

# October in February

## Bands offer a different sound for Aggieland

BY ANDY HANCOCK  
The Battalion

For those looking for something out of the ordinary tonight, the bands Sly Letter and Blue October have returned to College Station for a concert at Shadow Canyon.

Sly Letter once called College Station home, though they are now based in Houston.

The band will bring acoustic rock to the area for the evening. Sly Letter produces their original sound through the incorporation of acoustic and electric guitars, bass, drums and percussion, a mandolin and a pair of lead singers.

In College Station two years ago, armed with just a guitar and vocals, the band gradually added members, growing to the current total of six members. Sly Letter recorded its first

album just over a year and a half ago and will soon start recording songs in the studio.

"I am really looking forward to hitting the studios in the future, this next album is going to be great," said mandolin player Mark McDavid. "We actually found our true sound and songwriting style after the first album was recorded, and it proved that we had a future together.

"Our next album will definitely show exactly how much we have evolved as a band and how well we play together," he said.

McDavid said the band's current album is a softer side of Sly Letter.

"It is definitely a sit down and listen to album that really highlights our songwriting and our harmony," McDavid said.

However, a Sly Letter live performance differs from the mellow pace

of the CD.

"Our live shows have a lot more entertainment value — it is very energetic and contains a lot of interaction," McDavid said.

McDavid said the band is looking forward to playing in Aggieland.

"College Station has always been good to us; it is where we are from," McDavid said.

The group has been extensively touring Austin and Houston. The band's record sales have steadily increased and the band has gained more exposure, McDaniel said.

Sly Letter has opened for bands like Vertical Horizon, the Scabs and Pat Green.

Now as the band continues to tour, they are keeping their eyes open for a record label that is just right for them to produce their follow-up album.

Lead singer Justin Surstenfeld said he was excited to return to the College Station venue because of the loyal fans. Bassist Matt Novesky said Aggieland is his favorite place to play in Texas. Jeremy Surstenfeld, drummer and brother of lead singer Justin, shared in the anxiety of returning.

"College Station rocks; we always have a good time playing there," he said.

Blue October will give fans a dose of their music, which Jeremy Surstenfeld describes as "bipolar art rock." Blue October's musical influences include the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Things have been looking up for Blue October, who recently played a sold-out show in Omaha after the release of their second single.

The band has toured with many big name bands such as Stone Temple Pilots, Godsmack, 311, Three Doors Down, Eve 6 and Days of The New.

Justin Surstenfeld offered some advice for concert-goers for tonight's show.

"Come to the show with your guard down and with complete understanding involved," he said. "Don't be afraid of being surprised; it is going to be bad ass."



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Justin Surstenfeld, Blue October's lead singer, rocks the mic at a College Station performance last semester.

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MSC Literary Arts Committee presents...  
the Fourth Annual Shakespeare Festival

**Monday, February 12**  
*Shakespeare in the Dark*  
performed by the 7F Lodge  
8:30 p.m.  
MSC 201

**Tuesday, February 13**  
*Titus (with MSC Film Society)*  
Introduction by Dr. Douglas Brooks  
7:00 p.m.  
MSC Forsyth Center Galleries

**Wednesday, February 14**  
*Early Music*  
6:00 p.m.  
MSC Forsyth Center Galleries

**Thursday, February 15**  
*Cushing Library Tour*  
2:00 p.m.  
Cushing Library Lobby

**Friday, February 16**  
*Lecture with Gordon McMullan*  
Kings College, London  
4:00 p.m.  
Cushing Library

**Saturday, February 17**  
*Good "Will" Hunting and Shakespeare Pastiche*  
performed by the Aggie Players  
7:00 p.m.  
Blocker 144 Fallout Theatre

**Livin' La Vida Shakespeare**  
February 12-17  
ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!

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Brazeo Arts Council  
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TAMU English Department

For more information on any of these events, call 845-9251

# Worship Directory

### Assembly of God

**Bethel Temple Assembly of God**  
2608 Villa Maria, Bryan 776-4835  
Sunday Worship 10:15, 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday School 9:00  
[www.startel.net/bethel](http://www.startel.net/bethel)

### Baptist

**Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church**  
College & Career Class  
You are invited to a Bible study especially for students. Sunday mornings at 9:45  
1228 W. Villa Maria 779-2297  
For more information contact Marcus Brewer: 696-6558  
[m-brewer@tamu.edu](mailto:m-brewer@tamu.edu)  
<http://PersonalWebs.myriad.net/fwb>

### FREE PIE!

**GIVE US A TRY**  
First time visitors get a free, homemade pie!  
**LIVING HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Now meeting at Cypress Grove Inter. School on Graham Road behind the new Kroger in C.S.  
INFO: 690-1911

- Upebeat worship Sunday Schedule
- Casual setting 9:45 a.m. Bible Study
- Friendly people 11:00 a.m. Worship
- Practical messages 6:00 p.m. Worship

### Episcopal

**St. Thomas Episcopal**  
906 George Bush Dr. • College Station, TX 696-1726  
Sunday services at 8:00, 9:00 and especially for late rising Ags, 11:15 a.m.  
Next door to Canterbury House, the Episcopal Student Center

### Lutheran

**Beautiful Savior Ev. Lutheran Church**  
1007 Krenek Tap Rd. • College Station 693-4514  
Bible Study, Sunday School & Conversational English 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:15 a.m.

### Non-Denominational

**Covenant Family Church**  
"Success Begins on Sunday"  
Danny & Janet Green, Pastors  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Wednesday 7:30 p.m.  
4010 Harvey Rd., ( Hwy. 30 )  
College Station, TX 77805  
[www.covenantfamilychurch.org](http://www.covenantfamilychurch.org)

### Community Church

260-1163  
10 a.m. Sundays  
The Hilton  
Small groups meet weekly  
see [www.comchurch.com](http://www.comchurch.com) for more info

### Pentecostal

**Cornerstone Church**  
• Mid Week Small Group Meetings  
• Sunday Service at 4:30pm on George Bush, just across from campus at the College Station Conference Center.  
485-8744

### Presbyterian

**Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
"A welcoming community of faith who reaches out, cares for one another & proclaims the love of Jesus Christ to all"  
Thomas W. Estes & G. Thomas Huser - Ministers  
Currently Meeting at Pebble Creek Elementary  
Sunday Service: 8:30 & 11 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Aggie Classes: 9:45  
Coming Soon (2001) to Rock Prairie & Wellborn Office: 3404 South College Ave., Bryan, TX 77802 (979) 846-5631, [www.covenantpresbyterian.org](http://www.covenantpresbyterian.org)

### LAY THEOLOGY WEEKEND

January 19 - 21  
"HOW DO WE VIEW SCRIPTURE?"  
Dr. Kathryn Roberts  
Asst. Professor of Old Testament Studies  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
First Presbyterian Church  
1100 Carter Creek Pkwy  
For more information [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org)

### United Methodist

**A&M United Methodist**  
417 University Dr. (on Northgate) • 846-8731  
Church at 8:50 & 11:00  
College Sunday School 9:45  
Sr. Pastor Dr. Jerry Neff  
[am-umc.org](http://am-umc.org)

### First United Methodist Church

28th & Houston St.,  
1 block E. of Texas Ave., in Bryan  
779-1324  
Sunday Worship 8:40 & 10:55 a.m., 6:00 p.m.  
[www.gbmg-umc.org/fumbryan](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/fumbryan)  
Rev. Harrel Dunnam, Senior Pastor Rev. David Henry, Music Ministries

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