



Battalion photo by Jim Crawley

Members of Flash Cadillac's group perform a more subdued routine during Friday's show in G. Rollie White coliseum. The 50s-style group accompanied their songs with

zany stage antics and lewd one-liners. Their performance was preceded by Meisburg and Walters, who appeared here earlier this year.

Flash Cadillac: 50s band falls flat in kinky concert

By GLENNA WHITLEY
Battalion Staff

Reclining on top of his instrument the pianist, who looked stragely like Eddie Haskell, banged on the keys with one hand. Spike seemed to be contemplating doing obscene things, either to his guitar or someone in the front row. The saxophonist, dressed in a Hawaiian shirt and sporting cotton-chop whiskers, strummed his instrument like it was a guitar, tapping at irregular intervals. The drummer pounded away in 4/4 time. Another guitarist, whose duck-tail

was held together with bobby pins, spun himself around in circles as he lay on the floor. Flash, the supposed leader of the band, hid behind mirrored sunglasses and sang "Johnny B. Goode."

Review

This was Flash Cadillac at G. Rollie White Coliseum Friday night. "Grooming is very important," said one guitarist whose name, Spike, was written with a flourish on his guitar. And how this six-man band is groomed is important. Without the

straight-legged jeans, greasy duck-tails, Hawaiian shirts and semi-choreography, Flash Cadillac couldn't get a concert gig.

But the nostalgia for the Good Old Days is marketable, as evidenced by the movie "American Graffiti" and the television series "Happy Days."

So these men make their livings playing old '50s hits, slicking their hair back and thinking up strange one-liners to say on stage.

Fifties music can be fun, but the Flash Cadillac concert was mainly boring. The musicianship on the simplistic oldie goldies was adequate, the singing okay. Flash himself did an enjoyable job on "Heartbreak Hotel."

But the posturing and posing was plain silly, even embarrassing. Watching adult men mug and kick their legs while playing "It's Only Make Believe," (a song that should have died with the '50s) was one big yawn.

The back-up band, Meisburg and Walters, received more enthusiasm than did Flash Cadillac. They were called back for an encore with a standing ovation. The audience couldn't wait to leave after Flash Cadillac's last number, however.

Meisburg and Walters is the perpetual back-up band, and with their Colorado, Seals-and-Crofts sound, probably always will be.

But their song-writing was passable, if a bit depressing, and both men are good musicians. The three other band members' music blended well. Their rendition of Steven Stills' "Wooden Ships," was pleasant.

But it was unfortunate that, with 30,000 students in town for a home football game, the coliseum was only half-filled.

NAACP director criticizes reverse discrimination

United Press International

BATON ROUGE, La. — The national director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has called complaints of reverse discrimination "damnable lies."

Benjamin Hooks, a former member of the Federal Communications Commission, told the 31st annual meeting of the Louisiana NAACP Saturday night the future of the civil rights movement is threatened by the reverse discrimination controversy.

"All over this land we hear the cry of reverse discrimination. I'm sick to my stomach of hearing about qualifications," he said.

Hooks said 40 million white males dominated the job market and now find it difficult to adjust to competition from women and blacks who have swelled the work force to 100 million.

"Pride won't let them admit they want preferential treatment so they call it reverse discrimination. But reverse discrimination is a damnable lie," he said.

Hooks said he is concerned about young blacks who call the NAACP outdated.

"I'll tell you what the NAACP has done for young black people. It has enabled them to drink from any water fountain, go to any restroom and get hotel accommodations anywhere," Hooks said.

"I'm tired of young people asking 'What can the NAACP do for us?' They should be asking what they can do for the NAACP," he said.

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Steel firms justify hike

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Bethlehem Steel Corp. says the Carter administration should stop "raising hell" about steel price increases since it does not complain of price hikes in other basic industries.

Lewis Foy, head of the nation's second largest steel producing firm, said the industry does not want to be bailed out of its current troubles, but would like the government to ease restrictions, enforce trade laws and impose realistic tax regulations.

"And we'd like government to stop raising hell every time we try to recover in the marketplace, the costs that we are incurring," Foy said in an interview released Sunday in U.S. News & World Report magazine.

Foy said since President Carter took office, "the only price he has talked about has been the price of steel. And yet, everything we buy, including coal and other forms of energy, has gone up at a faster rate than have our prices."

In one 12-month period, he said, the price of aluminum — a steel competitor — increased 24 percent. "Did the White House comment

about that?" he asked. "No, they never said a word."

Foy also said that if the steel industry's situation does not improve, more plants will be closed.

"Many steel companies are not making money," he said. "If something isn't done about imports, foreign shipments may be taking as much as 30 percent of the market. If that happens, you'll see more shut-downs."

However, Foy said, the administration is beginning to understand the breadth of the industry's problems "many of which government has created" and he sees that as a positive development.

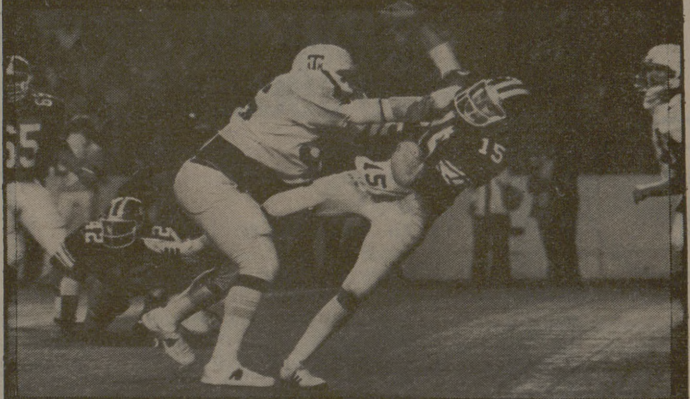
"The picture isn't all black," he said. "I'm convinced we're going to come out of this, though it's going to be a tough battle."

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