

Bellamy bringing unique style of comedy to A&M

Rob Clark
BATTALION

Texas A&M, prepare for a booty call. Comedian and MTV personality Bill Bellamy will be performing at Rudder Auditorium Saturday at 7 p.m. as part of the SC Town Hall and Alpha Phi Alpha's Def Sync Jam.

Bellamy explained that a booty call, also known as a booty call, is a reference to guys that call late at night with the ladies. Either you want to see them or you want to make sure you can see them.

Bellamy got his comedic start in a beauty pageant of all places. While attending Rutgers University, Bellamy participated in a beauty pageant, complete with a crown and evening wear competitions.

It was the talent competition that gave him his first set as a comic. "I can't believe it," he said. "I never thought in a million years I would be hangin' with these people. These are people that everybody wants to meet, but I meet them on a whole different plane. It's not like 'Oh my God, it's just real smooth.'"

Bellamy even ran into the artist formerly known as Prince at a club. "He's like real cool, just sittin' there," Bellamy said. "Someone came up and said 'Someone wants to meet you.' I turn around and I'm like 'Who?' I can't see him 'cause he's so short."

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ans that at times is extremely racy. But despite his relatively clean routine, Bellamy made it out alive and scored well with the crowd with topics everyone could relate to.

"I wasn't talkin' about sex and all that," he said. "I was smart and talking about subject matter that would grab the audience's attention."

This paved the way for Bellamy's road to MTV. At the HBO taping, an MTV vice president in the talent department saw Bellamy and approached him for an R&B-format show.

"She tapped me on the shoulder and asked if I was interested in R&B music," Bellamy said. "She said 'We got this cool show going and we need a cool host. Would you like to do it?' And I'm like 'Yeah, if you tellin' the truth!'"

Enter "MTV Jams," a daily program featuring the latest video hits in R&B and hip hop. And as the host of the show, Bellamy has had some mind-blowing encounters with the top stars in music.

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"He said 'You really do a great job. Keep up the good work.' Yo, man — Prince watches MTV!"

But perhaps the artist with whom Bellamy has the best relationship with is Janet Jackson. After two MTV specials featuring Jackson, Bellamy said they quickly became friends.

"We just hit it off," he said. "I can just call her up and say 'What's up?'"

Bellamy said his role as host of the show has quickly associated himself with R&B music.

"I'm really happy about that — when people think of music on MTV, they put my face with it. I've become synonymous with it, because I bring it to the masses with a lot of fun."

Another dream assignment for Bellamy was when MTV sent him to Woodstock '94 to cover the wild festivities.

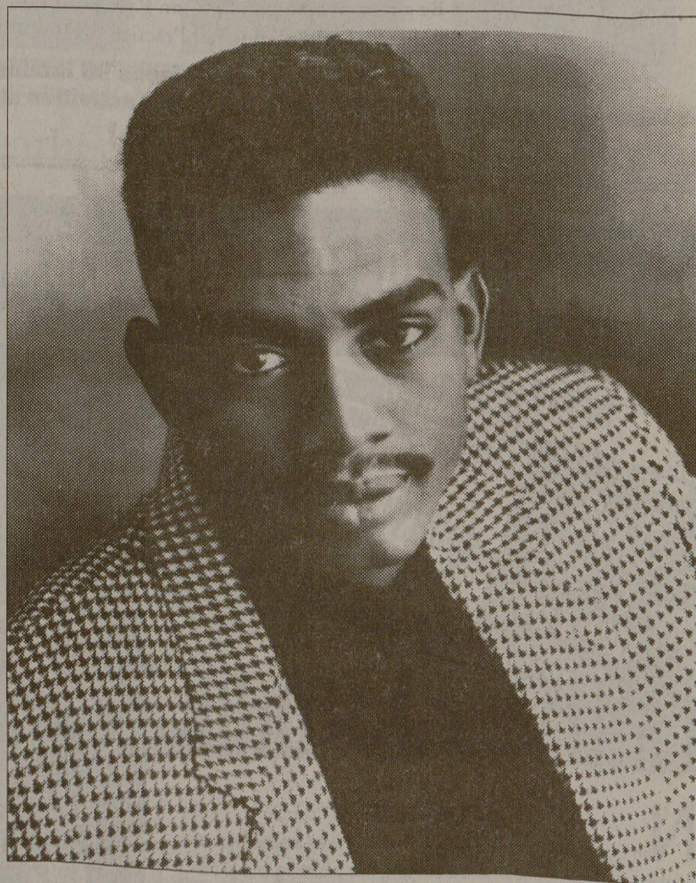
"It was like chaos," he said. "It was muddy, stinky, funky. I had mud up to the crack of my butt. It was like one of those things that you had to have been there. For one moment, everyone came together for one cause."

But despite Bellamy's hectic schedule, he still finds time to work on his comedy routines. And college audiences are the perfect audiences.

"It's fun," he said. "The energy is always really high, and they are really my target audience."

And Bellamy said Texas A&M will be no different.

"Tell the Aggies that when Bill Bellamy comes to town — ain't nothin' but a party."



Bill Bellamy

Organization keeping campus barrier-free for disabled students

Margaret Claughton
BATTALION

An organization is making sure that Texas A&M is "barrier free" for students with disabilities.

Support Services for Students With Disabilities (SSSD) is an organization that works to enable students with physical and physical disabilities to participate fully in the college experience.

We try to create a climate where students with disabilities know they can do what they want to do," said Gail Walters, assistant director of SSSD.

Walters said the organization works to create an accessible environment on campus.

SSSD works directly with disabled students to accommodate their needs in and out of the classroom.

SSSD officials interview students with disabilities at the beginning of

each semester. Their needs are evaluated and appropriate services are provided.

Services are available to help anyone from wheelchair users, blind students and students with Attention Deficit Disorder.

Reggie Deal, a journalism major who is blind, utilizes support services in many ways, primarily for tests and reading assignments.

SSSD provides readers for Deal whenever they are needed.

Deal said the services offered at A&M are far better than other universities.

"The amount of services is like night and day," he said. "They've got all sorts of people who volunteer to do reading and there's a lot more equipment we have access to."

Some technological resources available through SSSD are computers with

braille and speech capabilities, tape recorders and even laptop computers.

If a student needs services not directly offered by SSSD, the organization works closely with the University and community to make sure they get provided for.

"They're really helpful," said Kyle Kepple, a recipient of SSSD's services. "If you have a disability or some kind of problem, they'll do what they can to help you."

Kepple is also president of Networks, a student organization that works with SSSD to increase awareness of students with disabilities.

Kepple said the biggest barrier students with disabilities must overcome is other peoples' attitudes.

"We're working in Networks to get some attitude adjustments going," he said. "There are people with disabilities but you wouldn't know it by look-

ing at them, and there are people like me with (wheel) chairs."

Kepple said many people who see a person with a disability see a person who can't do certain things.

"We can do the same things everybody else can," he said. "We just do them differently."

But additional accommodations are sometimes required to allow student accessibility to different activities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, activated in 1992, requires public entities such as A&M to make sure programs, goods and services are available and accessible to people with disabilities.

Kepple plans to begin working with the A&M Physical Plant in the spring to make some campus areas more accessible.

But the physical barriers can sometimes be remedied easier than mental

barriers.

The SSSD designed and distributed a booklet, "Partners in Learning," to help faculty and staff members relate to and understand students with disabilities.

Walters said the booklet discusses the laws and issues concerning disabilities.

In addition, the descriptions of disabilities are provided and helpful hints are presented to help staff members develop open, productive relationships with disabled students.

In addition, Walters said the SSSD is working with Parking, Transit and Traffic Services and the Muster committee to make activities such as Bonfire and Muster more accessible to disabled students.

A disabilities awareness week is also being planned.

The King Of Parody

David Winder
BATTALION

At 3:40, he's not calling. I knew it, I'm never going to be able to talk to my idol. He's already twenty minutes late — he ain't calling me.

Hey, Dave. Telephone for you. Right man, calm down. Get yourself together. This is only one of the defining moments of his life.

Okay, you've got your questions and you've got your pen. Pick up the phone slowly. This is Dave.

"Hey Dave. This is Al." It was really him. It was no longer a dream, it was reality. I was talking to "Weird Al" Yankovic. Now, it was time to ask him those amazing questions I had thought of. One problem, I can't find the questions.

"So, Mr. Yankovic, why did you decide to put out a box set?" "It was really my record company's idea," he said. "It feels odd because I think I'm too young to have a box set out. But I have been in the business 15 years so it is kind of nice."

Yankovic's best make good 'Record'

David Winder
BATTALION

"Weird Al" Yankovic "Permanent Record" Scotti Bros. Records **** 1/2 (out of five)

The Police, Michael Jackson and Madonna all made it big doing their own style of music. "Weird Al" Yankovic made it big doing their music in his own style.

The master of parody has changed the lyrics and added an accordion to almost every mega-hit since the late '70s. In his new four-cd box set "Permanent Record," Yankovic puts all his classic satires and original songs into one collection.

The compilation starts off with the original recording of "My Bologna" (a parody of The Knack's "My Sharona") and continues through his latest single "Headline News" (a parody of The Crash Test Dummies' "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm").

In between you'll find "Eat It," "Like A Surgeon," and "Smells Like Nirvana." Then there's the parodies that never made it big but are as equally creative.

"Another One Rides The Bus," sung to the tune of Queen's "Another One Bites The Dust" — "Riding in the bus down the boulevard and the place is pretty packed / Couldn't find a seat so I had to

stand with the perverts in the back." Then there's "Spam," a parody of "Stand by Me" — "Spam in the place where I live / Ham and pork / Think about nutrition wonder what's inside it now."

But what always made Yankovic a pleasure to listen to were his original songs. "Christmas At Ground Zero," "This Is The Life" and "Trigger Happy" rival his best satires.

Yankovic's pseudo-love songs, however, reign supreme. "You Don't Love Me Anymore" is the best.

"I guess I lost a little bit of self-esteem / That time that you made it with the whole hockey team / You used to think I was nice / Now you tell your friends that I'm the anti-Christ."

The collection also features polka medleys which have appeared on almost every album. Yankovic takes songs such as Metallica's "Enter Sandman" and Foreigner's "Hot Blooded" and plays them with accordions instead of guitars.

If satire makes you laugh, if polka makes you dance or if you just have some money to spend then you need Al in a box.

Interview with the clown — analyzing 'Weird Al' Yankovic

Yankovic entered the business by sending original tapes into the "Dr. Demento" radio show. Since then he has recorded some of the funniest and most creative songs to hit the air waves. He just can't decide which is his favorite.

"My favorite original songs would have to be 'One More Minute' and 'You Don't Love Me Anymore,'" Yankovic said. "My favorite parodies would have to be 'Fat' and 'Smells Like Nirvana.'"

"I'm asked that question all the time. It's kind of hard to answer because I like all of them. It's kind of like being asked which nostril is my favorite."

Yankovic first gained recognition in 1979 when he did a parody of The Knack's "My Sharona" entitled "My Bologna." He then turned Queen's "Another One Bites The Dust" into "Another One Rides The Bus."

Since then, Yankovic has been a barometer of sorts on what is popular in music.

"After 'Smells Like Nirvana' came out, Kurt Cobain was quoted as saying he knew that they had 'made it' after 'Weird Al' did a parody of them," Yankovic said. "Brad Roberts of the Crash Test Dummies said that it was a milestone to have a song of theirs parodied by me."

Not everybody feels that way, however. Yankovic has been denied permission to use songs throughout his career. He will only do a parody if he has the consent of the songwriter.

"It's all done in good fun and it helps their record sales," Yankovic said.

"But every once in a while, we run into people that basically have no sense of humor."

Yankovic does have some subjects that are taboo.

"I have a close circle of friends that keep me within good taste," Yankovic said. "I really don't think a parody of (Eric Clapton's) 'Tears In Heaven' would



"Weird Al" Yankovic

be too good of an idea." There it is, you've asked him all the questions you could remember. Ask him if he wants to add anything.

"I feel you have peeled back the layers and exposed an Al that nobody really knows."