

Group combines sincerity, talent

# Alabama a real crowd-pleaser

by Bernie Fette  
Battalion Staff

Town Hall should no longer be criticized for failing to attract the "big groups." If the committee can keep bringing in performing groups like Alabama, who needs the "big groups?"

Alabama, currently one of the most popular country music bands in the nation, presented superb musical talent and a warm stage presence to a near-capacity audience in G. Rollie White Coliseum Sunday night.

"We've wanted to play here at this university for a long time," lead vocalist Randy Owen told listeners at the beginning of the show. Although it's the kind of line you'd expect from almost any entertainer, you could soon tell that it was meant sincerely this time.

Owen, lead guitarist Jeff Cook, bass player Teddy Gentry (all three cousins) and drummer Mark Herndon presented a set dominated by songs made popular by an undeterminable number of Saturday night dance hall bands.

On "Love in the First Degree," "Feels So Right" and "Why Lady, Why?" the band offered some of the finest harmony since the Gatlin brothers appeared at Texas A&M almost two years ago.

The band's southern pride was reflected in the lyrics of "My Home's in Alabama." "I'm in the Heart of Dixie, Dixie's in the heart of me."

Through it all, the highly receptive audience was on its feet — clapping, singing and swaying.

The same type of personal stage presence was noticeable in Janie Frickie, who opened the evening's performance.

Frickie, possessing one of the most versatile voices in Country music, performed as comfortably on the flowing ease of "Please Help Me, I'm Fallin'" as she did with her hard-driving rendition of "Heartbreak Hotel."

To top off the performance, Alabama, Frickie and Frickie's band combined forces to get the audience stomping and clapping one last time to "Rollin' in my Sweet Baby's Arms."



Alabama lead guitarist Jeff Cook demonstrates his musical versatility. staff photo by David Fisher

# Sign-up begins for College Bowl

by Ann Ramsbottom  
Battalion Reporter

Students wanting to compete in the Texas A&M College Bowl tournament must register before Sept. 17, the student programs committee chairman says.

Christine Hanks, College Bowl chairman, said students may register for the competition in the Student Programs Office on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center. The fee is \$3.75 for individual entries and \$15 per team.

She called the competition the varsity sport of the mind.

The tournament is a double-elimination contest in which students competing as individuals

or on teams of four are quizzed on subjects such as history, engineering, art or trivia. Anyone can compete, but only one graduate student can participate on a team.

Competition will begin Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. in Rudder Tower and will continue each Wednesday in October. At the end of the tournament, plaques and certificates will be awarded at a banquet.

An All-Star team — including the high-scoring individuals in the tournament — will represent the University and compete for scholarships in regional competition later this year.

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# Sea grant gets \$1.7 million

by Kathy Breard  
Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M Sea Grant Program has received more than \$1.7 million in federal funds — a notable achievement — since the Reagan administration has tried to cut the program, the program director says.

Congressional support for the program, which funds marine-related research and education, has been the main reason for its continuation, Sea Grant Director Feenan Jennings said.

He added that constituents in eastern seaboard states — Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts — have pressured

their congressmen to support the program.

However, Jennings said: "It isn't just backing by people who make a living from the sea that promotes Sea Grant. It contributes to the economic development of the country."

The program contributes about \$225 million a year to the country's economy, according to a study by Sea Grant directors across the United States.

Aside from Texas A&M, several other schools benefit from the Sea Grant program. Research at the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, and other institutions

is aided by the program.

In addition to research, the program sponsors curriculum development, marine advisory services, and graduate student fellowships.

One example of a project supported by Sea Grant is the study of shrimp mariculture. The study is aimed at developing a stronger shrimp industry in the United States, said Laura Colunga, head of marine resources information at Texas A&M.


"Such a development is not a threat to U.S. shrimpers, but would decrease the amount imported, which is currently 50

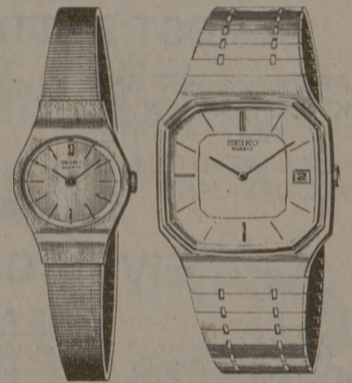
percent of U.S. shrimp," she said.

Finally, Jennings said, the future for Sea Grant looks encouraging, since a proposal for \$25 million for the 1983 fiscal year — an increase from last year — has passed in the House of Representatives and is on its way to the Senate.

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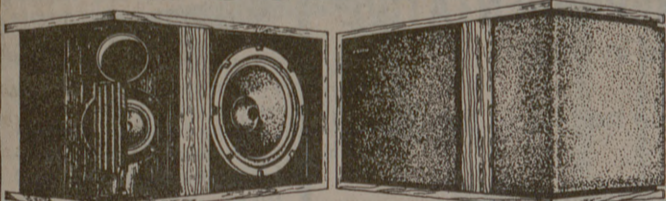
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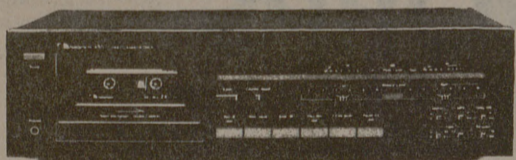
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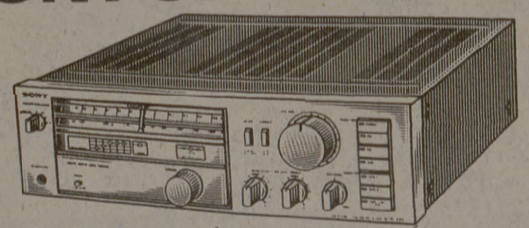
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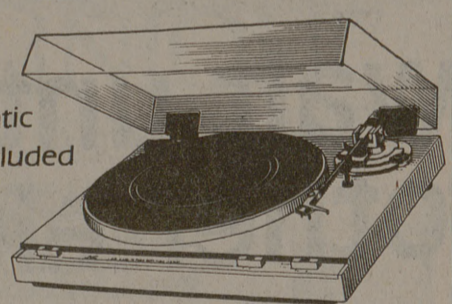
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