolerance and peace.

Actor wants honors for director Kazan

NEW YORK (AP) — Charlton Heston is asking Hollywood to bestow honors on Elia Kazan, the *On the Waterfront* director whose naming of names before the House Un-American Activities Committee during the 1950s made him an outcast

among his colleagues.

In a letter published Wednesday in *The Wall Street Journal*, Heston said Kazan deserves a Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute.



HESTON

Heston was once chairman of the organization. "The quality of his work as a director, both on Broadway and in Hollywood, is beyond dispute," Heston said.

Kazan, who won Oscars for *Gentlemen's Agreement* in 1947 and *On the Waterfront* in 1954, joined the Communist party in the 1930s, but resigned soon after World War II.

Called before HUAC, Kazan admitted his past and acknowledged the communist ties of some of his colleagues.

Heston suggested Kazan's naming of names cost him an achievement award and said that should not prevent him from being recognized for his work.

WEEKEND PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 21

9 pm - **Invisible Cindy** and **Super Band Waste Band** are singing at legends.

Friday, Jan. 22

10 pm - **Dahebegebees** and **Ruthless McFrank** are playing at Crooked Path.

8 pm - **Ugly Americans** are displaying their folk talent at The Theater.

9 pm - **Ruthie Foster** is performing blues at Sweet Eugene's.

Saturday, Jan. 23

9 am - Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History opens **Backyard Monster** with "gigantic robotic insects, educational interactives, world-class specimen collection, exhibit support materials and colorful new show banners."

9 pm - **Spirit Tree** and **Reclamation** are holding a cd release party at Shadow Canyon.

9 pm - **Michelle Solberg** is performing folk music at Sweet Eugene's.

10 pm - **Squint** and **Kid Fantastic** are displaying their talents at Crooked Path.

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