

Cosmic Cowboy

Murphey's performance mesmerizes 'special' audience

By LYLE LOVETT
Battalion Staff

"Geronimo's Cadillac" poured through the stereo speakers. A crowd waited anxiously Wednesday afternoon at a local record store for Michael Murphey to arrive.

The radio station made ready for a remote-broadcast interview and the TV station was on standby with its mini-cam. People milled about, up and down the aisles. Most of them carried at least one of Murphey's albums. At the cash register, ticket after ticket was selling for that night's concert.

He was to arrive at 3:30. Right on time, he walked up the sidewalk. The crowd didn't notice.

Murphey was just going to walk in the front door — alone, no fanfare, no introduction. But about 10 steps from the door he was met by a man from the radio station who handed him a T-shirt bearing the station logo. The man directed Murphey into the backseat of a small car and the car pulled away.

About 10 minutes later as "Cosmic Cowboy" began to play, the crowd cheered and Murphey walked out from the back of the store with a radio station-entourage. He was wearing the T-shirt. The interview was inaudible from the back of the crowd. But everyone watched Murphey talk and flash his charismatic smile.

The crowd was at least 90 percent female. And after saying how "good-looking" she considered Murphey, one girl whispered to a friend, "He's a lot smaller than I thought."

"Really, they're never the same in person," someone said sarcastically. Embarrassed, the girl giggled.

The crowd had been gathered around the interview set in a semi-circle, leaving some distance between it and Murphey. That distance wouldn't last long.

"OK, I think we're ready to do this," he said as the interview ended. The stereo played the chorus of Murphey's "Healing Springs" as the semi-circle tightened and autograph-seekers engulfed him. "Bring the lame, the halt, the blind..."

Murphey posed for pictures and signed albums and posters for a solid hour and a half. His smile never quit and never seemed put-on or forced. He greeted each fan as if he or she were first in line. Murphey seemed genuinely interested. He displayed the same sincerity always present in his music.

If he's an act, he's a consistent one.

That night, Murphey played to an enthusiastic crowd that three-quarters filled the 1,500-seat Bryan Civic Auditorium.

"I play a lot of small halls," he said. "This is the smallest hall I've played in Bryan in the last four years. But that's just because we've worked for the college the last four years and this year they just felt like it was gonna start lookin' suspicious if they kept bringing back Michael Murphey."

"You've gotta have change. So this year they wanted to do some other people in concert and I think they were right in deciding so. But at the same time I wanted to come back and play for the people who've supported me."

And Murphey did play. Two hours and three encores after the concert started, he walked off stage. The crowd was mesmerized.

"I feel in some ways that tonight was the most special concert that I ever had here in town," Murphey said later. "In spite of all the enthusiasm and hoop-la at the A&M shows, this audience was really an incredibly respectful, kind audience that listened one minute and really got energetic at the next."

"Tonight was just really special for me because these people didn't get in for nothin'. They paid to see the show. They wanted to be here. They weren't here just because their student ID got 'em in. And that really means somethin' to me."

Murphey came out wearing a



Michael Murphey takes time for an interview after his Wednesday night concert in Bryan Civic Auditorium.

Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

cowboy hat and boots and did play "Cosmic Cowboy" toward the end of the concert, but the set reflected musical changes his career has undergone.

"I catch flak about it once in a while, but it only fans the flame," he said. "It doesn't discourage me, it encourages me. I know I'm going in the right direction when there are some people who don't approve. Because when everybody's your friend and everybody likes what you're doin', you're in trouble —

you're stagnating. "Somebody's gonna have to look at it and say, 'Hey, aren't you changin'?' And if you're not changin', if you're not experimenting around and moving on musically, you die. You play the same thing every night."

"I'm too intrigued with music to let that drag me down. I like to play. I'm not worried about my image."

Two hundred years ago I don't think anybody said, 'Hey Bach, we like your string quartets, but stay away from the organ and sacred music.'"

ALTERATIONS

IN THE GRAND TRADITION OF OLD TEXAS WHERE MOTHER TAUGHT DAUGHTER THE FINE ART OF SEWING — SO HELEN MARIE TAUGHT EDITH MARIE THE SECRETS OF SEWING AND ALTERATIONS.

"DON'T GIVE UP — WE'LL MAKE IT FIT!"



AT WELCH'S CLEANERS, WE NOT ONLY SERVE AS AN EXCELLENT DRY CLEANERS BUT WE SPECIALIZE IN ALTERING HARD TO FIT EVENING DRESSES, TAPERED SHIRTS, JEAN HEMS, WATCH POCKETS, ETC.

(WE'RE JUST A FEW BLOCKS NORTH OF FED MART.)

WELCH'S CLEANERS
3819 E. 29th (TOWN & COUNTRY SHOPPING CENTER)

TEXAS HALL OF FAME

Presents

Jess Demaine and Austin

Friday night 7-12
Admission \$2 per person

SATURDAY NIGHT
— SPECIAL ATTRACTION —
DOTTSY

\$3.50 per person advanced tickets 8-1
Advanced tickets sold at WTAW, Tip Top and Texas Hall of Fame.



RE-ELECT

JIM BOB COATES
YOUR
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
SENATOR



IF WE HAD A FEW MORE TO WORK WITH THIS ONE WOULDN'T BE SO DAMNED IMPORTANT

PEACE CORPS/VISTA REPS ON CAMPUS:
NEXT WEEK - MONDAY & TUESDAY
SENIORS/GRADS: Sign up NOW for an interview and pick up an application packet at Career Planning and Placement, 10th floor Rudder Tower.

Learn about the unique and challenging ways you can use your degree.

Peace Corps
A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

VISTA VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA

Beautiful Cedar Ridge

A Nice Place To Live



ONE MONTH FREE RENT
(call for details)

RENT BY THE MONTH

WE OFFER YOU

BRY-CAL

A PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT CO.

846-3733 24 Hours

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION
AUSTIN-PLEASANTON

2 Bdrm Unfurnished. All Built-Ins including Dish-washer, Laundry Hook-Ups, \$240.

Brand New Units Located on Fifeather Rd. Just North of Villa Maria. Convenient to TAMU & the Bryan Golf Course, as well as the B-CS Business & Industrial area.

ISOS
TOTAL FITNESS CENTER

Clip this ad for one free workout.

693-7823

Southwood Valley Center / 1808 Brothers Blvd., Suite H
College Station, Tx. 77840



How about some beans & cornbread for lunch? Just a 1.95... weekdays at **Fort Shiloh**
Hwy. 6 South, College Station



Formerly Mama's Pizza

"There's no pizza like Pasta's Pizza"

Pasta's is a new name — We have new menu items but we still have the same great pizza. Come in and see us now.

To acquaint you Aggies with our new name, we are offering a \$6.95 value t-shirt for only \$2.00 with Free personalization at Loupot's.

NOON BUFFET SPECIAL \$2.29

11-2 MON.-FRI.
ALL THE SALAD AND PIZZA YOU WANT WITH DRINK

BRING THIS AD IN FOR A 10% discount on any order!

807 Texas Ave.
College Station
696-3380

TO-GO'S

DELIVERIES

WANTED

THE NAVY and THE MARINES
ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW
GOOD SOPHOMORES

To

Apply For The Two-Year NROTC Program

- * Attend six weeks of summer training at Newport, Rhode Island, 27 June to 11 August and receive \$600 plus room and board.
- * Receive \$100 per month during your junior and senior academic years.
- * Candidates who graduate near the top of their class may qualify for a two year scholarship which provides tuition, books, fees, and \$100 per month.

Contact The NROTC Unit

ROOM 106 MILITARY SCIENCE BLDG.

845-1775