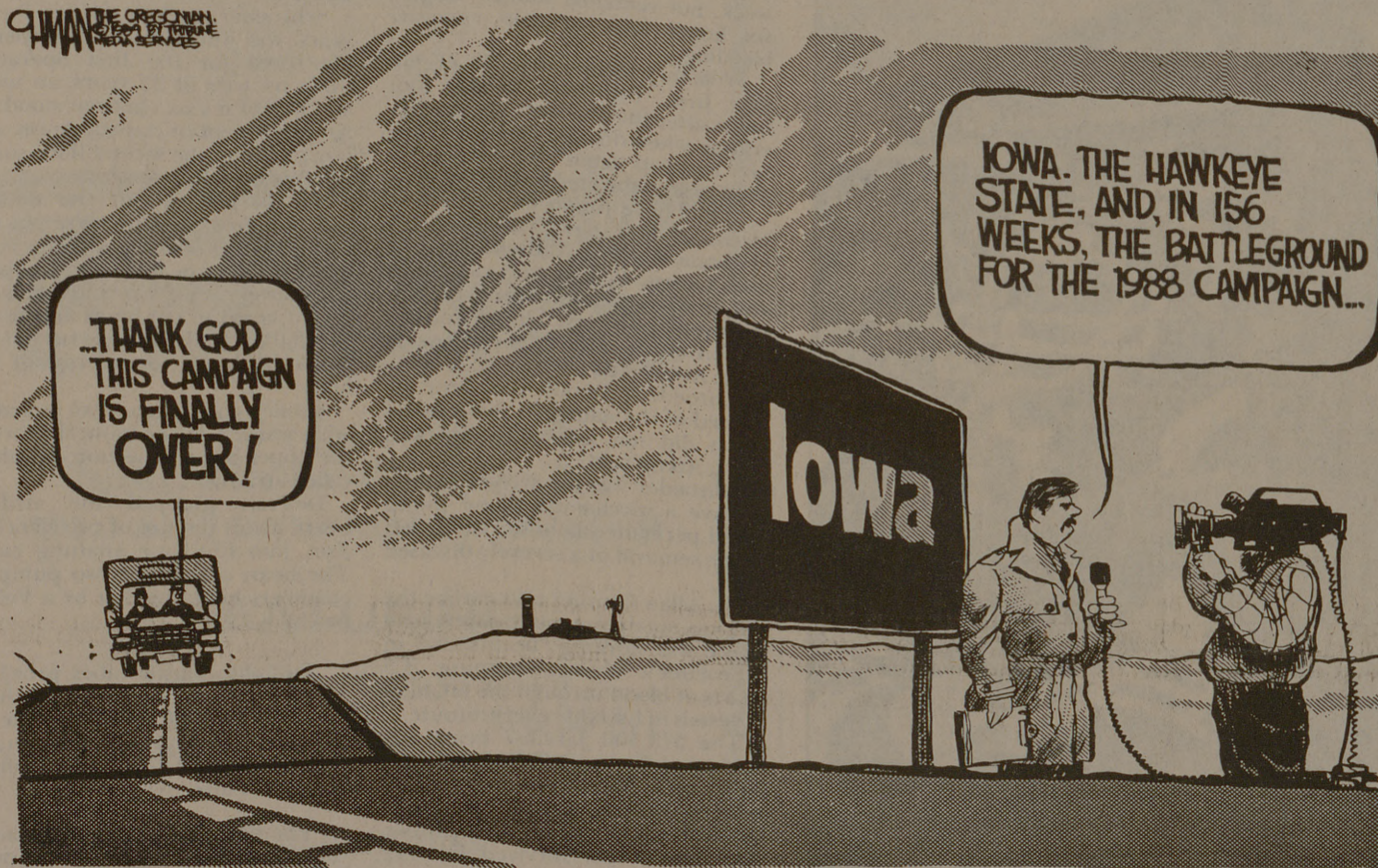


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Concert booking not always easy

In the past couple of weeks MSC Town Hall has received many inquiries into why Chicago did not appear at Texas A&M, and why there was all country and western music and no rock, jazz or R&B this semester. Hopefully, the following typical MSC Town Hall concert booking process will clear up any confusion surrounding the concert season.

The process usually begins when promoters from various agencies contact Town Hall about the possibility of a show on a certain date for a certain price. Town Hall is limited by their budget at this point. A concert cannot exceed a particular price. If it does, ticket prices skyrocket.

Lately, Town Hall has done the contacting. Most groups who used to contact us (ie. Hall & Oates, The Commodores with Lionel Richie, Cheap Trick) have priced themselves right out of G. Rollie White. Now that Town Hall is making the contacts, we are looking for popular groups in an affordable price range on an acceptable date. This semester the only groups that were available to us and that accepted our offer have been country and western. We also unsuccessfully pursued the Beach Boys, Cyndi Lauper, the GoGos and Chicago.

In regard to Chicago, an offer was made for early September which the group did not accept. They then contacted us for a possible November date. At this point, as with any other concert, it was brought before the entire Town Hall Committee. The group was very enthusiastic about Chicago. It was unanimous that the show would be successful.

The final step in the process is the approval of the MSC Council which consists of student leaders from all parts of the campus, A&M faculty and former

students. Before a final decision was reached, Chicago's agent called and informed Town Hall that Chicago decided not to swing their tour back through Texas for just one show (Texas A&M). Normally at this time after the Council approves the show, contracts are signed and public relations have begun.

The process described above is necessary to weed out potential bombs. The process takes no more than a week, and is a good way for Town Hall to check itself. Each show Town Hall brings depends on our performance at every previous concert. Alabama depended on Bob Hope and Willie Nelson depended on the success of both Alabama and Bob Hope. In turn, our spring programming depends on the success of our bonfire show, Willie Nelson and Family.

This is where the students of Texas A&M and the surrounding community come in. If we are successful with Willie Nelson (the campus buys tickets), Town Hall can begin contacting groups for the spring. It is our goal to bring a variety of spring concerts in the categories of rock, jazz and R&B. We ask for your support both in buying tickets for Willie Nelson and in filling our monthly surveys. We cannot promise the Bruce Springsteen and the Michael Jacksons, but there are several popular groups touring soon who we could have a good chance of bringing here.

Town Hall is going to continue trying to bring quality entertainment to the campus. I appreciate any suggestions and would be more than happy to answer questions. Thanks for your continued support. We will see you after the bonfire at the Willie Nelson and Family concert.

Julie Plesalla is a senior and the president of MSC Town Hall.

LETTERS:

Linda needs the picture

EDITOR:

Dear Fellow Ags, I need your help. Remember the plane that flew over the Rice game with the banner "Linda, will you marry me?" Well, I'm Linda and I'm desperate to find a picture of the stunt.

If you can help, please call me collect at 713-975-6662 after 6:00 p.m. Thank you.

Linda McMillan
Class of '81
P.S. I said yes!

Not all Ags are good Ags

EDITOR:

This past weekend, I attended the A&M-Arkansas game in Fayetteville. The student Aggie Club sponsored the bus trip for a low price, and I felt it was the perfect opportunity to back the Aggies as well as have a great time. This trip with the many cases of beer was great; but for the first time in my life, I have been ashamed of some fellow Aggies, one of which is an officer in this club.

Before we left A&M for the trip, we were told by this officer that we were representatives of Texas A&M University and to act accordingly. At the game, however, this officer and others were drinking beer and liquor that they had brought into the game, becoming quite obnoxious in their drunken state. They degraded the Aggie team very openly, and I was embarrassed for all of the Aggies, as well as the Arkansas fans, that had to observe this display of stupidity. This is not how one acts as a representative of his university. I feel there is a time and place for everything, and an A&M football game is not the appropriate place to get drunk. You go to a football game to support your team, not to make a jack-ass of yourself. Hopefully, these people will act as real Aggies in the future!

Kirk Rice
Class of '87

Sully Symposium will continue

EDITOR:

Project X. Spring 1984. Lambda Sigma plans a forum to improve communication between students and their leaders with the ultimate goal of solving

some problems faced by the University. Sully's Symposium. Fall 1984. A foundation for the future.

Lambda Sigma would like to thank the leaders, the Battalion, and the students. Every leader we contacted agreed. They saw the need. They wanted to hear what students were thinking. Without the leaders, Sully would have no claim to success. Also the Battalion's commitment to this free exchange of ideas gave Sully a louder and more lasting voice so all Aggies could hear. Most importantly, students took time out on Wednesday mornings to consider an idea, to question a policy to listen, and to think.

Sully's Symposium is here to stay. The positive support and enthusiasm that Lambda Sigma has received has convinced us that the Symposium can go far beyond bridging the communication gap. A single student with an idea can stimulate change, define issues, prompt solutions, and redirect goals. The significance of Sully is that it happens every week. Through the continuation of this open discussion on campus, we, as a university, can consistently improve.

Look for the Symposium each Wednesday at noon next spring. Every student has a voice at Sully.

Robert Beard Lambda Sigma Colling needs to lighten up

EDITOR:

After reading Phil Colling's letter on Thursday, I decided I couldn't let it go. He theorized that most of the letters criticizing the Corps were written by "misinformed, stupid and lying" people. Some may be uninformed, but stupid, lying and trying to incite a feud as you put it, come on.

Phil, are you so perfect that you can make such judgements? The letters were mostly written by fellow Aggies who are merely expressing their opinion. That's what this page of the Battalion is for; look at the top in case you forgot.

As for the letter written by Susan Nickels and Chris Young on Monday, I did think it was funny. I seriously doubt they were out to undermine or damage the Corps, I'm sure you can handle it. They have a sense of humor that apparently you lack. Loosen up!

Lucas Nenoff
Class of '85

His job: Watching Reagan's copters

By ART BUCHWALD
Syndicated Columnist

I spoke to a man who has one of the most important positions in the administration. His job is to stand on the lawn when President and Mrs. Reagan are leaving the White House by helicopter.

"I actually work for Larry Speakes, the press secretary," the man told me, "but my duties keep me outside."

"What do you do?"

"My job is to make sure the president's copter motors are going full blast, so the press can't ask him any questions."

"That is a very responsible position," I admitted. "How do you do it?"

"I station myself right here next to the helipad. The press is over there behind those ropes. When the helicopter lands on the lawn I get in radio contact with it. As the president walks out, I tell the pilot how much thrust to give the engines so the copter will drown out the yelling reporters. In that way the president can just smile and shrug his shoulders, as if to say it isn't his fault if he can't understand what they're saying."

"I've seen your work on TV," I said admiringly.

"We've got it down to an art. The only one we haven't been able to silence is Sam Donaldson of ABC-TV. No matter how much noise we make, Donaldson manages to get his question heard above it."

"What's his secret?"

"He has developed a higher pitch than his voice than we can give the motors. It's uncanny. We've tried every type of engine to drown him out, but nothing seems to work. Everyone knows no matter how loud the copter is roaring, the president is going to have to answer one question from Sam, even if it's just a simple 'Yes' or 'No.'"

"That doesn't seem too high a price to pay to get off for a weekend at Camp David."

"It all depends what the question is. As you know, the president has a slight

hearing problem, so there are times when he should say 'No' and he says 'Yes,' and other times he says 'Yes' when he should say 'No.' Whenever I see the president is going to reply to a Sam Donaldson question, my job is to make sure that the helicopter pilot gives the bird full throttle, so no one can understand the answer."

"Wouldn't it be easier for the president to leave the White House without the press being there on the lawn?"

"It might be, but this is the only chance Reagan has to be seen by the public. If we didn't allow the TV cameras to cover his departure and arrival from the White House, everyone might think he's in the Cabinet Room taking a nap."

"Do you do anything else besides rev up the president's helicopter on the White House lawn?"

"Of course . . . I'm also in charge of making sure that Air Force One never shuts off its engines when the president is descending from the plane. It would be disastrous for Reagan if the engines were quiet when he stepped on the tarmac and reporters started throwing questions at him."

"I imagine even Sam Donaldson can't compete against the four jet engines of Air Force One."

"Donaldson must drive him crazy."

"You would think so. But the strange thing is that when the president comes out of the White House to board his helicopter, and Sam isn't there, Reagan gets very upset and confused because he doesn't know whether to shout something to the press or not."

I said, "I admire the president for being able to walk out on the White House lawn with the engines going full blast, and not only field a question from Sam Donaldson, but hold onto Nancy's arm and board his copter, all at the same time."

The man smiled, "They don't call Ronald Reagan the Great Communicator for nothing."

The Battalion

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Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

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