Two Nice Girls make amicable split

e of the musical mainstays of alternative Austin, Two Nice Girls, have decided to call it quits. The band had discussed the split since stopping home in the midst of months of exhaustive touring and made the decision at a Monday meeting following Saturday’s concert at Liberty Lunch.

“There’s only so much time and room and attention we have within the band, so that can diminish each songwriter’s direction,” explained Gretchen Phillips, who formed the band with Kathy Korniloff six years ago, with Pam Barger and Meg Hanse joining later. With all four members writing material, the decision was made collectively that those four directions might be better explored independently.

“We always zinged-legged like crazy, but over the last couple of years it has been like four different genres,” continued Phillips, who plans to leave the folder aspects of the band’s music behind and move toward loud, hard guitar-heavy rock. “The main thing is that it’s going to be fun. And I think we all decided that maybe there could be four folks more obvious to do completely independent projects.”

“It was real mutual and real amicable,” added Korniloff. “It was like a lot more was made more obvious in a relationship when you realize you have different goals.”

Through the band stresses that the decision didn’t result from the folding last year of Rough Trade records, and the inability to find new albums to promote any new record company. “This is not to promote,” took its toll. The differences in musical aspirations began manifesting during the recording of a recent album.

This is the band to continue to work with New York filmaker Piun Rupieck and Zinka Benson on a documentary feature titled Out on the West Coast: Two Girls and it will complete a West Coast tour on October 25 before scheduled. Plans call for a farewell September tour.

Austin beat

AUSTIN AT PEDERNALES: Willie Nelson has been working his hard hat this week as he and jazz gitar legend Herb Ellis has been recording at his Pedernales Studio for a jazz album recorded due late this summer. The album, with the working title of King of Swing, will be Ellis’s first home recording in Western Swing. Justice Records president and producer Randall Jambali also enlisted fiddler John Gimbil, pianist Floyd Domino, bassist Tommy Alup, and top gun Herb Remington for the project with the idea of re-creating the classic Bob Wills and the Playboys sound.

A SUITE HEART: Call it a borderline collaboration. On Monday, Robert Sikes, who can normally be found at the helm of Beto y las Fairlanes, will instead be playing in the bluegrass at the conductor’s podium of the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra. Under his direction, the orchestra will perform Sikes’ third orchestral suite of “The Rhythm of Juan Seguin.” The piece incorporates the Texas patriot’s memoirs, which Sikes has edited and set to music.

An inspired Van Zandt was taken to Breckenridge Hospital that night and later to a rehab center in Nashville, said his management. But he’s back and promising to do better at a Wednesday night benefit for the Oak Springs Treatment Center (50 Everet at La Zona). His recording profile lately increases the new CD, with the new album to have two TV songs, Sirius Records, a CD and a third album of songs by others that TV recorded. The remaining hill album Live & Unreel is being re-released in Europe.

YOUR NIGHT TO SING: Applaud these brave musicians: Jeff Helmer, Hugh Sparks, Russ Scanlon and Roger Schopp. They will back up your song if you’ve always wanted to cut a tape and never been brave enough to try. For a fee, of course, the Music Umbrella of Austin and Saxon Pub will provide the band at “Your Night to Sing” with the Bandstand on Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. For registration info, call 476-1234.

BULGARIA’S BEST: Voliten is the most popular music in the Bulgarian today, and Iva Papasov is a true separo of the music. The virtuoso clarinetist will bring his unique blend of jazz-inspired improvisation to the attention of the composer’s work at a performance with his orchestra Monday at the Lairo at the Alberta Avenue. Papasov and his orchestra play fast and loud on an aggressive jazz-rock style, with the lead instruments trading solos against the stated themes. To jazz ends there through the approach is purely Bulgarian.

JAZZ WITH A VOICE: Tina Marsh and the Creative Opportunity for Americans’ Signatures Jazz Swing Band will celebrate their 1991-92 season with its first concert this weekend at 7 p.m. at the Vortex Theatre. This show will feature “Colaborative Voices and the New Cactus Band in a performance of original jazz as well as updated versions of jazz and popular tunes.” The sound is a blend of various settings involving the legato voice and piano only. She Doesn’t Love Here. A new band, Falling Down Again, which is formed by background vocals from daughter Maya Escovedo and her friend at Zilker Elementary School. Last week in Austin, the show moves to the Cactus Cafe on Tuesday and Sunday at La Zona.

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