

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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## Singing a different tune

Volunteer radio station KEOS brings alternative voice to Brazos Valley music, talk radio

By Robert Saucedo  
THE BATTALION

Vivek Gulati was growing tired of College Station's typical radio formats. Exhausted from the same songs being played over and over, Gulati took action. He started an Indian music radio show.

Gulati, a graduate student in electrical engineering, has been working at KEOS 89.1 radio station since last January.

With his interest peaked, Gulati went through the training session and soon found himself with a job hosting a show featuring music from India and its subcontinents.

"I thought it would be interesting to have a show of Indian music," Gulati said. "Now I do it because I love doing it."

Explaining the appeal of KEOS, Gulati remembered a friend's analogy of the radio station.

"It's like having a full meal, not just one dish. You get to have a little bit of everything," Gulati said.

KEOS is a non-commercial, volunteer based radio station in Bryan offering different flavors for every music lover's taste. It also features live music, including folk, rock, reggae, Texas roots, bluegrass, hip-hop, blues and Celtic from its studios as well as diverse educational programs on science and lively debates.

Chad Brinkley, the fund drive coordinator for KEOS, said the educational programs are included to give other perspectives to listeners that they would not get on other stations.

They broadcast recorded programs from Latino USA, a radio program that focuses on important cultural issues for Hispanics. During election times, KEOS features debates from the candidates. Programs such as Touchstone Radio, provide an alternative political voice to the Brazos Valley's typically conservative one, Brinkley said.

KEOS has an open-door policy allowing anyone to participate on the air and behind the

scenes.

While talk shows provide variety to the format, Brinkley said for every one talk show, there are 10 music shows.

Jeff White, a KEOS disc jockey, said the music he plays is a reflection of himself.

"It's a mix of blues, jazz, rock and what I'm into at the time," White said. "I wouldn't do it if people told me what music to play."

At the end of last year, Jeff Frazee's friend told him about a radio station that was looking for volunteers. Frazee, a junior electrical engineering major, currently helps produce two shows and hopes to have a third one on the air soon.

Frazee said he works at KEOS because he wants to help College Station's music scene expand.

"I know there are a lot of local artists and bands in town," Frazee said. "KEOS helps serve the community and will help College Station and Bryan grow politically, economically and socially."

Lance Parr, co-founder of KEOS has volunteered at the radio station since 1995.

What started as an offshoot of the campus station has grown to a life of its own and therefore needs all the assistance it can have, Parr said.

"Eighty percent of our funding comes from fund drives that we have three times a year," Parr said. "Approximately 10 percent of the year's operating budget comes from the Brazos Arts Council."

Parr explained that KEOS receives no funding from the government or the University.

"We have to raise all the money ourselves," Parr said. "Listeners are encouraged to call in and pledge financial support."

Although KEOS depends on donations, it would not survive without volunteers.

"We have a constant turnover, from old to young, the common status is that we all love music. There's a good mix of students and professors," White said.

While quite a few Aggies volunteer at the station, KEOS is always looking for a few more, Parr said



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Homer Callaway, also known as "The Friendly BiPolar Beatle Freak," DJs his radio show from the volunteer radio station, KEOS 89.1 in Bryan. He has DJed his show, Yellow Submarine every Sunday for the past three months.

He said there are openings for on-air personalities. Other volunteer positions include weather and public announcement readers, tape playback and music reviewers.

Reviewers are needed to check the CDs that come in each month for suitability of play before they can be put into the library, which consists of 10,000 CDs.

Parr said KEOS has the largest collection of music in town.

It promises something for everyone. From learning to appreciate new types of music, to having a chance to learn the ropes as an on-air disc jockey, "volunteers are responsible for the inner workings of the radio station," Parr said.

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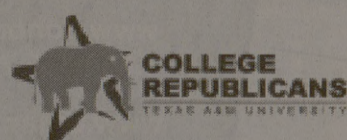
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Tuesday, Oct. 14 ★ 7 p.m. ★ Koldus 110  
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