Local

MSC looking for answers to increasing concert costs

By AUGUST SKOPIK
Battalion Reporter

Because of a rise in concert production costs and the use of sound systems too powerful for G. Rollie White Coliseum, the MSC Directorate is thinking of putting a ceiling on production costs, says Richard Reynolds, assistant director of the Memorial Student Center.

"Concert production costs have risen astronomically in recent years," Reynolds said. "The average production cost for a group such as The Charlie Daniels Band, The Little River Band or Jimmy Buffet is between $7,000 and $7,500 per concert."

Each group contracts for production work for a tour, Reynolds said, which usually includes transportation, sound systems, lighting, truck drivers and technicians.

"We have increasingly been informed that this production fee is not a negotiable fee," Reynolds said. "We're not sure what a production ceiling will do to the type of performers we are able to bring to Texas A&M.

"A lot of research needs to be done with each group's different production costs before we can make any definite decisions."

But rising production costs are not the only problems in bringing a performer to Texas A&M.

"Heart (the musical group) had so much equipment we couldn't hold them in G. Rollie White," said Jan Rainey, publicity chairman for the MSC Town Hall Committee.

"We desperately need a new concert hall for Texas A&M," she said. "The major problem when bringing groups to Texas A&M is the size of the concert hall, not the amount allowable for production costs."

For the Charlie Daniels performance, the stage in the coliseum had to be increased from 28 feet by 40 feet to 40 feet by 52 feet, with two separate 16-by-16 wings to hold sound equipment.

"We had to go to Dallas to rent the extra sections of stage needed and we had to incur the additional expense," Reynolds said. "This was an extra charge which was not included in the production costs."

Reynolds gave several reasons for the rise in production costs. "I assume that every artist wants state-of-the-art technology traveling with him; the artist wants to put on more of a production, and the transportation costs are rising because of gas prices," he said.

"We can still get some good groups if we put a ceiling on production costs — there are some good groups that will perform with our sound system," he said.

ISA hosts SG presidential candidate forum Thursday

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Reporter

The International Student Association hosted a platform presentation Thursday night for the four candidates for 1981-82 Student Government president.

Each candidate talked about his qualifications, issue stands, ideas and plans for the office. The four candidates are David Collins, a junior political science major from Lubbock; Ken Johnson, a junior agricultural economics major from Nacogdoches; Marc Schneider, a junior political science major from Humble; and Matt Woodruff, a junior psychology major from Houston.

Collins, vice president for external affairs, said he believes the student body president should be responsible, able to cope with problems, and most importantly, should "have the ability to sit down and communicate with people on a one-to-one basis."

He said the educational environment of the University must stay at a high level and "teaching must not be overshadowed by research."

Collins said he would like to encourage contact between student senators and their constituents, improve the financial aid program, and increase the amount of academic counseling given to students.

Johnson, speaker of the student senate, said he feels the student body president should be a "strong advocate of students' needs" and should "ensure that Student Government remains in close touch with its constituency."

He added that the holder of this office "needs to be a strong and viable voice for the students."

Schneider has been a student senator for two years, and he said the president should "represent the students' views and voice their interests."

He said he wants to provide more services for students, "preserve and enhance traditions" and encourage more involvement of off-campus students in school activities.

Woodruff, acting president of Alpha Phi Omega, said a main responsibility of the student body president is to "present a good, solid image of this school across the state."

He said he plans to be "assertive in standing up for the students' viewpoints" and to "run an efficient executive branch so that the utmost potential for student service is attained."

Council makes new law for used jewelry dealers

By BELINDA McCOY
Battalion Staff

Dealers buying used jewelry and precious metals in College Station will soon find themselves doing some paperwork if they want to stay in the city.

The College Station City Council Thursday night approved an ordinance regulating the purchase of used jewelry and precious metals within the city.

The new ordinance requires dealers to keep records of the name, address, physical description and driver's license number of the seller of any used jewelry, money, silverware or precious metal, a description of the property purchased, and the date and time of purchase.

Dealers will be required to purchase a $50 annual city permit. They will also be required to obtain a signed warranty from the seller that the seller has the right to sell the property.

"This (ordinance) will regulate those selling precious metals which perhaps does not belong to them," Mayor Gary Halter said.

Under the new law, the dealer will be required to wait 72 hours after the purchase before he can alter or sell the property, and no person below the age of 18 will be allowed to sell used jewelry or precious metals unless he has the written consent of a parent or guardian.

The ordinance requires the owner of a temporary used jewelry business in the city to deliver the records of purchases to the chief of police within 24 hours of terminating the temporary location.

The council agreed to cooperate with the city of Bryan in a joint effort to build an animal shelter. The shelter will be located on the 2200 block of Finfeather Road in Bryan. It will be operated by the Humane Society and the Brazos County Animal Shelter foundation and will provide practical experience for students at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Halter said.

Eight civic organizations requested support funds in a public hearing. These funds would be allocated from the city's revenue sharing funds provided by the federal government and Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax fund.

Money in the Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax fund comes from taxes collected by the city on rented hotel and motel rooms. One-fourth of the fund must be used to promote tourism, and the rest may be used to promote tourism and the arts or develop businesses and industry, said City Manager North Bardell.

In closed session, the council voted to add $7,200 to appropriations for additional staff and office furniture for the City Planning Department.

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For more information please call
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