

Making the band ... and the grade

College students spend extra time doing what they love and try to live out their dreams

Thomas Phillips
The Battalion

It is summer in the States, and a slew of music tours are making their way across North America. Maybe you and some of your friends want to get tickets to one of the shows, or maybe you would prefer to be on the stage instead of staring up at the rock stars from the mosh pit.

Starting a band might seem like an insurmountable challenge, but it is no doubt a rewarding one.

"It's a rush to get up there (on stage) and go nuts," Josh

Hoover, guitarist for the band 1101 and a senior music major, said. "It's one thing to sit in my room just jamming, but it's another to get up in front of a couple hundred folks."

Where does a person begin this endeavor? Considering you have some musical talent to start with, you will need to gather a collection of similarly inclined musicians.

"If you're going to get together with a full band, you've got to make sure it's going to flow," B.J. Blair, a senior ac-

counting major, said. "We're looking for guys that want to get together and jam."

Blair and co-guitarist Brian Kruckenberg, a senior agriculture and life sciences major, make up Six Bridges. They grew up together, but only started playing in front of crowds during college.

"We want a group that you want to stick around with for the rest of our lives," Blair said.

Mike St. Clair, class of 2000 and Blake Ellis, class of 1999, of Feeding Five Thousand were in another band called Milhouse before starting their own.

"The songs began almost a year ago, but the familiarity between all of us just helped stuff go faster," St. Clair said.

Getting a group of musicians together is harder than it seems. It requires players to sacrifice their time and effort, St. Clair said. Feeding Five Thousand has been through two drummers already.

"More than anything, it's just dedication and persistence," St. Clair said. "It's really hard to just do this on the side."

As a loyal group of talented musicians, a band has to practice to maintain its edge. Finding a



E. RAY/THE BATTALION

Feeding Five Thousand plays at Third Floor Cantina in Bryan. They recently won a battle of the bands contest in Austin.

place and time to jam are just some of the hassles.

"When we finally get to practice, it's like, 'Let's have fun,'" Kruckenberg said. "We sit there and practice and talk about how big stars we're going to be. It's kind of our down time."

"Usually, practice time is an hour before we go on," Blair said. "The main thing is to make

sure we're on the same page."

Hoover and fellow band member Lane Jatzlau, a junior marketing major, like to practice in the same way that they will give a concert.

"If we have a show coming up, we'll go straight through the set list and work out the kinks," Jatzlau said. "If we're going to play a show, we've got to make it

a priority."

After practicing and getting to know band mates, writing some original songs and developing a unique sound is the next step towards stardom.

"It starts off with an idea and then you make it [into music]," John King, keyboard player for

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Six Bridges played at Zapato's Cantina Friday night. Band members grew up together and started playing in college.

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