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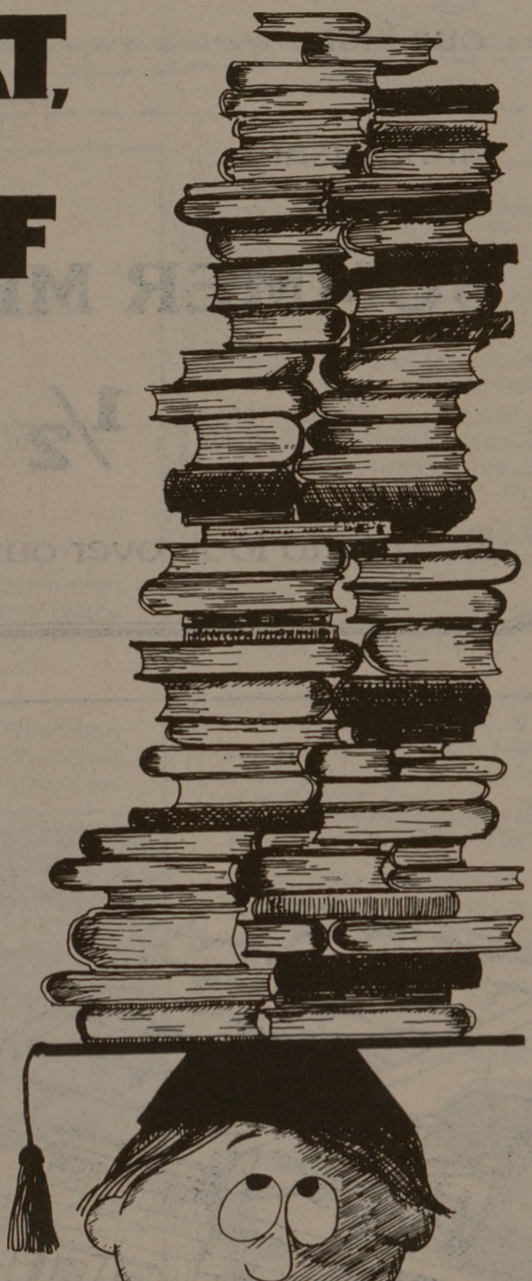
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## TEXAS A&M BOOKSTORE

In the Memorial Student Center



## Performer Reed — good ole boy

By J. WAGNER TYNES  
OK, OK, we've all seen him in "Smokey and the Bandit" as a lovable rebellious truck driver.

Some of us even remember the same type of image from "Gator" and "W.W. and the Dixie Dancekings." And everybody's heard "When You're Hot, You're Hot."

But the question to ask at Jerry Reed's concert at Texas A&M University was: Is he really the good ole country boy that he seems or is the whole Jerry Reed image just another Nashville-Hollywood put-on?

The answer is: It's true. He's for real, thank God.

Reed arrived about 45 minutes before he went onstage and strolled calmly into his dressing room, acting like he was anticipating little more than a few hands of poker with the boys in his band.

"Talk?" he asked. "Sure. What do you wanta talk about?"

There followed a 30-minute in-

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Battalion photo by Steve

Jerry Reed

terview that was lots of fun but totally useless for journalistic purposes. It seems that the interviewee did as much interviewing as the interviewer.

Reed leaned back in his chair and propped his feet on a table, showing his hands in the pockets of his army-style khaki pants. He then proceeded to take control of the situation without anyone realizing that he was doing it.

He told jokes and stories about everything from his favorite football team (not Texas A&M) to the dog that he shared billing with (Fred the basset hound from "Smokey and the Bandit").

He asked questions of everyone and now probably knows more about them than they do of him. He charmed one Town Hall worker by

### Review

telling her that she was about the prettiest woman that he'd ever seen.

He neatly slid around questions that sought serious answers. Asked if he was moving more into movies, he brushed it off with, "I don't know. I don't know. I take it one day at a time. When the sun comes up, I grab it and run."

He did talk about a movie which he is working on now. It's called "Hot Stuff" and co-stars Dom DeLuise. Reed said he considers DeLuise one of the funniest men in the world. He also mentioned a sequel to "Smokey" that will be made in Europe with all the original cast, including Fred.

The Friday night audience didn't quite fill C. Rollie White Coliseum but it was enthusiastic enough to make things a little crowded. They were up for some get-down, thigh-slappin', bench-stompin' MUSIC, by God, and when Reed took the stage they got a pretty good dose.

He only played six or seven songs during his whole show, but the crowd seemed willing to accept his method of doing more talking than singing.

After all, there aren't that many performers who can stand up in front of a big crowd and just talk without soon finding themselves talking to an empty room. But Reed not only did it, he got away with it.

Of course, it was the kind of talk that the crowd wanted to hear: fast-moving, silver-tongued, with

just more than enough country twang. And there was always that famous Jerry Reed laugh, sort of a cross between a witch's cackle and a hacking cough.

He talked about music, he talked about himself, and he talked about his songs. He made fun of everything from other country music stars to his band, which, almost incidentally, performed superbly despite all the verbal abuse they received.

But Reed's best moments came when he was forced by the tortuous windings of his monologues into a song. He played a good variety of songs, few though they were, ranging from the buckin-bronc rhythm

of "Amos Moses" and "When You're Hot, You're Hot" to a pretty respectable version of "Straw Hat, Stripes Forever."

The audience responded to every song, but they seem to identify most with "Eastbound Down," the hit that Reed wrote and performed for "Smokey and the Bandit."

The crowd was ready for a time when Reed came onstage there was hardly a frowning face. Just for the sake of being a critic, it can be argued that he talked a little bit too much and had performed a little more rollicking, snappy guitar-picking that he has become famous for.

But overall, he put on one of the best shows I mean, who can knock a lovable musician like Jerry Reed just because he forgot to play more music?

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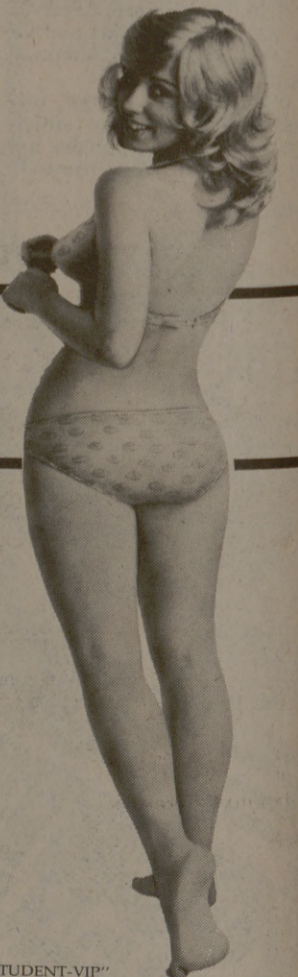
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