

HE'S GOT THE RHYTHM

Alan Jackson plays to packed coliseum

By LESA ANN KING

The Battalion

Alan Jackson "rocked the juke box" as well as the Rollie White Coliseum audience Sunday night with his traditional down-home country music.

The concert kicked off with a video presentation of two big screens set to Jackson's song "She Don't Get the Blues (She Gives Them.)"

At the video's close, the band broke into "Chasing That Neon Rainbow" and the crowd went wild. Jackson entered the stage minus his usual mustache and wearing a Dallas Cowboys Superbowl t-shirt, faded jeans and his trademark cowboy hat.

Jackson started off by playing hits from his first award-winning album, "Here in the Real World," such as "Someday," "Blue-Blooded Woman" and "Working Class Hero." The rest of the show was a variety of old hits, new releases and Jackson's personal favorites that kept the audience's enthusiasm at a fevered pitch.

Jackson also used video clips with many of his number one hits like "She's Got the Rhythm, I've Got the Blues," "Chasing That Neon Rainbow," "Someday" and "Wanted."

The stage reflected Jackson's love for vintage cars and trucks. The band was set up on a bright yellow Chevy tailgate, a purple and black Ford tailgate, and red, aqua and white Mercury. Between the two large video screens was a hologram of an old Packard, a Studebaker and a Buick.

Jackson commented that the stage set-up "gave the guys something to look at since there were no women in the band."

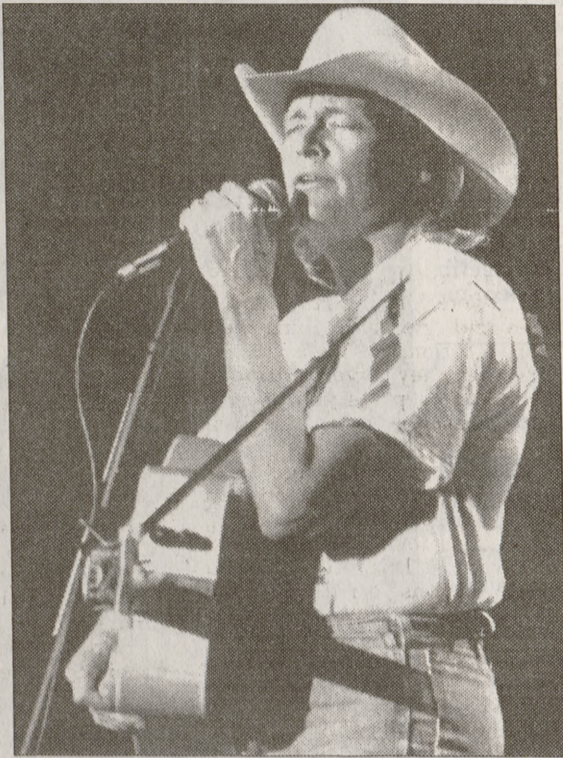
Personal favorites that Jackson included were the old country swing song "There Ain't No Such Thing as Me Not Loving You," a salute to the ladies called "Texas Women," a hit song he co-wrote with Randy Travis called "A Better Class of Losers," and a moving, upbeat country gospel song called "What Kind of Man Jesus Is."

Smoke filled the stage as Jackson played "Midnight In Montgomery," his salute to Hank Williams, Jr. The crowd rushed the stage and Jackson shook hands with as many people as he could while he sang.

The rest of the audience came to their feet when Jackson started playing his latest hit, "She's Got the Rhythm I've Got the Blues."

Then for his final song, a large colorful inflatable rocking jukebox appeared on the stage and Jackson sang "Don't Rock the Jukebox."

For an encore, Jackson sang "Crazy About a Mer-



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Country singer Alan Jackson performs Sunday night to a full house in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

cury," which seemed appropriate to his stage set-up. Alan Jackson has earned a position as one of the "hunks" in country music. His sweet Georgia smile and down-to-earth personality make him appealing to his country music fans.

The opening performer, Hal Ketchum, started off the evening with his hits including "Small Town Saturday Night," "I Know Where Love Lives," "Sure Love" and "Past the Point of Rescue."

Ketchum's show was very straightforward and not too flashy, but the audience encouraged Ketchum to do an encore. He sang the spiritual and inspirational song "On the Wings of a Dove."

Both entertainers showed the audience a fantastic evening, but Jackson was definitely the star of the show. His traditional country sound, good looks and fan appeal are sure to keep this rainbow chaser in the spotlight for years to come.



Concert Review

Condom store opens on Northgate

By MELISSA HOLUBEC

The Battalion

A young man glances out his car window as he drives south on College Main, approaching University Drive. A look of astonishment crosses his face as he drives past the window of a new store called Condom Station.

The store's owner, Tracy Doty, says many people have responded with surprise to her business, which opened on January 15.

"If I had a nickel for every shocked reaction from people as they go by," Doty said. "It's just priceless."

The novelty store specializing in condoms is the first of its kind to appear in the Bryan-College Station area. And while the name, a play on words, is unique to College Station, the idea behind the store is not.

"These are popping up all over the United States," Doty said. "They're getting to be a lot more well-known because they're a new industry, not because of the specific items, but (because the items are) being grouped together and presented in this form."

Condom Station carries novelty and gag gifts, cards, t-shirts, body oils and bubble baths, as well as a wide selection of clinical prophylactics.

Upon entering the store, customers generally meander first to an information center where they can read or take pamphlets such as "Condoms and Common Sense: How to Help Protect Yourself from Sexually Transmitted Diseases."

"As far as education goes, I will inform customers that the novelty items are novelties only," Doty said. "They should use our clinicals if they are seeking to aid in not getting pregnant or contracting sexually transmitted diseases. As for any other questions, I'll answer them to the best of my knowledge."

Doty asks representatives from organizations who come into Condom Station to leave any information they might have which would help her expand the information center.

Three female Texas A&M stu-



JOSEPH GREENSLADE/The Battalion

The Condom Station opened Jan. 15 at Northgate on College Main.

dents who visited Condom Station last Friday said the information pamphlets are a good idea. One woman said having the pamphlets in the store is wise, especially since condoms are used to prevent pregnancies and diseases like AIDS.

Doty said she was surprised that the majority of her customers in the first week and a half have been mostly male students.

"I think the girls are still not sure what to think about the store," she said. "They think it might be a little on the seedy side. Once they get in they have a lot of fun."

Doty said she thought Fantasy Lingerie, another local business, carries a few but not all of the items Condom Station does. The clinical prophylactics can usually be found in any drugstore or supermarket, she said.

"Most of the merchandise is pretty clean-cut," she said. "We stock a few of the more risqué gifts just for fun, but we don't have anything pornographic."

The variety and uniqueness of merchandise in Condom Station is what draws customers into the store and keeps them coming back.

"I was very amused and impressed by the selection," a first-time customer and A&M graduate student said. "Every town should have one of these."

However, Condom Station is not just a store for college stu-

dents. One married couple's first impression was a combination of feelings.

"I'm sort of surprised it's here in College Station," the husband said.

His wife was more amused. "I used to work here when it was a drafting supply place," she said. "It's changed a little since then."

The store has brought in laughs, no doubt, but College Station is slowly adjusting to the idea of a Condom Station on Northgate.

"Every day business is getting better," Doty said. "The people are getting used to having this store in their town. I've already had repeat customers."

Doty quit her previous job as a sales representative for an equipment company to open Condom Station.

"I was traveling from Houston to Conroe everyday, and it was not what I wanted to do," she said.

Making money is not the store's only purpose, she said.

"We're bringing a little comic relief to the somber situation of AIDS," said Doty.

The message on the store's sign, Be Wise When You Socialize, reminds passers-by of the seriousness underlying the humor.

"I just want students to remember their purpose," said Doty. "If you're in college to make a better life for yourself, be sure you have a life to make better."

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