

Commodores excite Aggie crowd as bonfire burns

by Shelley Hoekstra
Battalion Staff

While bonfire was still a towering inferno of flame, another hot event was taking place Friday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum — the Commodores concert.

A five-member band that began playing at Alabama's Tuskegee Institute in 1967, the group is well-known for its 11 hit albums (all going gold or platinum) and the introduction of

the now famous singer Lionel Richie.

The band performed most all of its top numbers with the addition of new lead singer, Walter "Clyde" Orange, for an enthusiastic, although somewhat small, audience.

The Commodores' high-energy performance began with a glittering, eye-catching entrance, as the band members took the stage dressed in sparkling silver costumes. The group began with the familiar favorite

"Brick House," while the audience rose to its feet and clapped and sang along. Next, the group changed the mood completely around and sang another hit, "Easy."

By the third song of the performance, "I Feel Satisfied," the Commodores had embarked on a visit back into their successful past by performing hits from 1974 to the present. "Machine Gun" and "Too Hot to Trot" were just two of the many "oldies but goodies" that the band performed. By this time the rich and powerful voice of lead singer Orange had warmed and the excitement and emotion in his voice had no problem reaching and captivating the ears of his listeners.

One of the best things about this group is its constant interacting with the audience. Thomas McClary, Milan Williams, Ronald La Pread, William King and Orange all used direct eye contact and sweeping hand motions to make sure everyone in the coliseum felt as though they were part of the performance.

During slower ballads the emotional intensity, sincerity and feeling of the songs could be heard in the lyrics and seen on the faces of the performers. The audience reacted by snuggling closer to dates and listening with an awed silence.

During the evening's performance the band treated the crowd to a preview of songs on its recently released album "Commodores 13." One song in particular, "Only You," was quite good. If you liked "Still"

and "Three Times a Lady," you'll love this new ballad. Also introduced off the new album, and also quite good as far as rhythm and lyrics go, were "Turn Off the Lights" and "O Woman You."

At one point in the performance Orange said that he constantly was asked by fans "who the Commodores listen to on the radio?" Someone in the audience screamed "Commodores!" — but the band laughed and refuted the statement by singing the hits of their favorite singers. Not surprisingly, Donna Summer, Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie topped the list.

The energy that poured out of the Commodore's rock and roll songs and the emotion that flowed from the ballads provided nice contrasts during the performance — the audience liked the show and clapped and stomped until the group came back on stage for an encore. This topped off a successful evening, as the group had been given several standing ovations during the performance.

Sponsored by MSC Town Hall, the concert opened with Ron Mitchell, a stand-up comedian from Ft. Worth.

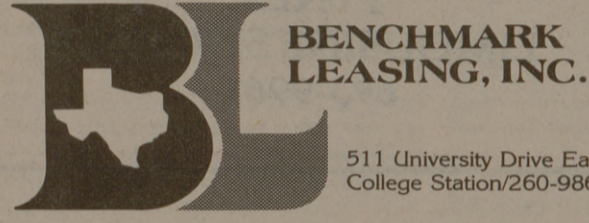


The Commodores

Mike Davis, Battalion Staff

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Area residents form task force to combat alcohol, drug abuse

by Kelly Miller
Battalion Reporter

A group of concerned Bryan-College Station residents have formed a task force to fight alcohol and drug abuse.

Twenty people assembled for the task force's first meeting Nov. 17. The group included a drug counselor, a doctor, three men who have fought alcohol and drug dependency problems, a teen-ager and several concerned parents.

The organization of a task force in Bryan-College Station followed the showing of the recent film, "The Chemical People." The two-part show, hosted by Nancy Reagan, focused on several communities that were successful in decreasing alcohol and drug problems through similar task force organizations.

Jo Ann Carroll, a senior officer for Brazos Residents Against Drug Abuse, coordinated the task force's initial meeting.

"We basically tried to define some problems, set some goals and come up with some action plans to attain the goals," Carroll said.

The task force wants to work with the local schools to organize a student group to emphasize positive peer pressure, Carroll said.

"Instead of having peer pressure to do alcohol and drugs," Carroll said, "we want the kids to know they can have fun without it."

Carroll said the task force wants to involve everyone in the community.

"Everybody in the area can be indirectly affected by alcohol and drug abusers," Carroll said. "Car accidents and thefts are often drug and alcohol related. It's the innocent ones that always get hurt."

Carroll said community effort is needed to solve any of the drug problems.

Wayland Pate, a drug counselor for Mental Health Mental Retardation, said he attended the first task force meeting hoping to keep people from having to enter the drug treatment

program at MHMR.

Pate said the task force has a primary prevention program aimed toward children.

"We'll work with eighth- and 10-year-olds," Pate said. "Hopefully we'll teach enough at an early age they'll never try drugs."

The task force, which is in the beginning stages, plans to offer workshops and seminars to educate the community on drug and alcohol abuse.

The next meeting will be at 8 at 7 p.m. at the Brazos Coliseum in Bryan.

Bakery serves it fresh

by Kay Mallett
Battalion Staff

It's not as big as Mrs. Baird's, but many would argue it's a lot better. It's the Texas A&M bakery, and since 1936 it has provided the food services on cam-

pus with all of their bread, rolls, cakes, cookies and pies.

"Basically, it runs the same as the commercial bakeries," Lloyd Smith, assistant director of food services, said.

The bakery, located behind

Duncan Dining Hall, from commercial bakeries.

ways that head baker Ward says are an advantage anyone who eats on campus. "We keep it fresh and more than the retailers," he said. "All of the baked goods go to the various dining facilities on campus is rotated on a daily basis."

Ward said all the faculty receive the baked goods after they place their orders the third day; all must be collected by the bakery.

Ward said there is a reason why bread and rolls from the bakery taste better. "Just about everything is made from scratch," Ward

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