

# Antmusic thrills crowd

by Gary Barker  
Battalion Reviewer

When I was in the third grade I saw Elvis Presley perform at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. It was the typical Elvis performance: the gyrating hips, the white leather suit, the sexy machismo — and the screaming fans.

At the end of the performance, Elvis got in a car, drove around the inside perimeter of the Astrodome and threw his white scarf into the audience; needless to say, there was a passionate scramble for its ownership.

Adam Ant, who performed here Sunday, has something of that same mystique — just updated with make-up, new costumes and MTV visual effects. And when Ant threw his black, sweaty half-shirt into the audience in the G. Rollie White Coliseum, the reaction was nearly the same.

Ant, like Elvis, has gone back to the roots of rock 'n' roll for his sound. Elvis relied on the style of the black singers of the 1950s: Chuck Berry, Little Richard and the like. But Ant went back quite a bit further — to African tribal music. He relies on the heavy

beat of two drum sets for his rhythmic sound.

Ant and Elvis have another trait in common: self-centered showmanship. Ant's showmanship, which tends to turn into self-promotion at times, really shined on songs like "Ant Invasion" and "Antmusic," from his days with Adam and the Ants. In the title song of his current solo debut, "Friend or Foe," Ant sings: "I want those who get to know me to become admirers or my enemies."

The self-promotion is tolerable most of the time; after all, Ant's songs are catchy, crowd-pleasing, spirited and fun. And judging from the audience reaction Sunday night, there were only Ant admirers.

Opening the show for Adam Ant was INXS (pronounced "in excess"), a new band from Sydney, Australia, that is currently touring to promote their American debut album, "Shabooch Shoobah." The group, borrowing a little from the neo-reggae sounds of fellow Australians Men At Work, worked the small audience (evidently finals kept a lot of students away) into excitement with songs like "Old World/New World."

One of their best songs was "Don't Change." On that song, the drummer kept the band tight through their constantly changing rhythms. Judging from the reception of their album and their live show, INXS will continue to climb in popularity and deservedly so — but they could take some lessons on stage presence from Ant.

If the audience — probably more than half local junior and high school students — was excited over INXS, it was ecstatic when Ant came out.

To a tune that sounded remarkably like the soundtrack to "Rocky III," Ant's accompanying musicians were introduced. Then Ant — dressed in pirate jacket, six gun and leather pants — joined them. The girls swooned when Ant opened with "Try This For Sighs" and went straight into "Goody Two Shoes."

Ant made it clear from the start that he was a visual performer; he did dance routines with his three-member horn section and made excellent use of a fog machine, a mirror ball and lights.

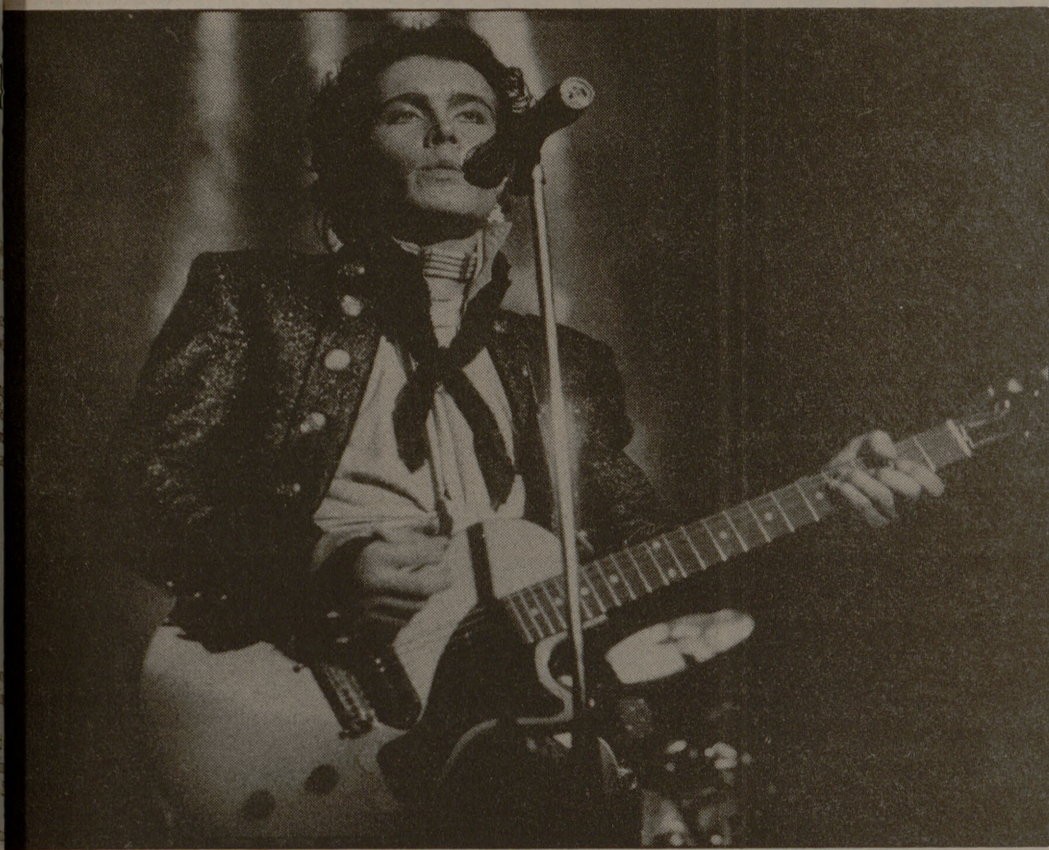
To many of his older songs, like "Ant Invasion" off the

Adam and the Ants album "Kings of the Wild Frontier," Ant added new brass instrumentation, provided by the versatile trio, to his tribal sound.

It was on his older songs, like "Dog Eat Dog" and "Antmusic," that Ant's voice really shined. On "Los Rancheros," another song off "Kings of the Wild Frontier," Ant had the audience accompany him by chanting "Clint Eastwood."

After "Rancheros," Ant provided a flashy, dramatic entrance for Marco Perroni, Ant's guitar-playing partner and the sole-surviving Ant who had been mysteriously absent from stage. Perroni should have come on stage sooner since Ant's other guitarist lacked the punch to lead the group on "Rancheros." But most of the time, Ant was willing to trade musicianship for show.

On the next song, "Desparate But Not Serious," Perroni proved he was Ant's premier guitarist. Then, as if inspired by Perroni's musicianship, the horn section warmed up and went into a sparkling performance of "Friend or Foe" and got a standing ovation.



staff photo by Bill Schulz

Adam Ant danced and sang his way into Texas A&M's heart Sunday night in G. Rollie White. The

concert blended Ant's tunes with his own brand of energy-filled showmanship.

## Summer

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Kathy Livingston, manager at Charli's, agrees with Palieri. There is a decline in business at Charli at the beginning of the summer but then the local people begin to come and make up for the decline, she said.

"I guess they (local people) wait for the students to leave," Livingston said.

However, the local crowd does not always make up for the decline in the number of students.

Lee Madson, a manager at Interurban Eating House, said Interurban experiences about a 10 percent to 15 percent drop in business.

Madson said the local people and families go out more often during the summer because they believe the places they go will be less rowdy. He said Interurban is not a rowdy establishment so there is not much of an increase in the amount of locals during the summer.

While most businesses experience some loss, even if minimal, the Electric Cowboy's business picks up during the summer.

"Business is steadier during the week during the summer

than during the fall or spring semesters," Tommy Ruddock, manager of the night club said.

Ruddock said students tend to go out more often during the summer than during the regular school year. He also attributes the rise in business to the size and location of the club. Students tend to go to the smaller clubs during the summer, he said.

"We're a lot smaller," Ruddock said of the Electric Cowboy. "So when there's 10 or 20 people here, it looks like a good crowd so people come in and stay," Ruddock said.

Ruddock said business at other western clubs, which are much bigger and farther away than the Electric Cowboy, drops immensely during the summer.

Many businesses that experience a loss during the summer balance the losses with fewer employees.

"You have to shave off here and there and you can keep up," Madson said.

Carter said there are fewer work shifts at Pizza Express during the summer.

Jim Page, manager at Graham Central Station, said employee adjustments have to be made.

## Plane crash kills four

NEW BRAUNFELS — Three planes of Interstate 35 were closed early Tuesday as investigators examined debris from a private plane that struck a high voltage line and crashed shortly before midnight, killing four people, authorities said.

The plane crashed into a wheat field about a half mile from I-35 just south of New Braunfels at about 11:55 p.m. Monday, said David Ott, a spokesman for the Comal County sheriff's department.

Allan Kempf, a Department of Public Safety spokesman in San Antonio, said officials were working to identify the victims

in the Monday night crash of the Cessna 182R, which was registered to San Antonio attorney Galen Gilbert, 33.

Kempf said Gilbert's car was found Tuesday parked at the San Antonio Airport, and that he failed to show up for a scheduled court appearance. However, he said officials could not yet confirm that Gilbert was aboard the plane.

Although the pilot had filed no flight plan in San Antonio, the plane was believed bound from San Marcos, he said. National Transportation Board investigators were expected at the scene late Tuesday morning.

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