

BULLETIN BOARD

Singer gives 3 encores

By JOHN VANORE
Battalion Staff Reviewer

Triple encores are few and far between at Town Hall performances. So are quality female performers on the TAMU campus.

Melissa Manchester was the exception to the rule as she charmed the audience of 4000 listeners at G. Rollie White last Friday night.

The warm-up act, Edmonds and Curley, did an outstanding job.

Joey Edmonds played straight for many of Tom Curley's punch lines and acted out some vignettes to the accompaniment of Curley's often bizarre sound effects.

The full impact of their act was obvious after they talked about standing in a public men's room. During the intermission, everyone in the men's room was standing with one hand against the wall, just as they described it onstage.

The star of the vastly under-attended show, Melissa Manchester, opened with "Just Too Many People," and won the crowd over. From the outset of her show, it was obvious that Manchester was here to give a complete performance, not merely a stage rendition of her studio recordings. She clearly had everything that Linda Ronstadt lacked, especially a warmth and enthusiasm that flowed over to the audience. Here was a woman who enjoyed singing, and who wanted to pass that enjoyment on to the crowd.

Of course, enthusiasm won't make a singer good all by itself. Manchester had an abundance of talent and displayed it fully.

The range of songs was a good indicator. From the soft ballad "Midnight Blue," her hit single of last summer, to the fiery gospel sound of

All sorts of influences are in Manchester's songs. She co-writes many songs with her lead guitarist David Wolfert. Many styles are present in those songs. She claims Paul Simon, Laura Nyro, and Sly Stone are major contributors. Not the least of those contributors is her father, a bassoonist for the New York Metropolitan Opera.

This leads to a versatile and talented singer who was brought back for three encores. This is more than any other performer in Town Hall history, except for Elton John, who returned for an hour and a half.

music review

"Oh Heaven How You've Changed," there was no doubt about her vocal range and strength.

Looking at her last Friday, one would never guess, except maybe from the hair, that Manchester was once a member of Bette Midler's backup group, the Harlettes. She

uses no theatrics or no glitter -- just good music.

On stage she is possessed, confident and lively. The momentum of her show never dies down, it only eases up a bit before climbing to new heights.

Manchester has been with her current band for about two years and it shows. They worked onstage in a tightly-knit unit, creating the momentum that makes their sound so complete.

The first one, "Come In From the Rain," was done solo, Manchester accompanying herself on piano. The rest of the band came on for the next two encores amid constant cheering from the audience.

Child rides in motorcross

Associated Press
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — It's pedal power instead of horsepower on a south Florida racing circuit.

Michelle Bishop, 7, who rides in bicycle motorcross races in the Fort Lauderdale area, was a winner in her 5- to 7-year-old age group this summer.

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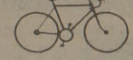
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Moslems revolt, threaten assault

Associated Press

BEAUFORT CASTLE, Lebanon — Moslem mutineers are in the massive stone fortress 30 miles south of Beirut today, vowing to open anti-aircraft fire on Israeli reconnaissance planes.

Lebanon's president said the revolt may give Israel reason to invade southern Lebanon and start another Mideast war.

An army spokesman said reinforcements to avert an outbreak of similar mutinies in the southern region were dispatched. A Syrian-led

mixed armistice commission, superintending a 47-day-old truce in Lebanon's 1-month civil war, also sent emissaries to try to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the mutiny, which erupted Monday.

The revolt, by an anti-aircraft unit of more than 50 men, was the latest in a series of desertions and uprisings that threaten to tear apart Lebanon's 18,000-man army.

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Funds reach record

Research funds received by Texas A&M University to date during fiscal year 1975-76 have reached \$32,694,729. This is \$5 million more than the record level for the same period last year.

Dr. Robert R. Berg, director of university research, said contracts and related awards totaling \$2,705,688 were received during February from federal, state and other sources.

Nearly half of February's sum, \$1,019,257, was sent to the College of Agriculture and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

\$586,059 was sent to the College of Science; \$526,452 to Geosciences; \$441,442 to be shared by Engineering, Texas Engineering Experiment Station and Texas Transportation Institute; \$56,753 to Liberal Arts; \$29,268 to Marine Science; \$19,799 to Education; \$17,502 to Business Administration; \$8,656 to Veterinary Medicine and \$500 in additional areas.

Last month's total was the largest single monthly comparison difference of the fiscal year. The year's cumulative sum is \$6.7 million short of surpassing last fiscal year's \$39.3 million record.

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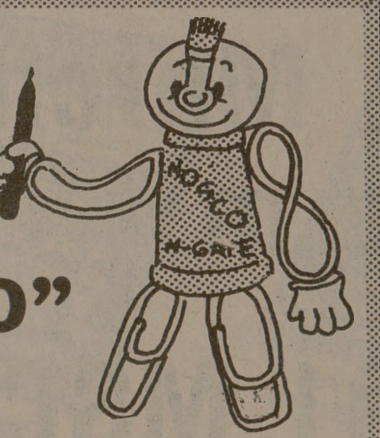
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