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AGGIELIFE

The hunt for Blue October

Recently signed quartet stops by College Station to perfo

BY KYLE WHITACRE The Battalion

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This weekend Texas A&M will find out if the hype surrounding the part-San Marcos, part-Houston based quartet Blue October is true or just another industry gimmick.

The band raised eyebrows when it signed a six-figure deal with Universal Records. When Universal merged with Polygram Records last year, the band was put on high priority and paired with English producer Nick Launay, who produced major albums for bands such as INXS, Talking Heads, Semisonic, Silverchair and Midnight Oil.

> WHO: BLUE OCTOBER, SLY LETTER WHERE: SHADOW CANYON WHEN: FRIDAY 8:00 P.M.

Dave Matthew's Band can be heard in the pure rock sound of the band.

Blue October's album on Universal is scheduled to be released sometime this spring

So far, the band has had very little press coverage, with almost all the praise for the band coming from its hometown papers, the Houston Press and Public News, but this may change with the release of the new album.

The band is led by singer and guitarist Justin Furstendeld, whose brother, Jeremy Furstendeld, plays drums for the quartet. While attending the Houston High School for Performing and Visual

Influences from Faith No More to Arts, Justin met Ryan Delahoussave, who plays violin and mandolin for the band. Justin and Delahoussaye formed Blue October in 1996, convincing Justin's brother, who had recently left Soutwest Texas State, tc join Blue Octo-

er and added Michigan bass Novesky to the band. Sly Letter will open for B

at Shadow Canvon Friday will open at 8 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UN

DiCaprio identifies with current role

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) - Leonardo DiCaprio said his role as a rootless backpacker in Thailand in The Beach reflects his own

life search.

really connected with and really thought meant something," he said in Wednesday's USA Today.

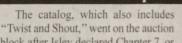
that I only want to do projects that

> have some sort of message to society, of real sensation of emotion."

star

seriously and said he is grateful for the fame.

"It's a series of much more highs and lows since Titanic, but I think I'm a very fortunate person," he said. "I don't have a negative attitude about



block after Isley declared Chapter 7, or involuntary bankruptcy. A large part of his debt is from an Internal Revenue Service claim of nearly \$5 million.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Los Angeles postponed the auction until Feb. 23 after the proposed deal was reached Tuesday by the Pullman Group, EMI, Isley and his bankruptcy trustee.

The New York-based Pullman Group invented the so-called "Bowie bonds," named after rocker David Bowie, in which music assets are pledged to secure bonds and the debt is repaid from royalties. The Pullman Group would issue 15to 20-year bonds to cover Isley's debt. Isley or his heirs would resume receiving profits from the song copyrights after the bonds expire.

Isley's most valuable property is his one-third interest in the Isley Brothers' catalog. He and his brothers Rudolph and O'Kelly wrote more than 200 songs.

Henry files brutality suit against police

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Hartnel Henry, the master of ceremonies for Ziggy Marley & The Melody Makers, has filed a federal brutality lawsuit against police, claiming an officer roughed him up outside a club in August and broke his leg. Henry, whose stage name is Sky that I know is a true passion of mine, High, was outside the House of Blues when two plainclothes officers ordered him to spread his legs and frisked him, the lawsuit said. After Henry asked to see badges, one of the officers handcuffed him and a third officer pushed through the crowd, grabbed him and dragged him down the street, the suit claims. That officer, Jack Hoffman, is accused in the suit of slamming Henry against a car and throwing him against a ture endeavors." wall, breaking his leg.

People in the News

"It is a shame we had to file a lawsuit to obtain a resolution to the most unfortunate incident," Alan Goodman, an attorney for Henry and the band said.

Lt. Marlon Defillo, a police spokesman, said the department had not seen the suit and had no comment.

Michael J. Fox to leave "Spin City"

LOS ANGELES (AP) - "Spin City" star Michael J. Fox said Tuesday he is leaving the ABC sitcom, but not show business, because of his fight against Parkinson's disease.

Fox, who revealed in 1998 that he suffers from the degenerative neurological disorder that affects movement, said this will be his last season with the highly rated series.

"I could not be more proud of the show ... and all that we have accomplished over the last four years, yet I feel that right now my time and energy would be better spent with my family and working toward a cure for Parkinson's disease," the 38-year-old actor said.

"This does not mean I am re-



fourth year. His co-stars in Bostwick and Heather Lee joined the cast this season. The former star of the siz ily Ties" and the Back mi

movies told of his incurate the December 1998 issue magazine.

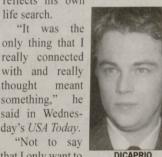
He decided to reveal hist cause he thought he could he ily and other sufferers of it Fox has three children, ast daughters, with actress Tray

In 1991, Fox noticed 17 the little finger on his lefthat the set of the film Doc Hala though a doctor told himka tion for many years, the is gressed and he suffered sis entire left side and violent

Children's auto to take time

BOSTON (AP) - The and children's books about Arthur vark is putting the beloved, be character, his sister D.W. and friends on the shelf.

Marc Brown, 53, who creat 25 years ago, said he has a "give myself permission tog paint." His contract with public Brown calls for two more book ter that he plans to take a break "Oh, I'll still be involved



but I really identified with this character's search for getting out of a robotic existence and trying to find some sort

The Beach opens Feb. 11. It follows Titanic, which made DiCaprio a super-

DiCaprio, 25, takes his profession



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fame at all. I'm not tortured or constrained by it. ... It's given me the opportunity to do the one thing in my life which is acting."

Isley Brothers sell catalog of songs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Isley Brothers' music catalog was pulled off the auction block after an investment group proposed a \$6.5 million deal that would let Ronald Isley retain his share of the rights to such songs as "Shout" and "It's Your Thing."

The suit, filed Friday, seeks unspecified damages.

lieve the strain of producing and performing a weekly network series," he said in a statement.

ABC, which had no comment

on the show's future, called "Spin City" a "labor of love" for Fox.

"Clearly there are more important things in life and we wish Michael and his family our heartfelt thanks and support," the network said. "We look forward to working with Michael in his fu-

Fox, who is up for a Golden Globe award Sunday, plays a hard-charging deputy mayor on the series now in its

giving myself a hiatus for 1 Brown told the Boston Herald Arthur, whose standard gar a sweater and eyeglasses, tead lessons about problem solving

specting others. Brown has written 57 Ani

that have sold more than 24 copies. His characters also have to popularity with the succe Emmy award-winning show @ television. A stage version, "A Live Adventure," started on 23 tour last fall.

Brown said he plans to contin as the creative producer of the



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