

abuse

abuse started in 1972 in Dallas, and continued in two in India. More than half of the victims were female. As they are developed, 1,000 child victims, many of them are today's victims. "I've won millions in a sex abuse case," said the firm won millions in a sex abuse case.

Plaques removed from courthouse

AUSTIN (AP) — Two plaques depicting symbols of the Confederacy were removed from the state Supreme Court building over the weekend. The plaques were replaced with new ones that say "Justice is available to all Texas citizens regardless of race, creed, color," and that the building was constructed with money from a Confederate general and dedicated to Texas soldiers who served in the Confederate Army. The plaques were removed from the state Supreme Court building over the weekend. The plaques were replaced with new ones that say "Justice is available to all Texas citizens regardless of race, creed, color," and that the building was constructed with money from a Confederate general and dedicated to Texas soldiers who served in the Confederate Army.

The original plaques contained a quote from Gen. Robert Lee and included symbols of the Confederate battle flag and seal of the Confederacy. The Texas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and others called the original plaques offensive to minorities and had asked Gov. George Bush, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, to have them removed. The plaques were replaced by the state General State Commission in consultation with the governor's office and associate Supreme Court Justice Alberto Gonzales. Gonzales told the American Statesman in May's edition that Bush's office consulted with various officials and officials to choose wording for the replacement plaques. He said they were reviewed by lawyers in case of legal challenges. A Bush spokesperson immediately return phone calls to The Associated Press. Gonzales said the plaques were replaced at night to avoid disrupting court business the day with the noise of the granite walls. "The court never officially ruled on this," Gonzales said. "We're all hopeful we can get an issue behind us. [Indirectly, controversy] was viewed as criticism of the court."

THE BATTALION

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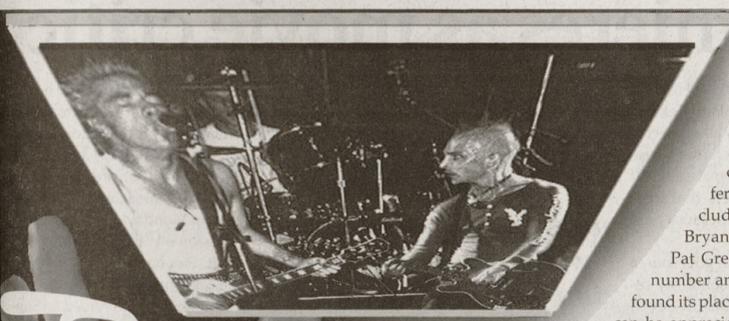
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Punk Rock

Local artists find support when starting new bands

Story by Amy Rosellini

Photo Illustration by Stuart Villanueva

The Sex Pistols started punk rock in the late 1970s, and it still attracts audiences today. In the local area, musicians perform many different types of rock, punk included. Yes, even in Bryan-College Station, where Pat Green and Jerry Jeff Walker number among the gods, punk has found its place. However, before a band can be appreciated by millions, it must have a beginning.

Starting a new band will take more than pink hair dye and an air guitar. The process can be not only expensive, but also time consuming. Fortunately, local venues understand the importance of marketing local groups, thus providing

college students with the opportunity to perform regularly. Before deciding where to play, a band must find the right members and instruments.

John Beal, store manager of Lippman Music, said a guitar for a punk rock band could cost from \$199 to \$2,000. A beginning guitar player probably purchases it at \$200 to \$300. Once members are willing to spend up to \$2,000 on an instrument, they either no longer play locally or have moved on from punk rock.

"These bands are mainly just guitar-based locally," said Beal. "They can use any kind of electric guitar and play it with lots of distortion. Bands do not always stay with just one area of punk rock. They can play it in many different ways."

"Most of the punk rock bands locally consider themselves subgenres of punk like ska, emo-punk and reggae," Beal said. "Reggae is played at a slower speed and turns into ska when the tempo is faster. Emo-punk is more emotional and consists of crying and yelling. However, all these different types of music are basically just peripheral types of punk, according to Beal. "If the band is playing on the upbeat, they're punk," he said.

Not all punk musicians would agree with Beal's perspective. Reggae was originally formed after jazz music, and bands may argue that it has no link to punk. Ska also has a style all its own which arguably shows little relation to punk. However, punk bands can take any genre of music and turn it into their own style.

"Starting your own band can be easier than you think," said Dominic Nuoce, a senior biomedical science major. Nuoce started playing with a group of friends with whom he had taken music lessons. This provided Nuoce with a group of musicians who were as talented as he was and trained in the same manner. "I play four instruments," Nuoce said, trying to explain the magnitude of the group's talent.

He played the saxophone for 10 years and is as skilled on the guitar.

This band performed at anniversary and graduation parties, receiving

a flat fee after each concert. Though the band did not stay together very long, it gave the musicians a new source of income and helped them improve performance skills.

Once a band has found unity and plays well, the next step is to find somewhere to play its music locally. Most facilities will take a percentage of the cover charge, leaving no rental expense to the band. This allows it to perform its music without cost. The Monkee Bar, formerly the Dixie Theater, used to feature local musicians often, but now the owner says, "I've totally shut it down," leaving bands looking for other venues. Local bars like the Third Floor Cantina and Shadow Canyon are still open to band performances. Zapato's, a Mexican food restaurant on Northgate, went so far as to feature a weekly open microphone night in the spring. This bar scene allows students to enjoy a full bar while listening to the music. Even Rudder Forum is available for students to rent. Unlike other venues, it will not allow food or beverages inside. At the Forum, the rental charge is determined by the time spent in the facility, not by profits, so a band may end up in the hole after a performance.

Advertising is essential to the success of the band. Once the group has found a venue, it must let people know where it will be. Flyers and ads in the paper are the best and most obvious ways to advertise. It is important to inform students of upcoming shows since they comprise most of the audience.

The next step to local punk rock success is marketing the compact disc. Once a band has recorded its songs on a CD, some local stores will sell it at no cost to the band.

"We don't want to make money; we want to help them out," said Jimi Pineda, manager of Disc Go Round. Bands can bring in five CDs, and the store will sell them at face value. If the band is selling the CD for \$10, then Disc Go Round sells it for \$10 and gives all the profits to the band. Once the store sells the first five CDs, the group can bring more CDs to be sold. Pineda suggests the group check with the store weekly to see how sales are going.

At concerts, bands mention where the CDs are being sold to boost the album sales and promote the store. This is one of the group's only chances to promote the CD, so it is a good time to inform audiences.

The success of a punk rock band depends on the organization and dedication of its members. Finding a performing space, the right members and great music are the challenges to conquer before local fame can be attained.

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