

Rodeo 2000 And Viper Club 1600B S. College 823-61111

B-CS band celebrates release of new album



BY JULIA RECINDUS The Battalion

Page 4

n the dim lighting of Fitzwilly's, Mark McDavid's, Sean Smith's and Chris Ginsbach's flashing grins are still visible.

The three are members of the local six-man band The Sly Letter. McDavid, Smith and Ginsbach are making an appearance to clear the air about the band's name and talk about their CD release party for These Autumn Skies.

The group's name comes from the title of a document that band members say granted their friend diplomatic immunity after he was commissioned by the U.S. government for top secret work in Russia.

phone calls made to invite them to join the club. The Sly Letter has opened for such acts as Vertical Horizon, Blue October, Pat Green and The Scabs. Mc-David, Smith and Ginsbach said each of the band members have their own musical tastes, but two common influences are The Dave Matthews Band and Vertical Horizon.

"It was completely awesome [opening for Vertical Horizon]. We opened up for them when they weren't that big; we saw them when they were in a big van, and now they've got this huge tour bus," McDavid said.

Other influences come from a wide range of music genres, from jazz to funk to rap.

The band's sound, which can best be dolin and the djembe to the usual The band's present day line-up was be described as mellow, earned the band a of bass guitar and drums formed from a complex mix of who- win at a battle of the bands contest in knew-who, bands breaking up and College Station last spring. As a result of

that performance, the group was to play at a music festival in How "It was a biker festival," Smith

'We were a bunch of college kids ing out with a bunch of 45-year 300-pound guys with Harley naked Bud Light girls." "I guess it was the worst show

vite my parents to," McDavid sail The band members said they

surprised by the fact the group of ers received their music well mit couraged them.

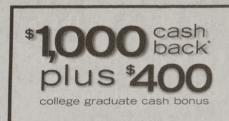
They thought if they can ma with this bunch then they can me with any crowd.

The band incorporates an etter mix of instruments including the

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