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ENTER: Last Free Exit

One of the last shows at this year's Northgate Music Festival will be performed by local favorite Last Free Exit.

The band is a regular in College Station and has performed at venues such as Shadow Canyon, Third Floor Cantina and Fitzwilly's. The band made its mark with A&M students when it was the final act at the 125th anniversary celebration of Texas A&M earlier this year.

Last Free Exit is an Austin-based band that was born on the A&M campus. In 1997, Aggies Parker Bradley and JT Stewart began to jam together with their acoustic guitars across campus. They decided to form a band, and a few months later found fellow Aggies Brian Beadle and Kyle Clayton to complete the lineup. Last Free Exit wowed the College Station and Bryan crowds and won the loyalty of local fans.

While the band no longer has the same lineup (Austin drummers Michael Duffey and Paul Roraback are filling in until a permanent replacement is found), it is sure to continue its reputation of energetic, often improvised, shows.

Last Free Exit lists some of its influences as Willie Nelson, the Grateful Dead, Bob Marley, Jeff Buckley, the Allman Brothers, Parliament-Funkadelic and John Coltrane. Many of the band's songs can be described as songs to get up and dance to, but there are also mellow songs to sit back and listen to. But it is virtually impossible to sit through a Last Free Exit show without a little head bobbing.

Fans can expect some new stuff this Saturday. Last Free Exit recently recorded a mini-CD and is sure to give the audience a sample.

The show is Saturday at the Northgate Pavilion at 11 p.m. —Beth Brown



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAST FREE EXIT

Sevenfold leaves nothing unsaid

VH1's acclaimed unsigned band in America, Sevenfold, will be returning to College Station for the Northgate Music Festival. The band will play at Double Dave's on Friday.

Members include David Underwood, lead vocals and guitar; Robert Swonke, lead guitar; Matthew Cook, guitar and vocals; Jon Wright, bass and Joey Wright, drums and percussion.

Manager Roger Brooks said the band's origin has given them a wide range of fans.

"Sevenfold started out originally as a church-oriented band and has grown remarkably," Brooks said. "They now play for the general public, and now have a larger fan base than ever before."

Sevenfold has performed in places ranging from major cities to college towns, nightclubs to coffee houses and small venues to large concerts. It has shared the stage with bands such as Three Doors Down and 8stops7.

The *Houston Chronicle* described them as a modern rock band with a slight pop influence comprised of solid drum and bass backbone, creative and out-of-this-world guitar leads, strong vocals and tight harmonies resonating from catchy, yet reflective songwriting. *Houston Press* named Sevenfold as the "best hard-rock band."

The band released its debut independent album and performed its first show in April 1998. Its newest album is titled *Things Left Unsaid*.

—Crystal Dobson

PLAN B

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band wants one thing: to do what they do and do it well.

"It is our duty to humanity, as it is with any artist, whether they be a painter, writer, or a plumber, to perform [our] innate ability for others," Johnson said.

As for any non-musical influences Plan B has, Johnson said one of its main goals as a band is "to spread understanding and tolerance, to convey a message of being yourself, thinking for yourself and finding out things for yourself."

"This starts with seeking out the music you listen to, and not just being content with what mainstream media gives you," Johnson said. "There are so many people who consider themselves music lovers, who would be amazed at what they might find if they look a little deeper."

Plan B will perform at Big Pauly's Thursday at 11:30 p.m.

—Thomas Phillips

The science behind Dynamic Viscosity

Travis Ziebro, a senior mechanical engineering major, and Matt Brown, a junior anthropology major, were inspired to start spinning as Dynamic Viscosity after listening to a DJ at a local rave.

"We were at a College Station rave and were really inspired by what [the DJ] was doing and their passion for the music," Ziebro said. "We thought, why not us on the other side of the table?"

Ziebro and Brown bought turntables at the end of August 2001 and began spinning progressive trance as Dynamic Viscosity. Dynamic Viscosity has performed at local house parties but the DJs said they view the upcoming music festival as an opportunity to perform at larger events. Ziebro said the group wants to help clean up the local rave image.

"We want to push the fact that raves are about the music and not drugs," Ziebro said. "It's a common misconception. You might see drugs at a rave, but if you go to a Blink 182 concert, you'll see drugs there also."

"We're trying to show people that it's just a stereotype,"

Brown said. "There are so many people, especially in College Station, that love this type of music and have no part in taking drugs. That's what it's supposed to be like."

In the spinning community, Ziebro and Brown have been heavily influenced by DJs Ron-E and D-Jabe of E-Pro Recordings. The DJs have done a lot for the local music community, said Ziebro. Together with Brown, he wants to work on bringing back together the local scene of electronic listeners.

In addition to the importance of the music, Dynamic Viscosity wants to get its audiences involved with the performance. Brown said this is easier by having two people perform together.

"At a show, having two people makes it easier to interact with the audience," Brown said. "One person can concentrate on the music while the other person is focusing on the audience. We're really into getting the crowd excited during a performance."

"We're entertainers too," Ziebro said. "We want to get the crowd involved and basically have a good time."

—Amanda Trimble

THE BATTALION

March 21-23, 2002

GUIDE TO THE NORTHGATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

