

Local

Called a 'Great American'  
Hope keeps Aggies laughing

By SCOT K. MEYER  
Battalion Staff  
And then there's the one about the grasshopper named Thorndike... Bob Hope gave a fast-paced show Friday night that was well received by the sell-out Aggie crowd.  
"I was here 20 years ago," Hope said, "and I want to thank you for inviting me back."  
Hope started off by telling the photographers "not to take any no-nonsense shots."  
Hope then started talking about a golf game he had recently played. He spoke of the game in a relaxed manner, as if it were a game we all might have played ourselves. And he mentions people that we (at least those of us in the television generation) all know.  
So he does Sammy Davis Jr. jokes, Jimmy Stewart jokes, Liberace jokes, Danny Thomas jokes, Dean Martin jokes and Jerry Ford jokes.  
But you don't have to have a subscription to People magazine to understand his references. All you need to know is that Ford is clumsy, Martin drinks, Stewart talks slowly, etc.  
Hope also got the audience on his side by dropping in frequent references to this area, so that the audience would know that it wasn't the

same routine he does everywhere he goes.  
For example, he looked around G. Rollie White and said, "yeah, I remember this garage." He later was discussing the way most people, when they get face lifts, "go off to some foreign place — like Switzerland or North Zulch." Still later, when discussing smog, Hope said that Los Angeles had a bad reputation, but that any large city had the same problem. The examples he gave were New York, Pittsburgh and Bryan. Such references gave the concert a personal touch.  
Along the same lines, Hope said that he loved the South. "Whenever I'm not in the North, East or West, that's where you'll find me," he said.  
When discussing political figures, his jokes were topical, but not political. Jimmy Carter is ribbed for being from the South (an indoor plumbing joke and a grits joke), for his smile ("Carter's had his teeth buffed, he looks pretty good"), and for his brother Billy (He wants to be born again — as Ronald Reagan's brother). I also seem to remember a few peanut jokes.  
The joke on Ronald Reagan dealt with his age ("I hope he makes it this time; his hair can't stay that color forever.")

There may have been a political stance apparent in the fact that Reagan was only the target of one joke, but that may have been due to a reading of the crowd's mood.  
In another joke, Hope suggested Don Rickles as ambassador to Iran: a thought that apparently appealed to the audience.  
He also made a few comments on his recent trip to the Soviet Union. "It was a very successful trip," he said, "I got out." Also: "the hotel rooms in Russia take a little getting used to — the TV sets watch you."  
The last one is a very old joke, but although I'm sure everyone had heard it before, it still got laughs. Which only proves a rule that Hope probably lives by; that it's all a matter of timing.  
And Hope is a master of timing. He sets some of his punch lines before the audience as though they were sons of his that he is particularly proud of. He pauses after the joke, and the famous Bob Hope smile creeps across his face, drawing laughs from people as if by magic.  
Other times his punch lines slip out as parentheticals, as if they were amusing after-thoughts he had just had.  
Another good reason to laugh at Hope's jokes is that to not do so

would be a clear sign of un-Americanism. Cause lets face it, baseball, Mom and apple pie may be all right, but Bob Hope is what Americana is all about.  
Hope was introduced as "a great American," and it is obviously a title he is quite proud to hold. At one point he sang a medley of songs about different regions of the good ole U.S. of A., and although singing isn't really his strongest talent, he got a standing ovation. The song ended:  
*Give a cheer, hip hip hooray,  
Let's hear it for the USA.*  
Hope said that this country could stand a little patriotism, and he complimented Texas A&M students for what he perceived as a similar attitude. The students at this University have served as an example for the rest of the country, even during the sixties "and the Viet Nam thing," he said.  
I don't know about everyone else, but the funniest moments in the whole evening for me came when acting President Charles Samson was trying to be solemn, and present a few special honors and plaques to Hope. And Hope was giggling over the funny noises (whoops and such) that Aggies make.

TAT cancels performance

The Texas Actor's Theater did not perform over the weekend.  
The acting company had been scheduled to perform three plays by Sam Shepard at Backstage restaurant Friday and Saturday night.  
Sharon Barrow, the business manager for the company, said that during the dress rehearsal Wednesday night the manager of Backstage told them that one of the plays, "Rock Garden," was too vulgar to perform.  
Barrow said the group decided to call off the presentation all together. The Texas Actor's Theater will not

be performing at Backstage in the future, Barrow said. "We can't deal with having to submit scripts for approval," she said.

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Arts council seeks local ag artifacts

By TIM McALAVY  
Battalion Reporter  
The Brazos Arts Council is seeking donations of early agricultural artifacts from local residents for display in a Smithsonian Institute exhibit entitled "American Agriculture: A Continuing Revolution."  
Jody Bates, director of the exhibit, said the display will be at the Brazos Center from Oct. 22 through Nov. 6.  
The exhibit contains text and period photographs documenting the development of American agriculture over the past 200 years.  
Brought to the Brazos Valley under the sponsorship of the Brazos Valley Arts Council and the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Division, the exhibit will feature kitchen implements, childrens toys, hand tools and cultivation machinery set in a re-creation of an early Brazos Valley homestead.  
"All they (area residents) have to do is call the Arts Council at the Brazos Center and we will be happy to pick up, care for and return these artifacts," Bates said.  
A preview pioneer-style supper is also planned for Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m., and will feature a short talk by Texas A&M professor emeritus Dr. Milton Nance on "Agriculture in the Brazos Valley."  
The exhibit will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

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