

AggieLife

All that jazz

Jazz fans spread their music through A&M Jazz Society

By Kelcey Rieger
THE BATTALION

When Jessica Haschke, a sophomore industrial engineering major, searched for a creative outlet for her clarinet playing, she found the Texas A&M Jazz Society.

"When I got to A&M, I was searching for an alternative to concert band," Haschke said. "I played a little Dixieland music in high school, and I really enjoyed the freedom of playing that kind of music. So I decided to pursue my love for the (Dixieland) music and joined the Jazz Society."

Jazz music, an amalgamation of African and European styles of music, was an early 20th century phenomenon that forever changed American music. Haschke said she hopes through the Jazz Society others will have an opportunity to experience the style of music.

"Texas A&M Jazz Society is about bringing jazz music to life and making those who listen to it appreciate it," Haschke said. "I enjoy playing gigs for older groups of people because they really enjoy listening and dancing to the music they listened to when they were younger."

The A&M Jazz Society was formed when a few Aggies wanted to play music they love. A marching band or concert band often does not play jazz music, and the Jazz Society offered an alternative.

David Lund, a senior history major, also has a passion for jazz music and looks for any opportunity to play his trumpet. Although he is a member

of the Corps of Cadets, he is not a member of the Aggie Band. He said his heart is in jazz and not the music of a marching band.

"I knew jazz music was what I wanted to play when after playing the trumpet for about a year in middle school, I heard a recording of Maynard Ferguson, and instantly I wanted to play like that," Lund said. "Since then I've been hooked, and I knew I wanted to continue playing jazz music in college."

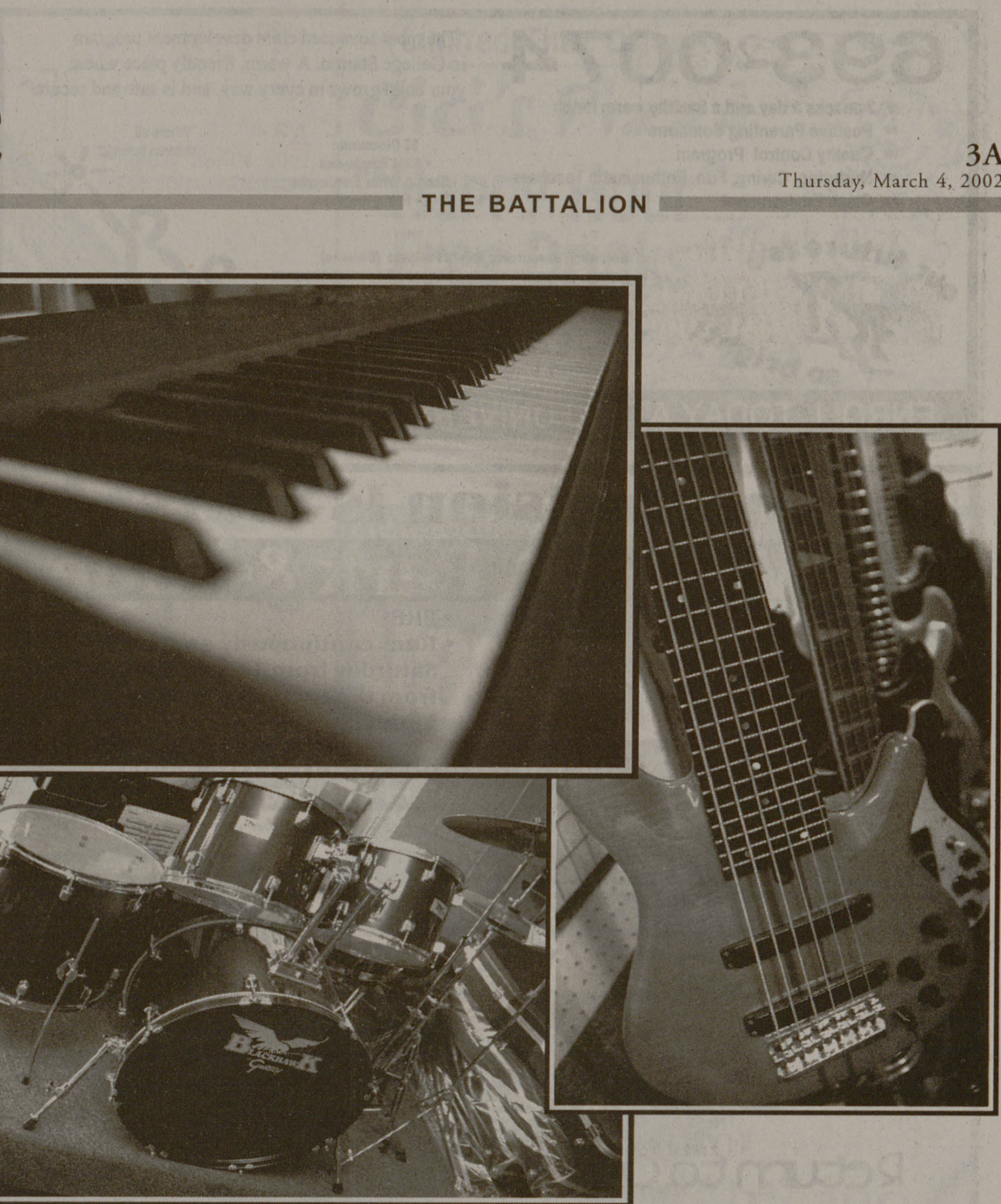
Lund said he also appreciates the friendships he has made as a member of the Jazz Society.

"Texas A&M Jazz Society is really about the people," Lund said. "We are an organization that has developed quite a few friends along the way, and our love of music initially brought us together."

Lund said members of the Jazz Society jump at any opportunity to bring their instruments together and play in public.

"We usually practice in G. Rollie White Coliseum, but we play just about everywhere, from formal dinners to student activities like Whoopstock and Parents' Weekend," Lund said. "We also play more laid back gigs at random places around campus such as Rudder Fountain and Bernie's coffee shop by Sbis Dining Hall."

David Spann, a freshman aerospace engi-



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neering major, plays the bass trombone for the Jazz Society. He said the society offers him a challenging situation where he can play as much as possible.

"After seeing performances by musicians such as Bill Watruss and the University of North Texas One O'Clock Band, I found a true desire to play," Spann said. "The Jazz Society offers me a chance to feed this desire with a group of people in a genre not widely associated with Texas A&M."

Spann named Glenn Miller as his favorite jazz musician and a great influence on his playing.

"(Glenn Miller's) orchestra in the time period around World War I really shaped American big

band and jazz during a time when our nation needed lifted spirits," Spann said. "A lot of his music reflects this need. I admire him because of this, proving he is truly a wonderful musician."

Casey Christensen, president of the A&M Jazz Society and a junior computer science major, said the society gives her an environment to improve her skills as a trumpet player.

"Jazz offers a greater variety of things you can do musically," Christensen said. "You don't always have to stick to the notes on the page and I think that makes me a better musician. The Jazz Society is about making music and growing as a musician, while still being able to have fun."

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TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Take Back the Night is a march, rally and vigil protesting violence against women, held in cities and on college campuses throughout the country.

DATE: Thursday, April 11, 2002

TIME: Rally - 7:00 - 8:15 pm
March - 8:15 - 9:00 pm
Vigil - 9:00 - 9:30 pm

LOCATION: Rally - Rudder 601
March - Rudder Fountain
Vigil - YMCA Steps

Sponsored by The Office of Gender Issues Education Services, 845-1107.

MATHEMATICS CONTEST

Annual
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**TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2002
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
ROOM 317 MILNER HALL**

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It is intended to award at least six prizes:

1. \$150 for paper judged to be best overall
2. \$125 for second place
3. \$100 for third place
4. \$ 80 for fourth place
5. \$ 60 for fifth place
6. \$ 50 for sixth place

Contest problems will cover topics through Math 152 (Engineering Calculus II) for Freshmen contestants, and through Math 308 (Differential Equations) for Sophomore contestants.

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Contact Doug Hensley, e-mail: dhensley@math.tamu.edu
For more information and sample problems, check
Dr. Hensley's Home Page:
http://www.math.tamu.edu/~doug_hensley

(For purposes of this contest, freshmen are first-year undergraduate students, and sophomores are second-year undergraduate students.)