

Air Supply great for soft rockers

by Rebeca Zimmermann
Battalion Staff

If you like Air Supply's music, the group's concert was great Friday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum. If you don't like the group's sentimental music, the light show was interesting.

Air Supply, an Australian-based group known for its pop ballads, has had a number of hits in the United States, and the group played all of them for the appreciative audience. Some of the female audience members were so appreciative they screamed for every number.

The group's performance began with a "dramatic" entrance using special lighting effects and sound reminiscent of "Star Wars." Lavish use of smoke, green laser lights, optical effects projected on a screen and various colored lights continued throughout the performance.

Beginning with the entrance (which would be better suited to some gorgeous teen idol hunk), the band's stage presence was at odds with its romantic music. Graham Russell, singer and rhythm guitarist, often detracted from the music's mood by bouncing around onstage.

By the third song of the performance, "Even the Nights Are Better," lead singer Russell Hitchcock's powerful voice had warmed up and carried the high melody line well and established the emotional intensity for the group's songs. Graham Russell, whose voice is breathier and rougher than Hitchcock's, had some problems with some of his falsetto parts.

The group played its hit songs "Here I Am," "Every Woman in the World," "The One That You Love" and "Sweet Dreams," as well as some lesser known pieces.

Special effects for the beginning of "Sweet Dreams" included smoke spilling over the stage and covering front-row audience members. Blue and green computer optics on the back screen and other lighting effects created a scene similar to an Orange Bowl halftime show produced by the Disney people. The smoke use was corny but lighting effects were an interesting break from the drippy love lyrics.

Air Supply also performed a

new song, "You're Only in Love," that will be recorded soon for the group's next album. The number, however, sounds much the same as Air Supply's previous music.

Russell introduced a lesser known song from the "Now and Forever" album as the song "to make a move on your date." The song, "Don't Be Afraid," began seriously and emotionally, but a member of the stage crew added some much needed comic relief. He loomed up in the background wearing a Halloween mask and imitated Russell's movements. Every time Russell glanced back, the crew member moved out of the way.

For the encore, Hitchcock said the concert at Texas A&M was the last concert for the band's 1983 U.S. tour, so it was "time to get crazy." Hitchcock's idea of "getting crazy" was performing the 1980 hit "All Out of Love" and "Making Love," the group's current U.S. hit.

The group's songs aren't musically difficult and the lyrics are basically sentimental drivel.

But that didn't stop the crowd from screaming and giving several standing ovations to the group.

The concert, sponsored by MSC Town Hall, opened with John Hall. A former member of the group Orleans, Hall got the crowd clapping right away with "Still the One," a song made famous as a theme song for the ABC network. Hall's performance was short and simple but marred by some pitch problems. He got a few boos when he played a song written for a "no nukes" concert but closed with a more popular number, "Dance With Me," a popular song in the 1970s.

Remains found of missing pilot

United Press International
KIM, Colo. — Las Animas County officials Saturday recovered the remains of a pilot from the pulverized remains of a light plane missing since Oct. 8 on a flight from Buffalo, Wyo., to Odessa, Texas.

Lt. Robert Aguilar declined to name the pilot but the man's identity was released several days ago as Richard "Buck" Kruse, 57, of Odessa.

He was believed to be the only person aboard the aircraft, which was spotted Friday by an Air Force pilot flying over the southeastern Colorado prairie. "He was supposed to refuel at

Pueblo (85 miles to the north) and he didn't refuel according to the information we found," Aguilar said. "He went straight through. It's our thinking that he ran out of gas. There were pieces of the plane scattered all over the place.

"He went in nose first. It was cloudy and raining at the time. I don't think he realized the ground was that close."

Aguilar said the pilot may have gotten off course over Denver and missed Pueblo completely.

"We're unable to tell if there was fuel in the tank," Aguilar said.



Brenda Davidson, Battalion photo
Lead singer Russell Hitchcock of Air Supply.

Regents advised to accept lower bid

by Karen Schrimsher
Battalion Staff

Two local oilmen advised the Texas A&M Board of Regents committee on mineral leases Saturday to lower royalty policies on a tract of land they consider a high risk drilling area.

John Bethancourt, area superintendent for Getty Oil Co., and Emil Ogden, president of Chaparral Minerals Inc., recommended the University accept a 25 percent royalty on the 176-acre tract south of F&B road.

The University required an arrangement in leasing two tracts — one in Hensel Park and the other north of F&B road — in February which specified that the University will receive 30 percent royalties until the oil companies recover drilling costs, and a 75 percent royalty thereafter.

The University tried to lease the 176-acre tract in September, but no oil companies offered bids.

Ogden said the recommendation was for 25 percent royalties at the beginning, and 25 percent after drilling costs were met.

"It's a case of whether the board wants to gamble and get a high royalty or a higher bonus and less royalty," Ogden said.

Ogden said mapping indicates present drilling has reached the end of the underground reservoir. He said the only way to tell if the 176-acre tract has an oil reserve is to drill — at a cost of about \$500,000.

He said if the royalties were lowered to 25 percent, Chaparral Minerals, Inc. would bid.

Bethancourt said Getty Oil, Inc. has not decided whether it would be a good idea to bid, even if the royalty percentage was lowered to 25 percent.

"It'll be a gamble," he said. After the recommendation was made, Executive Vice Chancellor Clyde Freeman told committee members that two companies wanted to bid during the

September action but did not because they feared larger companies would increase the price.

He said the two companies have indicated they still are interested in bidding with the 30-75 percent arrangement.

No formal action was taken at the meeting. The committee plans to meet again before the regents' Nov. 22 meeting to discuss recommendations for the board.

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