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Saturday, January 30, 7:30 pm

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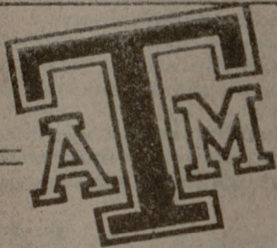
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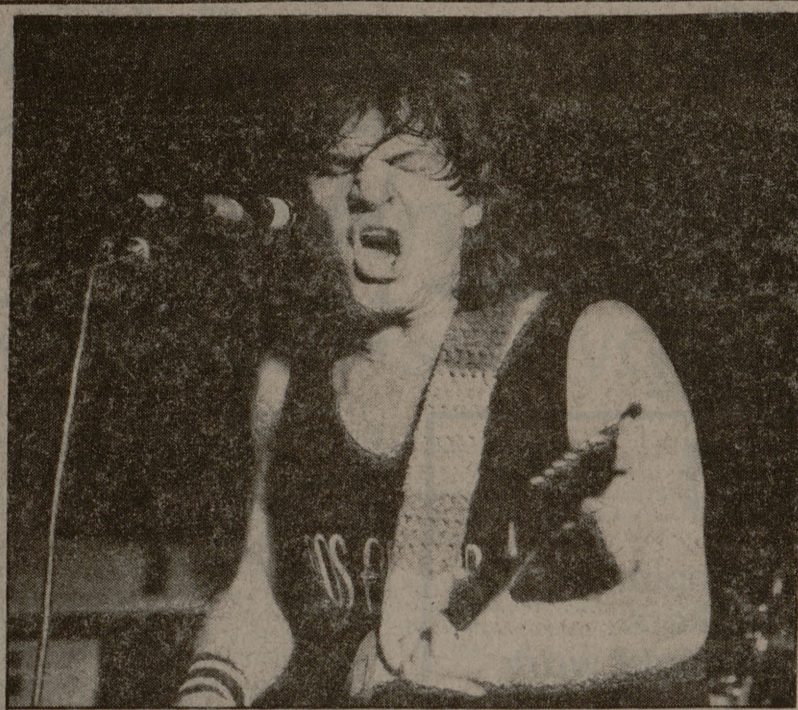


Photo by Jay Janner

He's only Joe 'King'

Joe "King" Carrasco y las Coronas brought their own style of Tex-Mex party rock to College Station Friday night. They performed to an enthusiastic audience of about 200 people at Eastgate Live. He will perform March 12-13 in Padre Island.

Schedule

(Continued from page 1)

on seniors; the problem of logistics — where you schedule the finals and when; and the problem of interruption of classes and extra coordination challenges for the faculty.

Tom Black, chairman of the Student Senate's Academic Affairs committee, said later that he could understand how the student proposal would create logistical problems for faculty since it would require professors to make two sets of finals. Such a requirement would place increased demands on their workloads — which are already heavy at the end of the semester, he said.

"I'm convinced there's no such thing as a fair test and to try to come up with a test that's equitable for one group and another test equitable for another group — it's just hard to do something like that," Black said. "I talked to some professors that suggested it takes 16 hours to prepare a good test. It can take two solid days to prepare a good test."

"It takes more than two times the amount of time to prepare two because then you have to make sure everything is fair between them, as well," Black said.

Students suggested as an alternative to their original proposal that dead week be made truly dead, so that seniors could take finals during that week. The faculty was more receptive to that idea, since they would not have to juggle senior finals and undergraduate classes at the same time. But questions were raised about the number of days that students legally are required to be in class.

Shumway said after the meeting, "I think it's not legal. If we were to add a week, then that could be a distinct possibility. My expectation is that that would not be a satisfactory option (to students)."

The original proposal brought to the meeting by the Faculty Senate would require that all students take finals Monday through Friday of finals week, and then that seniors graduate Friday and Saturday without diplomas in their tubes at the commencement ceremonies.

However, students pointed out that it has been a long-standing tradition at A&M that seniors receive their diplomas when they walk across the stage. This tradition has kept attendance at the graduation ceremonies at around 92 percent among seniors, Black said.

"Our concern is that we want graduation ceremonies to remain in their present form," Black said after the meeting. "We want them with their magic, with the diploma in the tube for all students, the integrity of the ceremony."

As a compromise, Shumway suggested that a system could be established whereby faculty could certify students eligible for graduation prior to completion of finals.

"At the time that the registrar has to have a decision," Shumway said, "then all faculty who have seniors in classes whose finals have not been graded but who will clearly pass the course regardless of their performance on the final will certify that to the registrar."

The problem with this alternative, students said, was two-fold. First, there would be some students at graduation with diplomas and some without. Second, those students who had not previously been certified for graduation could walk across the stage and then find out later that they really did not graduate.

Shumway estimated that less than 10 percent of graduating seniors would be in that situation, but Hays said that a proposal is not acceptable to him if it puts any students in that situation.

"We, as students, contend that no matter how large or how small that proportion is, that it's not good," Hays said. "The faculty in turn say, 'Well, that's only a small portion of your students under that plan that will have to do that.'"

"It seems that we're sacrificing the majority to ensure that this minority of students doesn't have to endure that. But we, as students, don't feel

that way. We are all students here as one, and we're not going to say, 'Oh well, that 5 percent or 10 percent, that's their problem.'"

Shumway agreed that the absence of diplomas in the tubes at graduation would adversely affect attendance at the ceremonies, and that the integrity of commencement — as the students define it — would be compromised by the faculty's proposed schedule.

However, the faculty members are looking at graduation from a different perspective, Shumway said.

"The faculty do not perceive the graduation ceremony itself as quite as important as it is seen by students," he said.

Another proposal was made by Murray Milford, a former speaker of the Faculty Senate in an effort to resolve the concerns voiced by students and faculty. The proposal called for seniors taking finals on Monday and Tuesday and perhaps Wednesday of finals week, and the preceding Saturday if necessary. In order to accommodate such a plan, finals would have to be scheduled with a bias toward scheduling upper-division class finals on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The proposal was met with eager acceptance by both sides, but faculty members still favored their compromise with the certification component over Milford's proposal.

"All the faculty there felt that (Milford's proposal) was a superior alternative to the current schedule," Shumway said, "(but they) still favored the certification procedure."

At the meeting both groups agreed that either proposal would be better than the plan that is currently in place, but afterward both Black and Hays said the certification proposal is not an acceptable solution.

"Before we go to Dr. Shumway's (proposal), we would more than likely go back to this schedule right here," Hays said. "Dr. Shumway's proposal will never fly through our group."

The faculty and students said they would submit the proposals to their respective Senates for approval.

Shumway said he will suggest to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate Wednesday that open meetings be held so that all faculty members' opinions can be heard. Black said he would like to do the same for concerned students if time permits.

Whatever students decide, however, will be handed back to the Faculty Senate, Black said.

Shumway said there is a chance that an alternative finals schedule could be implemented this May — but only if both Senates can agree on acceptable alternatives.

"If it turned out that after all the hearings were held that the students say that the only one of those three options that they view as an improvement over the current schedule is the one that has separate senior finals and if the faculty said that the only one that we view as an improvement is the certification, then we're back to the same problem," he said.

"But I think it's very, very possible that once all the information is in, that both groups will view both alternatives as an improvement," he said. "They may rank them different, but at least we'll have a couple of alternatives that will be regarded as an improvement over the current plan, and we can make those recommendations to the president and let them decide on administrative grounds which one they're going to choose from."

Shumway is optimistic that a new plan could be in place by May, but he emphasized that time is of the essence.

"If it appears from the meetings and from discussion in both Senates that there is strong consensus that there are alternatives that are superior to the current one, I think it's possible," he said.

Black agreed that the possibility exists for a new schedule in May and echoed Shumway's sense of urgency.



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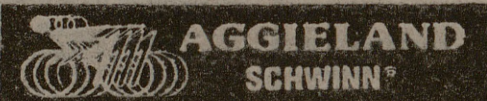
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