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Vocal talents obvious

Ronstadt packs Coliseum

By JOHN VANORE
Battalion Staff Writer
The girl who sings with a tear in her voice made her debut at Aggie-land.

Linda Ronstadt sang to a full house at G. Rollie White Coliseum last Wednesday night, and gave a thorough accounting of her splendid vocal talents. She also became the first Town Hall Bonfire act not to back down in my four years here.

After seeing the concert, though, I'm not so sure I would have broken down in tears if she had cancelled. Many people left G. Rollie feeling disappointed, but not quite knowing why. Maybe the sounds of others in the audience snoring disturbed them.

Sure, she did all her big hits. And she sang everything from rock 'n' roll ("That'll Be the Day") to country ("Silver Threads and Golden Needles") to pseudo-soul ("Heat Wave").

The first thing that bugged the audience was that she couldn't, or perhaps just wouldn't, establish any rapport with them. Throughout the show she acted nervous and insecure. She stood in blatant contrast to Andrew Gold, her lead guitarist.

Gold came on as the warm-up act with the rest of Ronstadt's back-up band. He talked easily to the audience between numbers, and remained calm and professional throughout.

His standard 30-45 minute opening set featured only Gold as guitarist extraordinaire, which didn't impress anyone very much in its own right. He is one of those performers who is not made for the spotlight. He performs best while in the limelight, adding his instrumental mastery to underscore the headliner's up-front sound.

After Ronstadt came on, the virtues of her back-up band came to light. As she belted out the lyrics, all but drummer Mick Botz switched around on Keyboards, bass, banjo, guitar, and steel pedal guitar.

Her singing, in itself, is no less than spectacular. Her vocal range, her renditions, and her variety of styles left little to be desired. As I mentioned, however, her stage per-

sonality could stand a great deal of improvement.

Aside from a few lone requests for her first big hit, "Different Drum," which she completely ignored, many listeners chose to shout something on the order of "Talk a little!" or "Say a few words!" When she did open her mouth, it was usually to put her foot in it. If the water wasn't weird, then the audience was. Oh well . . .

Maybe she felt strange since she had just played the t.u. campus the night before. Maybe that's why she left with the well-chosen words "Goodnight, Texas!"

All I can say is that I heard a rumor that she sat on the t.u. side of Kyle Field on Friday. It's only a rumor, mind you, but I wouldn't discount it.

So much for inter-school rivalries. You can read about those in the Sports Section.

As I mentioned before, Ronstadt's singing and the band's playing were impeccable. She ran through her latest hits, such as "Heat Wave," "You're No Good," and "Love is a Rose." That last number is from her most recent LP, and is the most likely to make it big from that album.

One part of the concert was totally predictable. The theme of most of her songs centered around lost love, and were basically depressive in tone. Ronstadt played her role perfectly as the queen of the jilted lovers.

This led to the next gripe I heard about her show. Many agreed that they could have heard the same stuff on the radio. She added little or nothing to the songs as they are heard on her records.

Doctor's Bag

By DR. CLAUDE GOSWICK
Director of the University Health Center

Doctor's Bag is a service for students at Texas A&M. If you have medical questions, please submit them to Sandy Russo at The Battalion office and they will be answered by Dr. Goswick in this column.

How do you treat a bump on the head?

A "bump on the head" can be serious or not — depending on the severity of it. The majority of "bumps" are hematomas secondary to relatively minor injuries, in which case an ice pack and medication for pain, if needed, are sufficient — Depending on severity of the injury and/or clinical (physical exam) findings. Skull x-rays may be indicated. Really serious head injuries may call for transfer of the student to a facility equipped to handle the problem.

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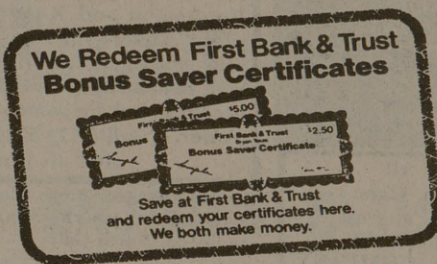
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MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The TAMU Real Estate Society will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Room 301 in Rudder Tower.

The Agronomy Society will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Room 137 in the MSC.

The Accounting Society will meet Tuesday 7:30 p.m. in Room 601 in Rudder Tower.

The Mechanical Ag Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 504 in Rudder Tower.

The A&M Wheelmen will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 510 in Rudder Tower.

The Agricultural Economics Club will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 110 in the Plant Science building.

The Irving HTC will meet Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Room 140 in the MSC.

The Freshman Class will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 701 in Rudder Tower.

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Photographs by Richard Gunn



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