

# On the Sly

## Sly Letter hits Fitzwilly's at festival Saturday

By Kelcey Rieger  
THE BATTALION

Sly Letter said it is happy to return to College Station for its fourth year to the Northgate Music Festival. Sly Letter, natives to the College Station music scene and Texas A&M, includes band members Chris Edwards, Chris Ginsbach, Chris Huntley, Mark McDavid, Ryan Slie and Sean Smith. Their music can be described as acoustic rock that infuses acoustic and electric guitars with heavy percussion and the distinguishable resonance of the mandolin. Its sound has received the attention of College Station and other cities throughout Texas.

Smith, lead guitarist for Sly Letter, said College Station is their favorite place to play in Texas and has the best fans in Texas. "They are always receptive and really know how to make us feel at home," Smith said. "Every time we play, hundreds of people show up to listen, and I often wonder how we got so lucky. We can't say enough about how much we appreciate their loyalty."

This year, Sly Letter's appearance at the Northgate Music Festival is important in paving the way for its sophomore CD, *Theme of Six*. "We couldn't be happier with everything about the new record," Smith said. "Although the Sly Letter sound is not drastically different, this record is edgier, more radio friendly, and, simply stated, we are all better musicians now. Everyone went into the project with high expectations and I think the finished product surpassed all those."

Sly Letter will debut *Theme of Six* at Shadow Canyon in early April with a CD release party. Its first CD, *These Autumn Skies*, drew more than 700 people to Shadow Canyon and it hopes to top that this year.

Sly Letter hopes to begin touring regionally. It will release the CD in Texas and make a trip to Nashville in mid-April. Sly Letter's fan base may continue to grow and its music may continue to be a crowd favorite, but the band members refuse to forget where it all began.

"College Station is Sly Letter's starting point, and our fan base humbles me to no end," Smith said. "We have grown a lot over the past couple of years, personally and musically. The fans in College Station have always accepted our growth, and continue to show their unconditional support."

The band has consistently supported the Northgate Music Festival, apparent through its veteran status. "We have played the festival for the last four years, and we hope that we have helped the cause a little bit," Smith said. "The College Station music scene is quickly becoming something to be proud of, and the Northgate Music Festival is a large part of that."

Sly Letter will perform outside Fitzwilly's Saturday at 10 p.m.

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