

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 11, 1980

Slouch By Jim Earle



"This is my way of keeping the graduating seniors on their toes."

Concert motives questioned

Co-sponsoring arrangement opens door for abuse

Who is Mary K. Miller and why is she coming to Texas A&M University?
She's a former Las Vegas entertainer and wife of a wealthy Houston builder and developer. She's coming to our campus to sing tonight — and I wish she weren't.

The MSC Town Hall and Opera and Performing Arts Society Committees are presenting the free concert in Rudder Auditorium. College Station Bank is paying for it.

Two months ago, Miller's millionaire husband, Vincent Kickerillo, proposed the idea to have the concert at Texas A&M.

He is College Station Bank's majority stockholder.

That bank opened here last year and moved to a new building on Texas Avenue in November. Tonight's concert is the grand finale of College Station Bank's grand opening week.

Kickerillo's bank is giving the Texas A&M community a free concert — and a trip for two to Las Vegas for a "lucky" ticketholder — in exchange for some publicity.

To that businessman, this may be good PR. To the Town Hall and OPAS committees, this may be a good deal. But to this Aggie, this is NOT good bull.

The Town Hall and OPAS committee members approved the program since it is entertainment during Dead Week with no financial risk involved. Volunteers from those committees have handled the publicity and will serve as ushers tonight.

Coffee breaks

By Jane Brust

The Singing Cadets agreed to open Miller's variety act and also do the finale with her.

It seems that the parties involved decided to present this program based on its entertainment merits alone without consideration for the promotion of College Station Bank.

True, the publicity posters read, "MSC Town Hall & OPAS Student Committee presents Mary K. Miller" instead of "Town Hall and OPAS and College Station Bank present Mary K. Miller," but the bank still gets the credit at the bottom of each poster.

The concert has also been advertised in The Battalion. And, yes, the ads read the same as the posters.

Kickerillo is paying for the show through donations to the University's Enrichment Fund. Those donations will completely pay for the Town Hall and OPAS presentation; those committees will pay nothing.

The Enrichment Fund Committee approves specific expenditures for programs approved by MSC committees, and donations made for a

specific program are legitimate. But get out of hand.

The MSC committees often receive money from commercial organizations that do not or partially fund particular programs whose names are attached. The committees do a program by which ones to present.

Some groups perform exclusively for commercial groups sponsoring them. For example, when the Pepsi-Cola skate team do a program on skating safety, that's with all the publicity. That group is Pepsi-Cola — that's what they do.

But the Mary K. Miller concert is different. She is a professional entertainer.

She is a professional entertainer. This is not singing for College Station Bank; that's just what she's doing tonight.

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It's exploitation. This program is the Town Hall and OPAS committee who are promoting it, the Singing Cadets are participating in it and the University putting up with it.

Mary K. Miller might be good entertainment, and College Station Bank might be a good one. But no one should have to present tonight's concert. It's a big deal.

Let's hope this program does not lead to other programs to come to campus in other promotional schemes.

Mourn Lennon, for we have lost a voice

By RUSTY CAWLEY

He was the illegitimate son of a British merchant seaman. His mother died during his childhood and he was raised by his Aunt Mimi in working-class Liverpool. He fought his way into leadership of a five-man skiffle band called "The Quarrymen." Soon they became "Johnny and the Moondogs," later "The Silver Beatles." They played for 11 hours straight, 7 days each week, in Hamburg night clubs. They returned to England, and became the best-selling recording act in the history of music.

If Paul McCartney was the heart of the Beatles, George Harrison the body, and Ringo Starr the soul, then John Lennon was the mind. Without him, the Beatles would have been just another rock act, and would have faded into obscurity with Gerry and the Pacemakers. He provided the drive for their rise to fame, and the inspiration for their musical experiments. He virtually conceived and created studio recording as an art form.

News programs since his death have eulogized Lennon again and again as being as important as Bach, Beethoven, or Brahms. That's inaccurate, for Lennon was much more a poet than a composer. He should be remembered instead as being in realm of Shelley, Keats and Rimbaud. His influence on his times, however,

He was the classic figure of a man that was either loved or hated. Youth loved him for his honesty and his individualism. The "Establishment" hated him for these same qualities, though they viewed them as rudeness and eccentricity. Lennon could not understand how nations could buy arms when their citizens were starving. He could not see how one person could hate another because of the color of his skin. He could not come to grips with the violence and misery man perpetrates upon fellow man. And he screamed. So the dogs turned on him.

The dogs got their first chance in 1966 when newspapers across the nation misquoted Lennon as saying that the Beatles "are bigger than Jesus Christ." What Lennon really said was that their fans treated the Beatles as if they were greater than Christ. He didn't say that to boast. He said it in disgust. People actually brought crutches to the Beatles to heal. They erected temples to worship "The Fab Four." Lennon never asked to be worshiped, or even adored. He just asked to be heard.

Reader's forum

He warned us about Nixon's police-state long before Watergate. He vehemently opposed the Vietnam War when such a position was still dangerous stand for a celebrity to take. He spoke of the dangers of bureaucratic government years ahead of the Libertarian Party.

So the dogs attacked again, viciously.

The courts ruled him unfit to serve as a stepfather for Yoko Ono Lennon's daughter from her first marriage. The U.S. Immigration Service sought to deport him to England based on his misdemeanor conviction on possession of marijuana. The conviction was later proved to be a frame. Lennon's immigration case was dropped suddenly in 1976, just before the Nixon-Ford Administration left office.

After almost 12 years of this, Lennon finally declared his retirement in 1975. He and Yoko went to Japan, had a son, and became a family. For five years, Lennon didn't touch his guitar. Then, earlier this year, he decided to record again. He'd found his peace, within himself. He had a family and an identity separate from that of the other Beatles.

He was about to let us all into what he had found. But Monday night, Mark David Chapman and his scrambled-egg of a brain ended John Lennon's life.

For anyone who has decided to treat Lennon's death lightly, I ask only that you pull out your history book. Look at Western culture before 1964 and after 1964. That's the year the Beatles first arrived in America. Sample the music, examine the fashions, analyze the entire sociological trends of that era. If you look closely, you will see Lennon's influence in all of it. He was not a savior, nor a prophet, but simply a voice. An original. A fountain of ideas that was far from dry.

Now he is dead, and there is no one to replace him. No one. Mourn his death, and your loss as well.

Rusty Cawley is a senior journalism major from Bryan. He has served as a staff reporter, city editor and news editor for The Battalion.



It's your turn

Traditions criticism belongs elsewhere

Editor:

To all those, past and present, who have written The Battalion complaining about our traditions here at A&M: hear me out! I am growing weary of picking up the Batt and having to read your selfish remarks criticizing most of the traditions that make A&M unique. The Batt is the University paper, we (I speak for many) don't want to hear from those of you who don't care for some special part of A&M. The list of complaints is almost endless, but the one that gets to me the most is the criticism of bonfire. Why do I have to read letters from those of you who claim it's a waste or a fire hazard, or the one who thought we should use the resources to feed the starving; these are quite sympathetic guys, but who cares what you think. If you don't like our blazing fire, then don't go; we won't miss you. Bonfire is a great part of spirit at A&M and it's here to stay. One last appeal, don't cry on the shoulders of those who probably outnumber you 100 to 1. If you want to get something off your mind, there are more appropriate places to write. How long has it been since you wrote to mom? The Batt is an

above average University newspaper with one exception, change the name of "It's Your Turn" to "Negative Feedback." Come on Ags, if you want to write in, take a few cheap shots at t.u. or your professors, but I see no need for you to stab yourself in the back.

Gerry Albanese '83

Stanislav receives praise

Editor:

Courage, in true form seems to have escaped

most members of the Corps, with the notable exception of Mr. Paul Stanislav.

Although most Corps members feel that it is directly related to brawn, muscle, and a biting tongue, it's nice to know someone in the Corps has real courage. So Mr. Stanislav, you receive my admiration and pride for speaking your mind. The walls evident the walls may tumble down your head.

Let's just hope the Trigon and other upstanding Corps members won't let this be a response to truth.

Jean T. Long

Warped



By Scott McCullar

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