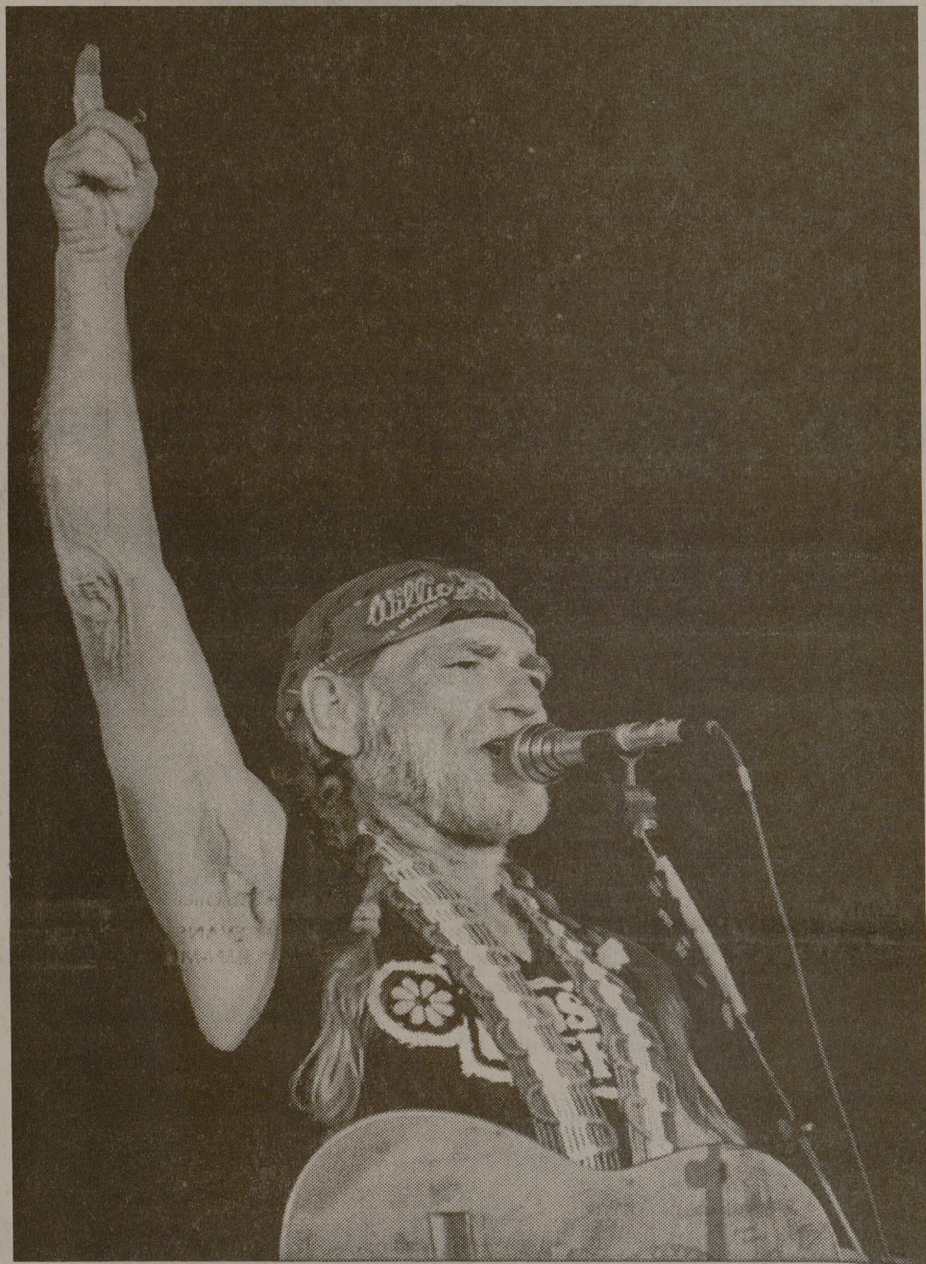


WILLIE NELSON



Country music legend still wants to be close to his fans



By Lesa Ann King
THE BATTALION

Country music fans packed the The Texas Hall of Fame Wednesday to hear a living legend and the newest member of Country Music Hall of Fame, Willie Nelson.

Known by many as the "Red-headed stranger," Nelson's credits range from songwriter of such classic hits as Patsy Cline's "Crazy" and Ray Price's "The Nightlife" to singing such hit songs as "Always on My Mind," "Whiskey River" and "Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground." He performed all of these hits as well as many others in an energetic and nostalgic two-hour show.

After the show, many loyal fans gathered around his bus, the Honeysuckle Rose II, in hopes of meeting Nelson or getting his autograph. Some fans waiting outside had traveled over two hours to see him. Others had seen him in concert over 30 times.

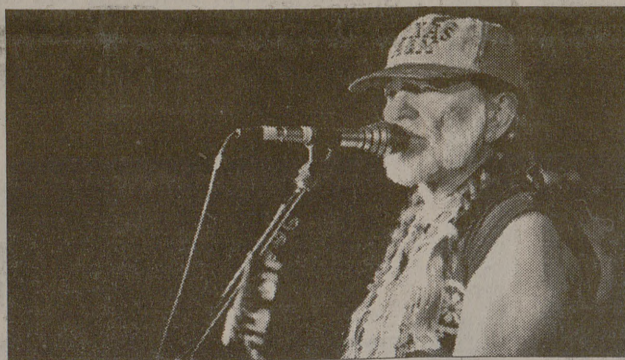
One fan, Russell Smith from Houston, said Nelson has a big heart and has always been polite and willing to spend time with his fans.

Inside the bus, Nelson patiently greeted his many guests and fans with the warmth and friendliness of an old friend. He said playing in the smaller clubs, like the Texas Hall of Fame, gives him the chance to interact with his audience and spend time with his fans.

"I love to get as close as I can to the audience, and you can hardly get much closer than the clubs," he said. "That's why I enjoy doing it. I've been working the clubs all my life."

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Photos by Kevin Ivy/The Battalion



Pulley

Soprano Emily Pulley to give benefit concert

By Margaret Claughton

THE BATTALION

The Friends United Church of Christ is making a high pitch for support from the community. Emily Pulley, a performing soprano with the New York Metropolitan Opera, will give a benefit concert Saturday to raise money for the Habitat for Humanity Program.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit housing ministry that raises money to build new, livable houses for low income families.

This concert has been organized specifically to raise \$1,500 for the Garay family's home. The Garays have nine children and are currently living in a two bedroom house. Habitat for Humanity has begun construction on the Garays' new four bedroom home but needs this money to provide suitable cabinets.

But the home does have a price. In order to receive it, a targeted family, like the Garays, must help build the house, said Administrative Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Arla Gammon.

"They must put in 300 hours of sweat (work) total," she said.

Gammon said the houses they build are modest, but new and very livable.

Gammon went to speak to the Friends United Church of Christ who were looking for a community project to benefit.

"The idea for the concert was conceived in the summer," said Phyllis Frederiksen, a member of Friends United Church. "We talked to various groups. Arla Gammon talked to us one day and we decided Habitat for Humanity was a worthy cause."

Jean Bowman, also a member of Friends United, said the church wants to host an affair that brings the community together.

"We want to be a visible force of human jus-

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REVIEWS

BALLET

Russian 'Nutcracker' a holiday treat

By Jacqueline Ayotte

THE BATTALION

"The Nutcracker"
Moscow Classical Ballet
Directed by Aleskei Litviniov
Playing at Rudder Auditorium
Dec. 1-4, call 845-1234

If you want to score some brownie points, boys, grab a tie and some manners and bring your gal to see MSC OPAS' presentation of "The Nutcracker."

There's nothing like seeing the Moscow Classical Ballet perform such a Christmas spectacular in our very own

Rudder Auditorium.

It's also a great excuse to sneak up on your otherwise macho buddies looking snazzy in their sports coats, watching a bunch of other men in tights.

Don't worry, we all know if you're whipped enough, you'll go.

But you'll be surprised. These Russian dancers put on a great show.

Although some of the costumes could use a little livening up, the dancers make up for the drab attire.

The snowy scenes of the ballet take away the dryness of the introduction and bring the feeling of Christmas to life.

The one dancer who stands above the

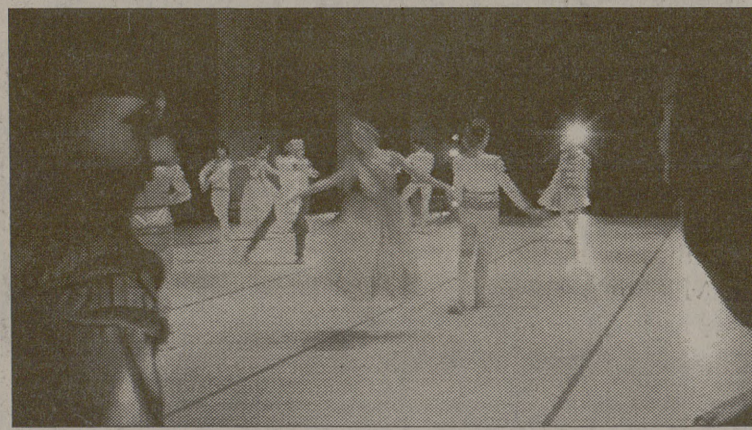
rest is Vera Timashova, the Queen of the Mice. Her movements are sleek and swift and add passion to the entire performance. She is a true performer.

Other stars include Ludmila Vasilyeva who plays Marie with a graceful touch of innocence, Ivan Korneyev who portrays the Prince and an array of uncommonly young, contemporary ballet dancers.

They dance with such magic, such precision, it will take your breath away.

There's no better time to go than now, and no better place to see it than here in Aggieland.

Besides, a little culture clash is good for the soul.



Varnell Hopkins/The Battalion

The Moscow Classical Ballet rehearses Wednesday afternoon. They will perform Tchaikovsky's Christmas tale, 'The Nutcracker' this weekend at Rudder Auditorium.

MUSIC

Snoop's 'Doggystyle,' don't believe the hype

By Rob Clark

THE BATTALION

"Doggystyle"
Snoop Doggy Dogg
Rap
Death Row/Interscope

This year's monster rap album, "The Chronic," by Dr. Dre did more than just become the biggest selling hardcore rap album in history. It in-

troduced the world to Snoop Doggy Dogg, who was featured on the hits "Nuthin but a 'G' Thang" and "Dre Day."

Snoop's charismatic voice and his slow, smooth delivery is unlike any other in rap, and his unique style captured the industry's attention. He was featured on the covers of Rolling Stone, Vibe and The Source before his album was even released.

Even the recent murder charges in

the August 25 shooting of Philip Woldemariam haven't damaged Snoop's popularity. In fact, they have solidified his image as a gangsta. He is even on the cover of the latest issue of Newsweek with the headline "When is Rap 2 Violent?"

But with all the hype of his long-awaited debut album, "Doggystyle," Snoop fails to meet his high expectations.

The problem with "Doggystyle" is

that it just doesn't break any new ground. Snoop spends most of the album talking about how bad he is, along with bashing "bitches" and "hoes" and smokin' "niggas" left and right.

Even Dr. Dre's production sags on the album. His trademark high-pitched electronic sound and his Funkadelic samples don't work nearly

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Snoop Doggy Dogg