

State and Local

A&M games announcer sings about 'Aggie girls'

By Tom Eikel
Staff Writer

I wish they all could be Texas Aggie girls?
It's not the Beach Boys, or even David Lee Roth, but it's a song topping the charts in Bryan-College Station.

"Texas Aggie Girls" is Derrick Grubbs' remake of the Beach Boys' hit tune "California Girls," and is one of the most popular songs in town, according to Jay Kelley, a disc jockey at local radio station KKYS.

"It's without a doubt the most requested song we've had this week . . . morning, afternoon and night . . . we can't play it enough," Kelley said.

Grubbs, home-game announcer for the A&M baseball team, said he hadn't anticipated the success of his creation.

"I don't know how long it will last, but I'm glad to see people are enjoying it," he said. "The reason I did it was just to play this at the ballpark between innings."

The song made its debut Feb. 13, at the Aggies' double header against Lubbock Christian University.

Grubbs said his biggest thrill so far came when he heard someone request his song on the air.

"That was the first time it hit me that people liked this thing," he said. KKYS began playing "Texas Aggie Girls" Feb. 15, and the next day it was the number one song on the station's "Top Fast Five at Eight" poll, and has been number one since.

Kelley is host of this program in which the station opens its phone lines at 7 p.m. for listeners to phone in the names of their favorite songs. The results are tallied and the top five songs are announced at 8 p.m. Kelley said "Texas Aggie Girls" has been getting around 30 or 40 votes per night, enough to keep it in the number one spot.

"Texas Aggie Girls" is an idea that came about rather spontaneously.

Grubbs said he was driving through campus early last fall, listening to the song "California Girls" on his car radio, when he came up with the idea.

"It was between classes and there were a lot of girls walking around, and they looked so good . . . I just started thinking California girls nothing, it's Texas Aggie girls — so I started singing 'I wish they all could be Texas Aggie girls,'" he said.

Grubbs' lyrics stayed in the back



Photo by Katherine E. Matzinger

Derrick Grubbs originally wrote "Texas Aggie Girls," a rewrite of "California Girls," to play at baseball games at Olsen Field.

of his mind for a few weeks before he actually began to write the song.

"Baseball season was coming up, and like I said, I'm always wanting to come up with a new gimmick, so I thought what the heck, I'll rewrite the lyrics, it's only two verses."

Grubbs called his friend Tommy Smith, a local musician, about putting a band together to record his version of "California Girls." Smith suggested they instead contact David Cooper, who runs Brasswind Recording Studio in College Station, to get a prerecorded instrumental version of the song, and then add their own vocals, which they did.

The tape, however, had on it the vocal chorus "I wish they all could be California girls."

"If we were going to record this, we had to override that chorus with 'Texas Aggie girls,' so we needed another voice," he said.

To solve this problem, Grubbs called in the vocal services of Mark Davenport, a friend and former band member with Smith.

"We went into the studio one

night, and I sang my part," he said. "Then Mark went in and he sang all the high, middle and low parts of all the chorus, and then Tommy went in and did a little bit."

"Then, the last thing, I went in and added all the whoops." Their combined efforts, with Grubbs as lead vocalist, were then mixed with the instrumental track to create the finished product.

"One thing led to another, and I thought well, what the heck, I'll call the radio stations and see if they wanted to play it and possibly plug the next home baseball game too," he said.

"I've heard them do it a few times, so it's payed off."

After the song began to take off and people began to ask where they could buy a copy, it became a business proposal, he said.

Cassettes are being produced with "Texas Aggie Girls" recorded on both sides, and are being sold at a few local record and bookstores for \$4.30.

Pilot who crashed in storm didn't have proper license

EL PASO (AP) — The pilot of a private plane that crashed last week a block short of a residential neighborhood apparently was breaking an honors system by flying an airplane for which he was not licensed, an official said.

Donald McCoy died along with two passengers in the crash of his twin-engine Aero Commander 680 Friday. McCoy was licensed to fly only single-engine planes, Armond Edwards, National Transportation Safety Board investigator, said.

McCoy also was licensed to fly only in clear weather, Edwards said Monday. Nevertheless, the 55-year-old pilot and businessman tried to take off in snow and fog from El Paso International Airport.

He flew about three miles be-

fore narrowly missing rush-hour traffic on Interstate 10 and slamming into the highway's access road near a gas station and a row of houses. He also flew low over a motel on the other side of the interstate.

Not enough air safety officials work at the airport to check whether each pilot is qualified, Edwards said.

"There is no way of checking a pilot's certification every time they take off," he said. "It's not the control tower's responsibility to check every pilot, either. Even if the air-traffic controllers did ask, all a pilot had to do is lie."

Officials check a pilot's license when an incident or accident calls for it, Edwards said.

In addition to discovering that McCoy was not licensed to fly the

twin-engine plane he crashed, or to fly on instrument readings, officials also found that McCoy's medical certification had expired.

"This is very rare," Edwards told the *El Paso Times* by phone from his Fort Worth office. "Most pilots are very conscientious about safety. Very rarely do our investigations find pilots flying something they aren't licensed to."

McCoy, a licensed pilot since 1962, had no previous problems or accidents, according to federal records.

McCoy, who was carrying his secretary, Rosa Linda Puentes, 31, and her son, Jesus Aaron Puentes, 11, had just taken off when he radioed the tower to report trouble with his landing gear.

Negotiations reduce discrimination

AUSTIN (AP) — The initial session of negotiations aimed at ending alleged racial discrimination in the Texas Department of Public Safety was positive, participants said.

"We made substantial progress," Gary Bledsoe, president of the Austin branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said. "There were no thumbs down to any of the demands placed on the table."

Bledsoe said a report on Monday's discussions would be given to the state Public Safety Commission on

Thursday. A second meeting between DPS and NAACP officials has been scheduled for the first week in March.

Gerald Carruth, DPS chief of legal services and negotiator for the department, agreed with Bledsoe.

"We made real progress . . . we opened the lines of communications and both sides have a better understanding of what is needed," Carruth said.

Grover Hankins, general counsel for the NAACP, said he was encouraged "by the department's will-

ingness to negotiate."

Among state troopers attending the meeting was Michael D. Scott, 36, of Houston, who has tried unsuccessfully for several promotions in his 14 years with the DPS.

Scott and other black officers said they have been wrongly denied promotions and transfers and have been subjected to discriminatory remarks by supervisors and other officers.

They also allege that they have been kept out of the elite Texas Rangers and subjected to other discriminatory acts.

Inmate appeals Thursday execution date

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Attorneys for death row inmate Gary Graham, convicted of fatally shooting a man during a robbery in a Houston grocery store parking lot, filed an appeal Tuesday for a stay to halt his scheduled execution.

Attorney Doug O'Brien said he filed a petition with U.S. District Judge David Hittner of Houston. Hittner was on jury duty Tuesday and had not issued a ruling in the case, he said.

Graham, 24, is scheduled to die by injection before dawn Thursday for the May 1981 shooting death of 53-year-old Bobby Grant Lambert of Tucson, Ariz.

Graham, who was 17-years old when convicted of capital murder, is expected to get a stay because this is the first round of appeals in the federal courts, said Robert McGlasson, director of the Capital Punishment Clinic at the University of Texas Law School.

Graham's victim was robbed of less than \$100, although police said the victim had \$6,000 on him.

O'Brien's petition asks the court to grant a stay pending a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in an Oklahoma case that people who commit capital crimes when under the age of 18 should not be executed.

His appeal also is based on a case involving Texas death row inmate Donald Gene Franklin, which argues that jurors are not allowed to hear mitigating circumstances when considering punishment. Arguments in that case are scheduled before the high court March 1.

Allegations of ineffective counsel during trial also are being raised by O'Brien.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected appeals by three other Texas death row inmates — Jeffrey Griffin, Federico Martinez Macias and Noble Mays. None of them have execution dates scheduled.

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1.65 cts. 1,950 ⁰⁰	4,000 ⁰⁰		.25 pts. 225 ⁰⁰	400 ⁰⁰		1.01 cts. 1,275 ⁰⁰	2,400 ⁰⁰	
1.51 cts. 2,975 ⁰⁰	6,000 ⁰⁰		.24 pts. 225 ⁰⁰	400 ⁰⁰		1.00 pts. 2,950 ⁰⁰	8,800 ⁰⁰	
1.18 cts. 2,325 ⁰⁰	4,500 ⁰⁰		.22 pts. 165 ⁰⁰	300 ⁰⁰		.89 pts. 1,750 ⁰⁰	3,400 ⁰⁰	
1.17 cts. 2,395 ⁰⁰	2,600 ⁰⁰		.21 pts. 165 ⁰⁰	300 ⁰⁰		.82 pts. 1,575 ⁰⁰	3,000 ⁰⁰	
1.15 cts. 2,985 ⁰⁰	5,600 ⁰⁰		.20 pts. 165 ⁰⁰	300 ⁰⁰		.75 pts. 1,485 ⁰⁰	2,800 ⁰⁰	
1.12 cts. 1,350 ⁰⁰	2,600 ⁰⁰		.19 pts. 165 ⁰⁰	300 ⁰⁰		.74 pts. 1,095 ⁰⁰	2,000 ⁰⁰	
1.15 cts. 1,395 ⁰⁰	2,600 ⁰⁰		.18 pts. 185 ⁰⁰	310 ⁰⁰		.68 pts. 1,195 ⁰⁰	2,200 ⁰⁰	
1.09 cts. 2,750 ⁰⁰	5,500 ⁰⁰		.16 pts. 115 ⁰⁰	200 ⁰⁰		.55 pts. 995 ⁰⁰	1,900 ⁰⁰	
1.09 cts. 2,375 ⁰⁰	4,600 ⁰⁰		.14 pts. 115 ⁰⁰	200 ⁰⁰		.51 pts. 985 ⁰⁰	1,800 ⁰⁰	
1.09 cts. 1,875 ⁰⁰	4,200 ⁰⁰		.12 pts. 110 ⁰⁰	200 ⁰⁰		.47 pts. 625 ⁰⁰	1,500 ⁰⁰	
1.08 cts. 2,195 ⁰⁰	4,500 ⁰⁰		.10 pts. 63 ⁰⁰	120 ⁰⁰		.35 pts. 425 ⁰⁰	800 ⁰⁰	
1.04 cts. 2,650 ⁰⁰	5,200 ⁰⁰		.09 pts. 95 ⁰⁰	110 ⁰⁰		.30 pts. 475 ⁰⁰	850 ⁰⁰	
1.01 cts. 2,375 ⁰⁰	4,500 ⁰⁰		.08 pts. 78 ⁰⁰	100 ⁰⁰		.25 pts. 250 ⁰⁰	500 ⁰⁰	
1.01 cts. 2,195 ⁰⁰	4,000 ⁰⁰		.07 pts. 63 ⁰⁰	90 ⁰⁰		.23 pts. 275 ⁰⁰	500 ⁰⁰	
1.01 cts. 1,875 ⁰⁰	3,800 ⁰⁰		.06 pts. 55 ⁰⁰	80 ⁰⁰		.18 pts. 195 ⁰⁰	400 ⁰⁰	
95 pts. 2,385 ⁰⁰	4,600 ⁰⁰		.05 pts. 48 ⁰⁰	70 ⁰⁰		.11 pts. 110 ⁰⁰	200 ⁰⁰	
89 pts. 895 ⁰⁰	2,000 ⁰⁰							
89 pts. 1,795 ⁰⁰	3,300 ⁰⁰							
83 pts. 1,595 ⁰⁰	2,900 ⁰⁰							
80 pts. 1,023 ⁰⁰	2,100 ⁰⁰							
78 pts. 995 ⁰⁰	1,800 ⁰⁰							
77 pts. 985 ⁰⁰	1,800 ⁰⁰							
75 pts. 1,395 ⁰⁰	2,200 ⁰⁰							
75 pts. 1,135 ⁰⁰	2,100 ⁰⁰							
75 pts. 975 ⁰⁰	1,900 ⁰⁰							
74 pts. 1,250 ⁰⁰	2,300 ⁰⁰							
72 pts. 1,395 ⁰⁰	2,700 ⁰⁰							
71 pts. 1,395 ⁰⁰	2,700 ⁰⁰							
71 pts. 1,050 ⁰⁰	2,500 ⁰⁰							
70 pts. 795 ⁰⁰	1,400 ⁰⁰							
68 pts. 895 ⁰⁰	1,600 ⁰⁰							
67 pts. 760 ⁰⁰	1,350 ⁰⁰							
65 pts. 785 ⁰⁰	1,450 ⁰⁰							
61 pts. 750 ⁰⁰	1,400 ⁰⁰							
60 pts. 795 ⁰⁰	1,400 ⁰⁰							
58 pts. 850 ⁰⁰	1,700 ⁰⁰							
57 pts. 695 ⁰⁰	1,275 ⁰⁰							
56 pts. 795 ⁰⁰	1,500 ⁰⁰							
54 pts. 695 ⁰⁰	1,275 ⁰⁰							
54 pts. 750 ⁰⁰	1,400 ⁰⁰							
54 pts. 795 ⁰⁰	1,600 ⁰⁰							
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51 pts. 795 ⁰⁰	1,600 ⁰⁰							
50 pts. 795 ⁰⁰	1,400 ⁰⁰							
50 pts. 650 ⁰⁰	1,600 ⁰⁰							
49 pts. 795 ⁰⁰	1,600 ⁰⁰							
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