

A&M has trouble with events

Better facilities needed to lure in more quality entertainment

MSC Town Hall is commonly asked several questions:

1. Why didn't you guys bring Pearl Jam?
2. Why didn't you guys bring Garth Brooks?
3. Why don't you guys bring anyone cool to Texas A&M?

My question for you is ... if you were someone cool, would you want to come to A&M?

Now, before you start writing your letters condemning me as a "bad Ag," hear me out. I think A&M is a wonderful place, and I'm happy to be here, but from an entertainment perspective, I can understand why some groups would choose not to play here.

For those of you who are lost as to what Town Hall is, it is the MSC group that brings entertainment, mostly concerts, to campus.

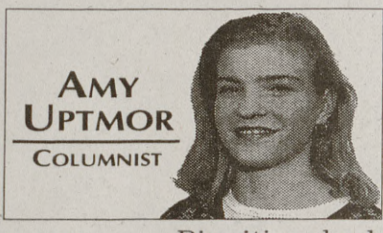
They sit around every day, calling agents from around the country, trying to book concerts on our campus. They understand why the concert scene on campus is how it is.

For starters, most bands choose to play only two or three cities in each state while on tour. That means that College Station, with a population of about 52,000, is in direct competition with Houston and Dallas.

And don't forget about Austin, the musical mecca of the South.

You might be thinking that College Station is a small town, but it does have one of the nation's largest universities, so that should be a selling point for any performer. Wrong!

All the other big cities in Texas have at least as many college students as we do, not to mention hundreds of



AMY UPTMOR
COLUMNIST

thousands of high school students and young adults that would also be likely to attend concerts. So having good ol' A&M here doesn't make us special in this sense.

Big cities also have the advantage of having many new, large venues that can easily accommodate concerts of all different sizes. We, on the other hand, have three venues: G. Rollie White Coliseum, Rudder Auditorium and the soon-to-be demolished Deware Fieldhouse. None of these venues are what I would even call adequate for concerts.

I felt sorry for the kids who had to mosh side-to-side at the They Might Be Giants show (which, by the way, was a really good show) because there was no better place to have it.

And I can sympathize with any of you who might have been attacked by bats or hit by falling debris from the ceiling of Deware at last year's Belly show.

As for G. Rollie, it just isn't big enough to hold an arena-sized concert. Those of you who have seen shows at the Summit know that it seats around 16,000 (and usually sells out). Now, how many people can Jollie Rollie hold? About 7,500. Not too good.

The new special events center, at an estimated capacity of 12,000, won't be a huge improvement. Plus, there are many other things about G. Rollie that keeps concerts out of it, such as the fact that sound and lights can't be flown from the ceiling, and, oh, I don't know, basketball games?

Just in case you're wondering, Kyle Field cannot be used for concerts of any kind. The final factor is money. Town Hall works on a budget that comes partly from your student services fee. Although that fee is high, it does not amount to an endless sum of money.

Most concerts in cities such as Houston are sponsored by promoters, such as Pace Concerts, who cover all the expenses.

They are also backed by large radio stations that do practically all their advertising.

Although promoters do occasionally bring shows to the area, the bottom line is Town Hall usually can't afford to bring big name entertainers.

I hope you can now better see why there aren't as many concerts at A&M as you would probably like to see.

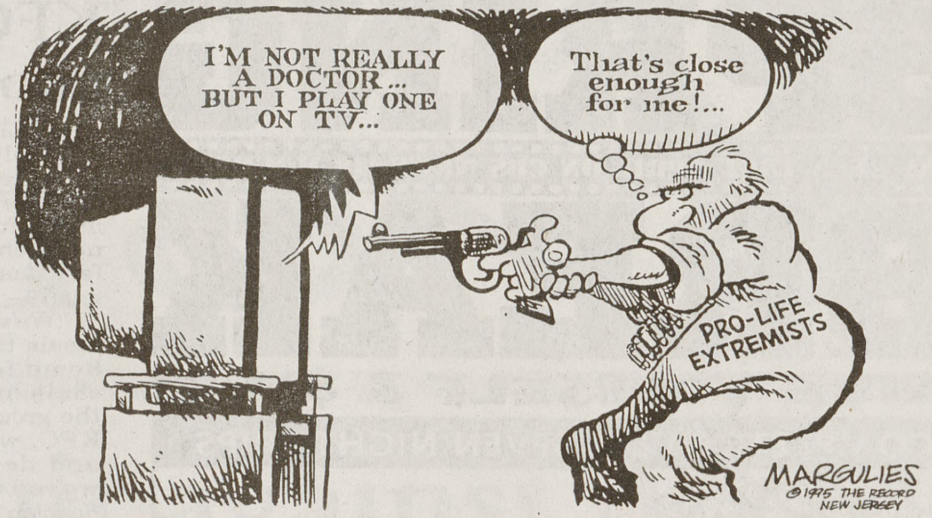
The concert scene is as good as can be expected, given the circumstances though.

Town Hall works hard to bring as many good, diverse shows as possible. But I don't think any of you came to A&M expecting a thriving concert scene anyway.

It's better than you might expect however: R.E.M., Green Day, the Gin Blossoms, George Strait and yes, even Garth Brooks have all played here in the last five years.

For a town this size that is pretty impressive. And if there is a show you want to see that doesn't come here, Austin and Houston are both only short drives away.

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THE BATTALION

Established in 1893

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EDITORIAL

EASIER JUSTICE

Newly formed appeals panel will help students to end discrimination problems.

Recently the Students Rights Appeals Panel was dissolved and replaced with the Illegal Discrimination Appeals Panel. This new panel is an improvement over its predecessor because it has a clearer purpose, will be more accessible to students and clearly defines what types of cases it will hear. These cases will be those dealing with race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, gender, the right to freedom of the press and the right to free speech.

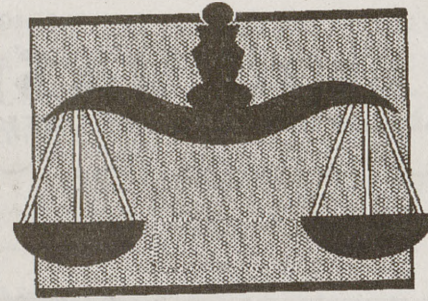
In the past, students could pursue grievances through the Students Rights Appeals Panel. The panel was set up to provide mediators if needed and to help resolve conflicts between students and faculty and staff. It never met, however, since students were not fully aware of its existence.

Dr. E. Dean Gage, during his term as Interim President created a task force to explore questions raised by students and faculty about the Students Rights Appeals Panel. The task force came to the conclusion that a new panel was necessary — one that will be more easily

accessible and more efficient.

The new panel will consist of four faculty members, two staff members, two undergraduates and one graduate student. This blend helps to ensure that all parties are represented fairly.

Even though there haven't been many problems that have necessitated a panel appearance, it is important to have the structure in place when the need arises. Students who experience illegal discrimination or for any reason must have access to a procedure that will help eliminate



such difficulties. The new panel, with clearer, more efficient procedures and policies, will provide students a better opportunity to handle problems within the system, rather than having to seek help outside the University.

Illegal discrimination should be resolved as quickly as possible. With the new Appeals Panel, the quick resolution of such problems will be more of a reality for students who are experiencing discrimination.



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Jason, will you lead us in reciting the pledge?

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

MAIL CALL

Conservative column filled with errors

My wife and I have a cat that uses a litter box for final disposal of her inner rumblings. Apparently, David Taylor has "The Battalion" for his. Mr. Taylor's column of January 19 suffered from factual errors (the product of deliberation or ignorance, I'm not sure which), a glaring omission or two, a ton of smugness and delusions of humor.

Mr. Taylor implies that Lyndon Johnson's Great Society did little to reduce poverty in the United States. This is utter nonsense.

In 1960, fully one-third of all Americans lived below the poverty level; the Great Society programs reduced poverty to 11% by 1970. The poverty rate has escalated steadily since the Reagan Revolution.

Mr. Taylor seems to ascribe much of our present deficit and debt problems to the Great Society as well.

The Great Society cost an average of \$53 per recipient. At the end of 1965, despite this increased social spending and a major tax cut, Lyndon Johnson and the Democratic Congress finished the year with a balanced budget.

The escalation of the Vietnam War wrecked the Great Society and the country's finances. By 1968, the United States spent \$322,000 for every enemy killed in Southeast Asia.

Bashing Democrats and other errant types has apparently always been in fashion here. In Mr. Taylor's attack upon liberalism, he inadvertently in-

dicts himself as well.

Mr. Taylor revealed in his article as an aside that he attends Texas A&M with the help of student loans.

The student loan program in this country began with the Higher Education Act of 1965, one of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs. In addition, Texas A&M started with federal funding under the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, obviously a socialist plot to subvert private enterprise.

To remain true to his conservative principles, perhaps Mr. Taylor should return his student loan money, leave this fine institution and attend a private school where he can pay "market price" for his education. I think that the going rate at Texas' least expensive private school exceeds \$200 per hour.

If "The Battalion" must have a "conservative columnist" — and I think that it should — perhaps it should print columns by William F. Buckley, Jr.

Mr. Buckley possesses class, a working grasp of historical facts and incisive humor. Let Mr. Taylor fill in for Rush Limbaugh where his obvious shortcomings will largely go unnoticed.

Ricky Floyd Dobbs
History instructor

Deficit too great to even worry about

I've been an advocate for ending deficit spending for years. I've also been hoping for years that the federal government would start paying off the debt. But that was when I thought the debt was only \$4-6 trillion.

Since the Battalion editors enlightened me on Friday about the true size of the debt (\$400 trillion), I've finally decided that there is absolutely no hope of paying it off. Spend like there's no tomorrow, fellow Americans!

Richard Hammitt
Class of '94

Gingrich off to rough start

New House Speaker under intense scrutiny for actions



STERLING HAYMAN
OPINION EDITOR

I don't know who runs the Speaker of the House School of Grooming, but I really wish that they would adopt a "no pass, no play" rule. If the Speaker cannot seem to make a passing grade in Etiquette 101 or Remedial Ethics, he should have to sit out an entire session.

After all, he's wants to make all laws applicable to Congress. It only seems fair.

Newt, (a.k.a. Newtie — what Mom Gingrich calls him), seems to be having a little bit of trouble adjusting to his new leadership position. That metamorphosis from Minority Whip to Speaker is proving to be more difficult than he possibly imagined.

Questions are now being raised about Speaker Newt's ethics. Seems like he didn't find anything wrong with a \$4.5 million book advance from Harper Collins, even though this Congress is facing legislation this session that will affect the publishing company. Sound like bribery?

Well, after intense criticism, Gingrich finally turned down the deal — accepting only a \$1 advance and future royalties. This situation gets even fishier. When Rep. Carrie Meeks, D-Fla, questioned Newtie's book deal on the floor of the House, the Republicans voted unanimously to strike parts of her speech from the Congressional record.

Gingrich also gained quite a bit of attention when his mother revealed to Connie Chung that her son thought Hillary Clinton was "a bitch." Sure, Chung's ethics were also questioned. But even if Chung had forced Mom Gingrich to talk by threatening to put a lit cigarette out on her forehead, Mama G. spilled the beans and Newt didn't deny it.

It seems that Newt had come to the "bitch" conclusion after witnessing Hillary take over a health care meeting months ago. After all, everyone knows that any strong woman who has leadership skills must surely be a bitch. (See the flaw in logic?)

Newt's next gaffe was his appointment of the House historian, Christina Jeffrey. Jeffrey, in 1986, opposed a junior high school curriculum containing information on the Holocaust. Jeffrey didn't think that the Nazi point of view had been fairly presented.

How objective can you make their motto? "Kill all Jews," doesn't need much explaining.

Later it was learned that Gingrich knew of her thoughts on the issue when he appointed her. It was only when he was strongly criticized that he fired her.

It's hard to even talk about Newt's orphanage plan while keeping a straight face. His answer to end welfare is to take children out of the homes of the welfare parents and put them in the possession of an orphanage. He says we should all watch Boy's Town to understand his plan.

My suggestion is that Mr. Gingrich visit real orphanages and not rely on movies for the future of the nation. I find it a little hard to believe that this type of plan would strengthen family values.

Now we learn that Newtie has a personal vendetta against Big Bird, Cookie Monster and Snufalufagus. He wants the government to stop funding PBS, which airs shows like Sesame Street and The Electric Company. Shows with merit.

If Newt gets his way, I guess all the Sesame Street characters will have to shack up with Oscar the Grouch and live in a garbage can — then we can deny them all welfare.

Well, I suppose it's about time Bert and Ernie got off their lazy butts and went to look for a real job — as opposed to educating millions of children each week.

He is, however, good at dealing with the American public — fooling them, that is. His Contract With America was a brilliant gimmick. Within the plan are a lot of good ideas. The only catch is that he only promised that the issues would be voted on, not for.

I'm sure that the Congress wouldn't mind voting on term limits every day of the week, but that doesn't ensure that they'll vote for term limits.

Now that the heat has been turned up a tad and criticisms are running rampant, Newt's crying, "Foul ... foul." Republican members, too, have quickly joined the chant.

They claim that the minority is now constantly scrutinizing the Speaker, treating him with a lack of respect, delving into his personal life and attacking every decision he makes.

Does this tactic sound familiar? It should. It is the exact same tactic that these same Republicans have perfected over the past two years. Now Gingrich knows how President Clinton feels.

Oh well, what goes around comes around. Buck up Newtie, it's only the beginning.

Sterling Hayman is a junior political science major