

Cavalry Unit To Be Added To Corps

Resonance by Steve Grayson

The year is 1935 and we are watching the late, great Max Fletcher at work. (Everybody with me?) Mr. Fletcher takes his own Betty Boop in one hand and a miniature Joe Cocker in the other and crams them into an oversized ink bottle. Suddenly the sides of the bottle begin to poke in and out like a paper bag and out pops, who else, but Bette Midler.

Speaking of Betty Boop, Max Fletcher, the creator of "follow the bouncing ball," died last September, 89 years old. He invented the animated cartoon in 1917 and before Walt Disney drove him out of business in 1939, he made the greatest cartoons the world has ever known. In 1934 his Popeye cartoons were voted more popular than Mickey Mouse by theater owners of America. Those Popeyes and Betty Boops are still around and still unbeatable.

Anyway, ever notice how Miss Boop never stopped humming or moving in rhythm with the music? Even if she accidentally burped, it would be in perfect time. That is the way Bette Midler is, constantly shuffling across the stage, bending, jumping, wiggling and bouncing (and she can bounce). All the while, most un-Boopishly, pumping her knees, flailing her arms and generally burning up energy in the fashion of Joe Cocker.

I saw Bette Midler's show last week in Houston and she was more fun than a barrel full of fairies. Speaking of fairies, (notice how I always take care of the reader's train of thought), I never dreamed so many limp wrists could be in one place at the same time. I guess this is because Bette Midler's first singing job was in a male Turkish bath and in her climb upwards to the Johnny Carson show she never forgot her first fans, whether they were male, female or in-betweens.

Her one and only album to date is "The Divine Miss M." It almost does the impossible—capturing her stage energy on vinyl. The Dixie Cups' "Chapel of Love" and the Shangrilas' "Leader of the Pack" live again and never sounded better than when belted out by Miss M's more than ample lungs. With three female backup voices she breathes new life into nostalgia, running through a variety of classic songs from the last 20 years. But when Bette Midler wants to, her voice can melt in your ear. Her version of Leon Russell's "Superstar" flows and draws you forward, straining to see her face.

It is in songs like this that Bette Midler's appeal is strongest. For here, the lonely singer shows through, the little girl asking for approval, wanting people to like her song.

So, put Bette Midler in the list of Jewish music superstars along with Bob Dylan, Neil Diamond, Barbara Streisand and Jesus Christ.

Speaking of the superstar J.C., (this is not the same J.C. I quoted a while back, that J.C. was not a superstar), I haven't been so disgusted with the movies since I saw the wimp with shaved arm-

pits that played Jesus in the film "King of Kings." Why such extreme disgust? Because King of the Fagrockers, David Bowie, has been cast as Michael Valentine Smith in the upcoming movie version of Robert A. Heinlein's science fiction masterpiece, Stranger in a Strange Land. Where is Goble and Cepheid Variable when we need them?

By TOM DRURY

A scene which faded into the past many years ago will return to Aggieland next fall with the appearance of a cavalry unit within the Corps of Cadets.

The Corps will present The Parsons Mounted Cavalry which is now in the planning stages but should be ready for unveiling sometime next fall. Membership in the unit is open to senior cadets.

Darrell Williams of Squadron Two is chiefly responsible for the

mounted cavalry. The idea came to him at a home football game when he saw a couple of horsemen representing a part of A&M's military past.

"I was watching the guys on horseback and thought, why not a whole cavalry unit?" Williams continued. "So we went and found out where they had secured permission to ride and decided to try and make a go of it."

Williams' group went to talk with Commandant Col. Thomas R. Parsons and were greatly en-

couraged by his enthusiasm. "Col. Parsons was a great help to us," said Williams. "He told us to check on funds and was real enthusiastic about the whole thing."

The Former Students Association has pledged support to the unit through Executive Director Richard "Buck" Weirus who plans to run a fund-raising article in next month's "Texas Aggie," the magazine of the association.

The activities of the outfit will

consist of most of the Corps functions such as march-ins before football games, parades and reviews. Williams said hopes for the future centered around such things as stock shows and parades.

The unit will ride a jumping type of saddle which Williams explained was harder to adjust to but was more suited to the outfit's needs.

Williams explained that the cavalry style of riding requires very close order and is very dif-

ficult to learn both for horse and rider. The appearance of the unit will depend upon how well this style of riding is adjusted to.

Capt. J. G. Holland, Assistant Professor of Military Science, will serve as adviser to the group. Mike Collins will serve as commanding officer for next year with Williams serving as executive officer. Platoon leaders will be Bubba Wilson and Doug Lamer. The remainder of the positions will be filled when group assemblies in the fall.

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Musical Club Slates Banquet

President Jack K. Williams will be the featured speaker.

Dr. Howard L. Gravett, biology professor who coordinates the university's premedical and pre-dental program, said the program is expected to attract approximately 200 persons, including representatives from all the medical and dental schools in the state and several former students.

A&M's outstanding premedical and pre-dental students will be named at the dinner by Science Dean J. M. Prescott.

Crush all smokes dead out.



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