

## Pushing it to the borderline

Students break into local music scene, prepare to perform Friday night at The Cow Hop

BY ERIC AIKEN

**The Battalion**  
Approaching the Carpet Room, the storage shed where Borderlined practices in College Station, it is possible to make out the sound of an electric guitar.

Inside the small room, named because of the carpet hanging on the walls for acoustic purposes, is Rip, Borderlined's lead guitarist. Rip, class of '99, leans against an amplifier, strumming his black Les Paul guitar and waiting for the other members of the band.

Randy Elkins, a senior aerospace engineering major, is the first to arrive. Rip and Elkins put together Borderlined, a College Station-based rock band, three years ago.

"We actually met at Sbisa (Dining Hall)," Rip said. Elkins interrupted, laughing. "Rip was sitting with a friend of mine, eating breakfast," he said. "From behind, I thought he was a woman, so I was going to see if my friend would introduce us."

Rip wasn't looking for a date; he was looking for a bass player. Even though Elkins is a guitarist, not a bassist, he and Rip formed the nucleus of what would become Borderlined.

The band has been through six different rhythm sections. It finally settled into the current lineup last October when it recruited bass player Brad Metrolis.

Metrolis, a junior electronic engineering technology major, previously played in a College Station band called Cardboard Box. Borderlined opened a show for his band in April 1999, so Metrolis was familiar with the group.

"I came home one day, and Rip had called and said he needed a bassist," Metrolis said. "I wasn't doing anything, so I figured I'd get together with them and try out. When I show up, he hands me a stack of papers an inch thick and asks, 'How fast can you learn that?'"

The addition of Metrolis completed the lineup. Rip and Elkins had already hired a new drummer in March. "We've had bad luck with drummers," Elkins said. "For some reason, we get unreliable ones. We don't hear from them for a couple of weeks, then they'll call,

asking when practice is, and we have to tell them, 'Um, you've been replaced.'"

Phil Pound, Borderlined's current drummer, shows up a few minutes late. "We got stuck at a light for, like, six cycles," said Pound, a senior at A&M Consolidated High School.

Pound and Rip have known each other for about three years, dating back to when Rip flew model planes with Pound's father.

"I was just learning to play drums, and I played with Borderlined once before they got a new drummer. Then, I got a chance to play with them again at North by Northgate last March," Pound said.

"And we jammed like no other," Elkins said. "Then we were 'rahr!'" Rip said, using the only adjective he says completely describes the band's lineup.

"Rahr" is the only way to describe the mentality of the guitar-based rock band. It is completely dedicated to success, working tirelessly to promote itself and get its music heard.

"The one thing we have going for us is Rip. I've never seen anyone hassle club owners like he does," Metrolis said.

Rip sacrificed what he called his "third dream job" to stay in College Station and make Borderlined succeed.

"I was offered a job building model planes and flying them for the Navy," he said. "I actually had an internship doing that. But I said, 'Nah, I gotta keep rocking with the guys in College Station.'"

The other members of the band are similarly enthusiastic and optimistic about the band's ultimate success. This rings particularly true when Pound, the band's youngest member, said, "I got a call from a track coach at a school in Louisiana (trying to recruit me). I told my mom I didn't want to do it because I want to be in a band."

Borderlined will play Friday at The Cow Hop. They go on stage at 10:30 p.m. Opening act Hank Billings starts at 9:00 p.m. Admission is free.



PHOTO COURTESY BORDERLINED/ ILLUSTRATION BY CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

**News from The City of College Station.**  
*Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future.*

**Apartment Recycling Pilot Program to Begin**  
Residents in Sterling University and Walden Pond Apartments will soon be participants in the City's apartment recycling pilot program. The program will begin in February and continue for one year. Several materials will be collected and include:  
• Newspapers/magazines • Glass (sorted by color)  
• Aluminum/steel cans • Plastic beverage bottles

The program's continuation and expansion will be based on the pilot program's success. For more information call 764-3691.

**Beautify Your Lawn & Garden**  
Visit the College Station Public Utilities and Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency (BVSWMA) booths at  
*The Brazos Beautiful Lawn and Garden Show*  
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**Attend A College Station City Council Meeting!**  
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Each Month  
7:00 p.m., City Hall  
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**From Your Utility Customer Service Department**  
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Out-of-town customers can reach us at (800) 849-6623. Connects can be made over the phone, by mail, in person or over the Internet at [www.ci.college-station.tx.us](http://www.ci.college-station.tx.us). Security deposits are no longer required at the time of connection. Account information is now available online with your account number. Budget Billing is available for residential customers with a minimum of 12 months service.  
Contact us at (979) 764-3535 or (800) 849-6623.

**Council Corner**  
**Don't Forget To Vote!**

The City Secretary's Office would like to remind all College Station residents to register to vote in the upcoming City Council and School Board elections on Saturday, May 5, 2001. Voter registration forms are available at:  
• College Station City Hall, 1101 Texas Avenue  
• College Station Library, 1818 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy South  
• Brazos County Voter Registration Office, 300 E. William Joel Bryan Parkway

The deadline for registration is April 5, 2001. For more information about this election, contact the City Secretary's Office at 764-3541.

**Protect Your Vehicle from Burglaries**

The College Station Police Department provides the following crime prevention tips:  
• Always lock your vehicle.  
• If your vehicle has an alarm, use it.  
• Never leave valuables in plain view.  
• If you see someone suspicious, call the police immediately.

It only takes seconds for a thief to enter your vehicle and take your belongings. Remove valuables and you may remove the incentive for a thief to choose your vehicle.

For more information, please call the College Station Police Department Crime Prevention Division at 764-3573.

**WE NEED YOU!!!**

Attention: The City of College Station is requesting citizen input in the development of a citywide e-Government strategy. Please visit <http://www.ci.college-station.tx.us> and click on and complete the Citywide e-Government Strategy - Citizen Input Form.

News from The City of College Station is brought to you monthly by the College Station Public Communications & Marketing Department. For more information call 764-3445, tune in to Cable Channel 19 or visit the City's web site at [www.ci.college-station.tx.us](http://www.ci.college-station.tx.us).

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