

It's a **LIVE!**

Students can choose from several venues to hear a variety of live bands

By DINO RAMOS
THE BATTALION

There are many clubs in College Station that cater to people who want to go out, get a drink and dance to club music. Sometimes, students tend to look for something different, something with more variety or something more than the mundane club scene. Before the technological advances of music and one DJ on two turntables, there was something that many people enjoyed — live bands.

These days, the great pastime of going out to see a good, old-fashioned band can get overlooked. Many college students start their own bands and try to get their name out by playing at local clubs and eventually taking the state and perhaps the nation by storm. There are many local venues that feature live musical acts that cover famous songs and play their own original pieces.

Big Pauly's and Zapato's are two local restaurants where college bands have the opportunity to showcase their talent. Both owned by Rick Lemons, the venues offer a laid-back atmosphere where people can enjoy a bands' stylistic sounds. Besides showcasing bands, there also is a singer-songwriter night where the musicians are encouraged to perform original work for the audience.

"It's really cool to see that places like Zapatos are offering services to college bands and musicians at Texas A&M," said Vicki McNamara, an aspiring musician and junior wildlife and fisheries sciences major. "It's hard enough to get out there to do something that you really love, and it's another thing to get an actual audience to love it as well."

At Northgate, the Crooked Path Ale House showcases live bands, but now features two regular

bands four nights of the week. People can enjoy a drink from the bar while bands play the night away. The Library, located on the second floor of the Crooked Path, is for those who want a swankier, "upper class" atmosphere, where people can sip on a sophisticated martini and listen to bands.

Besides offering great food, good drinks and fun games, Fitzwilly's, a popular student hangout, also features live bands. Also located at Northgate, Fitzwilly's features a wide variety of music, and bands that play on a regular basis. With variety, Fitzwilly's has something for everyone.

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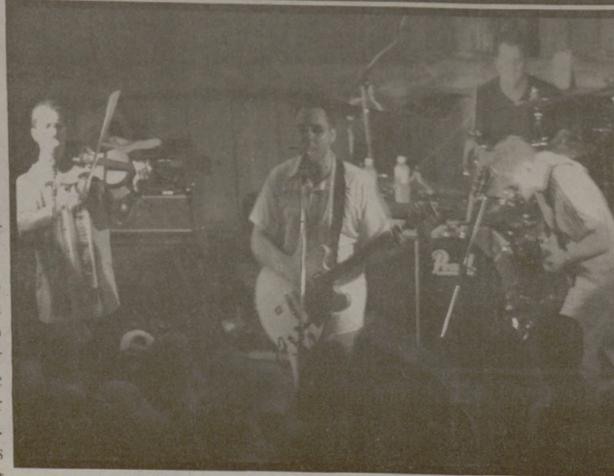
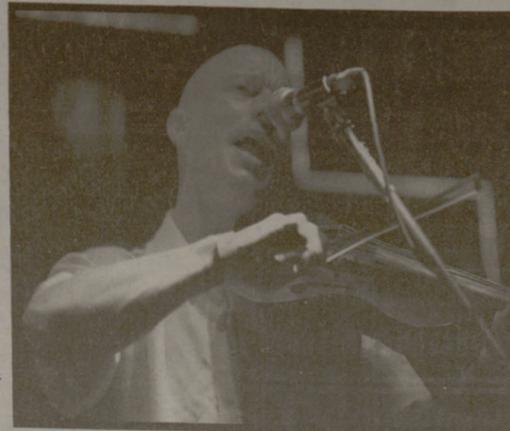
cial and the food at Fitzwilly's, but there's an added bonus of a wide array of bands to listen to," said Anthony Guevara, Class of 1998.

In Bryan, the Third Floor Cantina also is a popular venue for local bands. When the facility was in danger of closing down, local musicians organized a music festival to raise money for keeping the Third Floor Cantina open. The owner takes the time to get

to know the bands that play at his venue. Not only that, but he also hopes to open his own recording studio to help local bands produce their own CDs.

There is just something about live music that can give people a feeling they would not get from a DJ at a club.

So, if students sitting at home on a Saturday night, not wanting to go out to one of the local clubs, the option of going to one of the aforementioned venues to see a good band could be worthwhile.



FILE PHOTO • THE BATTALION



It's a **RAVE** party

Raves sparse but still present in B-CS

By KEVIN BURNS
THE BATTALION

A rave scene at in College Station? Welcome to planet Mars.

The College Station rave scene is not very large, but it is vibrant and growing. College Station local Pixie Page and her husband Jason are in the know. Pixie DJs under the name of Lady Karizma and Jason DJs as TrainSpotter.

They both have been a part of the rave scene for several years and lament over the decline of available locations.

"As far as being a dance place, there used to be Charlie's, but that closed down," Pixie said. "There used to be 2010, but then there was this big scare because this 15-year-old girl came in there and told the cops that [ravers] were giving her [ecstasy] and heroin and all that stuff, so they closed that down."

Pixie says it is hard to progress in a conservative town like College Station but notes some reality behind rave stereotypes.

"As far as rave scenes, techno clubs here — they don't exist," Pixie said. "Every single time we've tried to do something ... they'll close it down because it eventually brings in bad business."

Instead of looking to private businesses to house their parties, local ravers have the options of traveling to larger cities or throwing private parties.

"Normally if we do a party in town, it's just a house party," Jason said. "We just set up some tables, and whoever wants to spin, spins."

Students can subscribe to the rave listserv to learn of raves in College Station and surrounding areas.

To get on the rave listserv, email listserv@listserv.tamu.edu and in the body of the email type "subscribe cs-raves (your name)."

Another option is to stop by Disc-Go-Round and peruse fliers. They frequently promote rave parties, sell tickets and have general information about upcoming events.

Every Friday, Disc-Go-Round offers an open turntable forum for experienced and aspiring DJs to spin from Tuesday to Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Pixie, who will spin at Disc-Go-Round on Friday, explained the reason behind the forum.

"We want to open up minds," she said. "People like us kinda get made fun of around here, so we want to ... open it up to other people."

Many people associate drug use with rave parties. Although Pixie does not deny drug use among people at raves, she thinks it is an unfair generalization. She said ravers often are clustered as drug users because of their

appearance. To her, appearance does not equal abuse.

To curtail some of the stigma raves have accrued, ravers try to limit its' partygoers to 18 years of age and older.

"Generally speaking, the majority of the College Station rave scene is over 18, if not over 21," Jason said. "There are still some, for instance in actual parties we've had this year — Element, Stage 1, Face-Off — there were still high school kids there, but they were few and far between. Most of the people that were there were at least 18. Generally speaking, that's what I prefer. You would get less of the criticism from parents."

Pixie said that every town is different when it comes to raves.

"Every party has its vibe," she said. "I've been to Austin and I've been to really bad parties and I've been to Austin and I've been to really good parties. But as far as being here, you know, knowing your friends are throwing a party ... it's going to be a good vibe. Especially with a group as tightly knitted as ours."

Christina Hess, rave party-goer and a junior international studies major, agrees that the local scene is tightly knit, but said it has changed over the years.

"When I first got here, (ravers) were really accepting," Hess said. "But the scene has gotten distasteful because the kids these days don't know what it's about."

Hess said that today it is more about the clothes, accessories and pacifiers and has become more commercial.

"It used to be about the music," Hess said.

For her, however, it still is a n d a l w a y s will be.



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