

Near capacity crowd hears Rodriguez concert

By ERIC LINDQUIST
Battalion Staff Reviewer

An enthusiastic, near capacity crowd filled G. Rollie Coliseum Friday night to welcome the soft country sounds of Johnny Rodriguez.

Warming the crowd for Rodriguez was the Austin-based swing band, Asleep at the Wheel, whose vocalists and feature instrumentalists breezed through a collection of tunes by Bob Wills, Hank Williams, and several original numbers. Even though the sound quality was not as good as it might have been and the band seemed quite uninspired at times, they received good audience response.

Unfortunately their live performance was not up to par with their recordings, except perhaps on "Choo Choo Ch' Boogie". Then they seemed weak and amateurish when compared to Bob Wills and Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen. Like the song says, "No matter who's in Austin, Bob Wills is still the king."

Accompanying Johnny was the

Music City Band who played for 20 minutes by themselves without Johnny. This tight ensemble of excellent musicians apparently felt they had to prove to the audience that they were capable of playing music that was more complicated than what Rodriguez was paying them for.

During their 20 minute set they played jazz, Top 40, country and blues, each establishing themselves individually as outstanding soloists. The highlight of their act was a version of the "Orange Blossom Special" which featured a fiddle playing contortionist fiddling in more positions than is shown in a Swedish sex manual.

Dressed in more modest clothing than his normal concert wear, Rodriguez strutted onstage and kicked into "Ramblin' Man." Following were many of his radio hits, all greeted by hearty applause.

The togetherness of the band and Rodriguez was definitely an asset as the songs flowed smoothly together mixed sparingly with the usual pro-Aggie remarks.

At one time he seemed confused as to which of the Twin Cities he was in, saving face only by tossing in a line about Aggeland.

Rodriguez's voice was never really pushed to display his range or projection. Not even during "Johnny B. Goode/Roll Over Beethoven" did he put out with his voice.

Only on the ballad "My Way" did he seem to shake the air with his usually emotional singing. He showed lack of prowess on the guitar, asking the band what key a song was in. If his guitar had been out of tune he probably wouldn't have known. (Equipment men don't have anything better to do than tune guitars anyway.)

After his last announced song instead of leaving the stage, he stood there and bowed and acknowledged the band and went into his encore.

When the encore was over he left with the band still playing even after the house lights went up. These acts of unprofessionalism marred an otherwise enjoyable show. It was by no means a spectacular event, but the two highly competent bands made for an evening well spent.



The Asleep at the Wheel fiddlers play some foot-stompin' music.



Johnny Rodriguez opens the show with 'Ramblin Man'.

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In an attempt to set precedent concerning the conflict of recognized versus unrecognized organizations and clubs, The Aggieldand '76 is requiring organizations and clubs desiring to be represented in the book BE RECOGNIZED BY THE UNIVERSITY.

Even if an unrecognized organization or club has bought pages in past Aggieldands, if they want to be included this year the organization or club must go through the recognition procedures established by the university.

An organization or club wanting to become recognized can do so at the Student Programs Office, second floor of the MSC.

The Aggieldand will accept no organization or club for contracting space after Nov. 10, 1975.

All previously recognized organizations and clubs plus those applying for recognition have until Nov. 10 to contract space. After Nov. 10 there will be no further space sold in the book and no exceptions will be made.

If any questions develop call Student Publications at 845-2611, ask for Debbie Stallings or Gary Baldasari.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 308 of the Reed McDonald Building.

Water Ski Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 301 of the Rudder Tower.

Pre-Med, Pre-Dent Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 224 of the MSC.

English Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Room 224 of the

Harrington Building. TAMU Fencing Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Room 261 of G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M Wheelmen will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Rudder Tower Fountain for a night ride.

Student Teacher Panel Discussion sponsored by the Student Education Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Room 225 of the MSC.

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