

Where da party at?

Bands, performers come together to celebrate A&M's 125th

By KELLY PREISER
THE BATTALION

Although it started out as an all-white, all-male military band, Texas A&M now has a somewhat equal distribution of men, women, military and non-military students and is becoming more culturally diverse.

The 125th Birthday Bash, will be held at Rudder Plaza and O.R. Simpson Drill Field from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Event organizers said they hope to celebrate how far A&M has come and also look to the future. In doing this, they kept in mind one of the imperatives of Vision 2020 — diversity.

A cultural and musical smorgasbord of bands will perform on two stages on the drill field.

Dave Salmon, assistant director for the Memorial Student Center (MSC) and an adviser for MSC Town Hall and MSC academic league, said the goal in booking the acts for the bash was to promote diversity.

"The forefront of mine and

the students' minds was to try to make as diverse a lineup as possible to have something for everyone," Salmon said. "There will be everything from jazz to country, rock and blues, to salsa and merengue."

Karan Chavis, an A&M graduate, who will open the Bash at 6 p.m., said she is looking forward to the show and to celebrating A&M.

"I'm an Ag, and it's neat to be involved in something that gets people together and celebrates the University," Chavis said.

Chavis performs jazz music and contemporary and original selections. However, Bash said the band will do a lot of rock and roll, and rhythm and blues. Chavis said her show will be high-energy and that she coordinated some special elements for the show, such as performing patriotic songs like "America the Beautiful" and a song she wrote to contribute to the birthday celebration called "125 years."

Chavis said the celebration is an event students should not take

for granted.

"There won't be many other classes that will have the opportunity to experience something like this," Chavis said. "It is a great opportunity for Ags to come together to celebrate where we've been and where we're headed and to remember that we are all Ags."

Chavis said she hopes to kick off the bash and get everyone excited about being there and celebrating A&M.

Thirteen acts are scheduled after Chavis. Salmon said that the main acts will be performing on one stage and that student acts will perform on a side stage in between the main acts so that hopefully, he said, there will be no downtime.

Two Spy, an area rock-and-roll band comprising A&M students will perform from 7:15 to 8 p.m.

Ryan McLawhon, a junior speech communications major, said Two Spy is looking forward to the opportunity to show support of A&M.

"Everyone should come out

and support the local music and all the acts, and show their support for A&M and how long it's been around," McLawhon said.

The Ballet Folklorico Celestial, a student organization that promotes and encourages knowledge, appreciation and performance of Mexican Folk dance, will perform from 8:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Genafe Leon, vice president of the organization and a junior education major, said the group hopes the audience will come out and take advantage of the opportunity to see a high-energy performance. Leon said students will be exposed to dance and music they might be unfamiliar with.

"It's an honor ... to let students know there is an organization that does what Ballet Folklorico does," Leon said.

Leon said the show will be different from what most audiences have ever seen and will consist of performances from

See BASH on page 4.

Birthday Bash

performance schedule

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 6 — 6:45 | Karan Chavis Band |
| 6:45 — 7:15 | Jonathan Fowler |
| 7:25 — 8 | Two Spy |
| 8 — 8:15 | Alpha Phi Alpha |
| 8:15 — 8:30 | Ballet Folklorico Celestial |
| 8:30 — 9:15 | John Ashford Miles |
| 9:15 — 9:30 | Apotheosis |
| 9:30 — 9:45 | Aggie Wranglers |
| 9:45 — 10:30 | Grupo KaChe |
| 10:30 — 10:45 | Freudian Slip |
| 10:45 — 11 | Seth Thomas |
| 11 — 11:45 | The Gypsies |
| 11:45 — 12:30 | Yell Practice |
| 12:30 — 2:30 | Last Free Exit |

KELLY PREISER • THE BATTALION

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Saturday, October 20 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
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Saturday, November 10 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Brazos Center - 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan

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November 1, 15; December 7, 21

College Station Council Chambers in City Hall,
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Hear Visitors: 5:45 p.m.; Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Call 764-3541 for more information.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Parks & Recreation is seeking performers and choirs to entertain during the "Christmas In The Park" Open House Nights on November 30, December 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15.

Call the College Station Parks & Recreation Office at 764-6385.

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The Neighborhood Services Office - 764-6262.

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