Skating, music

display

GGIELIFE

THE CUB

BY HEATHER BRONDY The Battalion

veryone has seen them or perhaps run into them. They are the skaters who flock around the MSC and The Grove at dusk. Many people are irritated by their presence, viewing the alternative sport as an extreme outlet for the selfdestructive urges of America's boredwith-videogames youth.

However Saturday will mark a celebration of skateboarding as two local skaters will take on the challenge of promoting the sport and the local music scene in "Progress Through Music."

Chris Bennet, guitarist for the band Cold Harbour, and Adreon Henry, owner of The Factory and drummer for the band Kid Fantastic, began the show to change people's attitudes toward skating and expose Bryan-College Station citizens to music they may never have heard before.

For the skating aspect of it, we decided it was real lame when people kick you out of places just for skateboarding when it should be viewed as a positive thing," Henry said. "It sucks being told you can't do something you're passionate about. So we're trying to show skating in a more positive light and give the kids a chance to do what they love in peace.

James Johnson, a senior management information systems major, said he has been hassled by others repeatedly while skating on campus and around town.

"Cops have chased me; we've been harassed by other students; one guy even got violent," Johnson said. 'People don't know that we're stu-

we're some outside culture and like we're not in fraternities and campus organizations.

Johnson said he hopes people will learn to see skating as a sport, not a pastime for troublemakers

"People really need to recognize the evolution of sport," Johnson said. "Basketball started somewhere - it didn't just become what we see today. Skating hasn't organized itself as much yet, but it still takes athletic ability, years of practice and a lot of falling down and a lot of pain.'

Those who attend the event, at the Grove on the Texas A&M campus, can expect live music as well as skating. A variety of new and obscure CDs will be available for visitors to purchase.

Bennet said he hopes "Progress" will help solidify the local music scene. "One of the reasons I'm doing it is

because I think it's going to help unify the underground [music] scene we have here," Bennet said.

"There's a pop scene, there's punk, there's indie, and this show

kind of grabs all of that and exposes the music together.' Henry said he wants to give small bands a opportunity to receive more

publicity than they normally receive. 'The show is for bands that are really good and deserve more attention than they get, especially in this area,' Henry said.

The event will showcase 18 different local and not-so-local bands, as well as skate- ramps, booths, food and games. Henry said the show will have something for skaters and nonskaters alike.

'There will be a listening booth Bennet said.

dents here, too. We get treated like sponsored by The Factory featuring music from up-and-coming artists that not everyone's heard but really should know about," Henry said. "We're also going to be randomly throwing out skateboards, CDs, stickers and fliers to upcoming shows. There will be games where you can win CDs, shirts, caps, coffee cups, mood rings, incense, clocks and a

bunch of other stuff."

Bredan Reilly, guitarist for the band 12th Egg Conspiracy and a graduate biochemistry student, said "Progress" will benefit College Station.

'There's always so many new incoming students who have no idea that there really are some cool and different people here at A&M," Reilly said. "This show is an opportunity to get to know some of those people and also hear some really great music.

The cost is eight dollars for an allday pass. Henry said any proceeds from the event will go toward making a compilation CD.

'If we make any money, then we want to create a compilation CD for all the bands involved," Henry said. "[It'll be] something we can send off to college radio stations and specialty shows, really anyone who charts their music, so that we can tell who's being played and where.

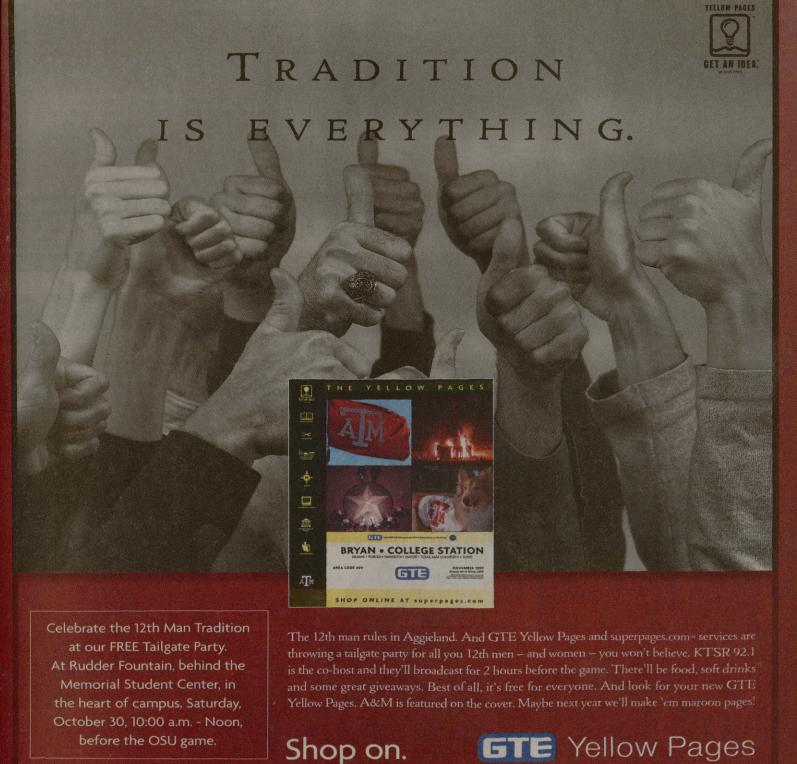
This way, the bands know where they should send a full-length album, too. It's a price-efficient form of promotion.

Bennet said he encourages people to come to the show, if not for the skating, then for the music.

"There are going to be some amazing bands there, and anybody that loves music needs to be there,

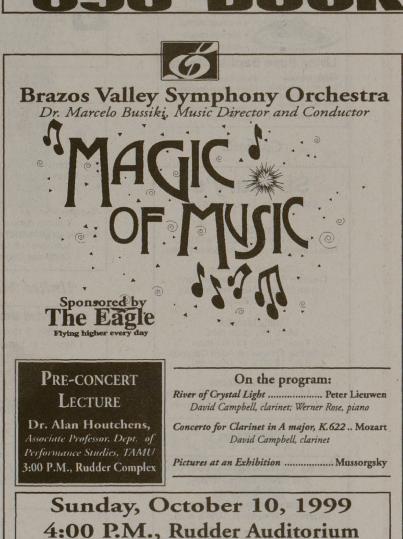
Progress through Music Saturday afternoon The Grove,

CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION





Texas A&M



Tickets cost: \$20.00 adults,

\$5.00 students and children

Tickets may be purchased at the MSC Box Office

845-1234

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