

# AggieLife

Thursday, September 6, 2001

THE BATTALION

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## TEXAS-STYLE country is quickly gaining popularity

By MATT STELLBAUER  
THE BATTALION

Across the globe, a revolution is being undertaken in the movie and music industries. Even in College Station, change is imminent. Yes, College Station. During the past few years, this little college town has become the forefront for Texas country artists and their music.

Corbin Maclaine, a disc jockey at KORA and

**"This music has been here, it just never got the recognition it's getting now, and for some strange reason, it all of the sudden caught on and now you have all these artists writing and playing their own music."**

— Corbin Maclaine  
KORA disc jockey

most of the Back Porch at the Dixie Chicken, said that for the last year and a half, Texas country music has stepped out of the shadows and has surprised the music industry and fans alike.

"This music has been here; it just never got the recognition it's getting now, and for some strange reason, it all of the sudden caught on and now you have all these artists writing and playing their own music," Maclaine said.

Maclaine said the Texas country music movement was started by one man who showed other local artists that there is a market for the music

and that artists certainly can succeed in the business: Pat Green.

"Pat Green kicked the door down for other local artists and has created a new generation of the outlaw movement started by Willie Nelson back in the '70s," Maclaine said.

"Green just showed them that there is a market for this music, and, with a little work, people will buy your music," Maclaine said.

So what is the appeal to this music and why have people suddenly started listening? Jimmy James, music program director for KORA, said he believes the appeal for Texas country music comes from the lack of originality that comes out of Nashville onto the air waves.

"You have to understand that artists in Nashville are under contract to write so many songs a month, plus a lot of their songs are written by the same people, whereas these Texas country artists are under no contract to produce music, thus giving them creative freedom to produce their own sound and their own music," James said.

James said the lasting appeal for most fans is that they can relate to the type of things that Texas artists sing.

"While Nashville has some really good songs coming out of it, most of it is unoriginal," James said. "Most of these artists are just singing these songs to make a buck. While you have these Texas country artists who write from the heart and experience everything they sing about and they can do this because they enjoy doing it, and it's not so much about the money for them rather than having a good time doing what they love."

Local artists will agree that they are not in the music business for the money. They simply enjoy the creativity and freedom that comes along with the hours of work that comes with being in a band.



DIANA SUAREZ • THE BATTALION

For Matt Newton, a senior agriculture development major, playing in a band is all about the music and the creativity that comes along with it.

"When I started out, I was in a rock band around town, and I did that for a while, but that just didn't feel right — it just didn't click, so I stopped that," Newton said. "I started trying to develop my own sound."

Playing in College Station is seen as a goal for

many Texas artists. They feel that if they can make it here they can make it anywhere.

"When I started the back porch, I had to call people to come and play here, but now I have people calling me asking me to play the back porch," Maclaine said.

"They just feel that if they get heard here, it will open up new avenues for them."

So where is this movement headed and what is its future? James feels that it may be going back to its roots — it might be headed to Nashville.

"When you have Texas artists moving \$1,000,000 worth in merchandise without any kind of commercial promotion, it's going to catch the attention of Nashville," James said.

"Financially, Nashville has fallen on hard times, so the record companies are looking for a fresh sound new talent to jump start the industry."

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

#### Looking For A Job?

College Station  
Human Resources!  
Online -  
[www.lockon.com/jobline/cstx.htm](http://www.lockon.com/jobline/cstx.htm)  
On Television - Cable Channel 19  
On the Job Line - 764-3704  
Or Call - 764-3517

#### Need a Place to Park Close to the A&M Campus?

Try the NEW College Main Parking Garage at 309 College Main in Northgate. It's quick, easy, convenient and inexpensive! Only \$200 a semester for daytime parking only ONE block from the Texas A&M campus... and you don't have to get your feet muddy!!  
For more information call 764-3565.

#### College Station Environmental Excellence Awards 2002

These awards emphasize the importance of environmental stewardship and recognize pollution prevention and recycling projects that are innovative, voluntary and effective.

Applications are available at City Hall, the Public Works Department and on the Internet at [www.ci.college-station.tx.us](http://www.ci.college-station.tx.us). The deadline for applications is May 15, 2002. For more information call 764-3690.

College Station Parks & Recreation Presents...  
Live - at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater  
Friday, September 28  
Robert Earl Keen  
with Special Guest, Charlie Robison  
Call 764-3486 for more info.

Working on a Merit Badge? Taking a Civics or Government Class? Visit a City Council Meeting! Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the College Station Council Chambers in City Hall, 1101 Texas Avenue (next to Chill's). Hear Visitors: 5:45 p.m.; Meeting 7:00 p.m. Call 764-3541 for more information.

#### Attention Teachers, Students and Parents!

Contact the Water/Wastewater Division for eye-opening water and wastewater facility tours and exciting classroom presentations. Contact 764-6223 to schedule a tour or presentation TODAY!

Be part of Your Community!  
Come to the City of College Station Neighborhood Conference!

Saturday, September 15, 2001  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Conference Center  
(1300 George Bush Drive)

For more information call 764-6262.



"Bee" A Good Neighbor  
So You Don't Get Stung!

Don't park in the yard unless the surface is hard!

Parking on the grass is not allowed!  
For more information call 764-6363!

"Bee" A Honey, Save Your Money!

#### Master Composter Training Course

An intensive backyard composting course including lectures, slides, videos, demonstrations and field trips.  
WHEN: September 19 - 20, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.; September 22, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (all class dates must be attended).

WHERE: Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan

COST: \$15.00 (Includes compost bin, T-shirt, instructional materials and Saturday lunch.)

Contact BVSWSM at 764-3806 to register.

#### Looking for a Convenient Way to Pay Your Utility Bill?



Sign up for Automatic Bank Drafting... and spend your free time doing something fun!

Contact College Station Utility Customer Services for details: 764-3535 or 800/849-6623

## CODY'S

Texas Avenue @ Southwest Pkwy. (Next to 4.0 & Go) 694-0018

THURSDAY  
75¢ BAR DRINKS & LONGNECKS till 11 p.m.

Over 21, NEVER a Cover with College I.D.

Under 21, NO COVER till 11 P.M. \$3 after 11 with College I.D.

X 103.9 FRIDAY X 103.9  
"LIVE" PARTY "LIVE" PARTY  
75 cent BAR DRINKS & LONGNECKS TILL 11 P.M.

SATURDAY  
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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).