

Setting the record straight

MSC Town Hall forum explains methods of bringing musical groups to campus

Amy Collier
THE BATTALION

When it comes to bringing a musical group on campus, the road is not always a smooth one for MSC Town Hall. Finding an available stage and making end-of-the-road phone calls to promoters is only part of the process. Issues of money and scheduling often make it difficult to bring top bands to Texas A&M.

MSC Town Hall had a forum discussion Wednesday night about the process they go through to entice bands to play at A&M and the problems that are sometimes encountered. Town Hall Chairman Patrick Conway said the main problem with booking bands is the stereotype of Bryan-College Station by the music industry.

"All they think of is hicks with big cowboy hats and all they want to listen to is country music," Conway said.

Although this does not pose a problem for booking country bands to play at A&M, other types of musical acts are lacking, Conway said.

Gary Peterson, a senior marketing major, attended the meeting and said he was angry that Earl Jam played at Stephen F. Austin University instead of A&M in 1993.

Bands can have many reasons for not choosing to come to A&M, said Bryan Quarles, Town Hall vice chairman.

"If someone's playing three dates in Texas, it's hard to convince them to make one of them A&M," Quarles said.

Although College Station must compete with larger cities, Peterson said radio station Z-Rock 101.9 would not have come here if there was not a market for rock music.

"I don't think Town Hall has exploited that yet," Peterson said.

Conway said that because country acts frequently play at A&M, many people think Town Hall members don't have diverse music tastes.

"Town Hall is not a group of people who love country music and want to bring a bunch of country music here," Conway said. "The only reason we bring country music here is because it makes money for us to try and bring other shows."

Money is the other major limitation Town Hall faces in getting bands to come to A&M.

After money is transferred to pay expenses, Town Hall is left with a budget of around \$6,000, Conway said. This money must be used for an entire year to subsidize Town Hall performances.

Because of this small budget, Conway said Town Hall can't afford to bring many artists.

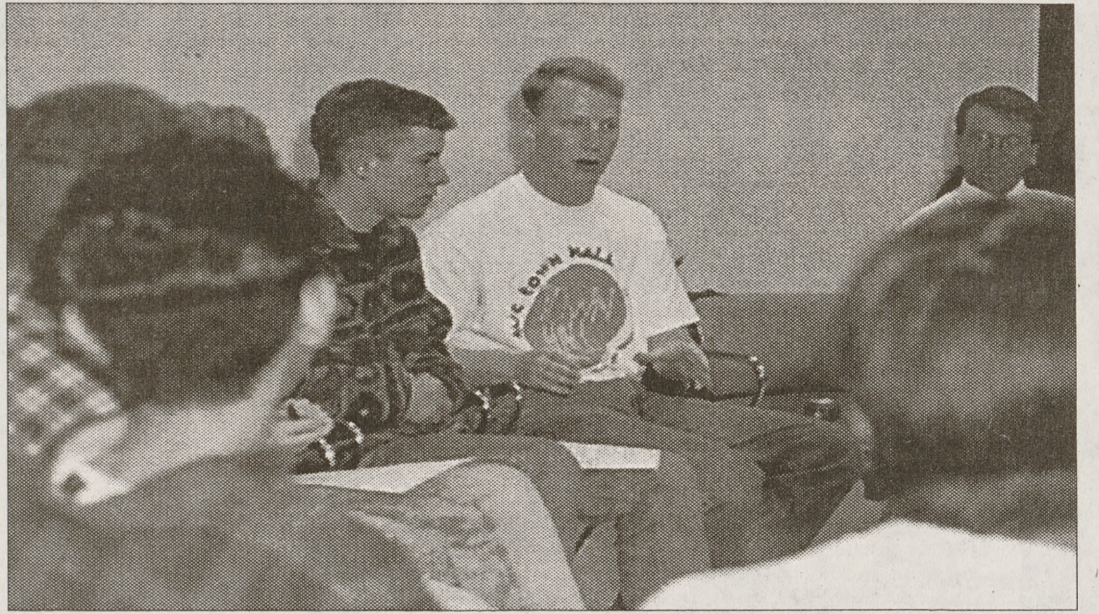
"If they're a promoter for a rap artist or an alternative band, they don't even want to waste their preliminary time talking about prices or anything like that," Conway said.

Promoters take a risk when they bring alternative rock, latino and R&B bands to A&M,

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— Patrick Conway,
chairman of MSC Town Hall

Conway said. Dave Salmon, adviser to Town Hall, said a promoter lost a significant amount of money when R.E.M. played here in 1989 because of low attendance.



MSC Town Hall Chairman Patrick Conway responds to questions during Wednesday night's forum concerning campus musical performances.

"If we do get a show, the main thing students can do is attend those shows really well," Salmon said. "Then promoters see that they made money here with a diverse-type act. Word gets around and more promoters will be likely to come here."

Conway said the facilities at A&M are another limitation to booking big acts.

Because G. Rollie White Coliseum and Rudder Auditorium are almost always in use, some concerts have to take place in DeWare Field House. Conway said bigger concerts will be booked when A&M gets a special events center.

But for the students, gaining larger facilities is not the only concern.

Kedrin Bell, a junior political science major, said she attended the meeting because she wants Town Hall to bring different styles of music to A&M.

"I think we just need a lot more diversity," Bell said. "I love country music, but it's just a matter of that's not all there is."

Conway said Town Hall will continue to aggressively pursue a diversity of bands.

"I realize that there's people at A&M that like all different types of music," Conway said. "It's just that some people that aren't at A&M don't really realize that. They have a stereotype that Aggies only like country music."



Matt Segrest stands in front of the quad.

Roger Hsieh / THE BATTALION

More recruits, more dorms for Corps on Quad

By Amy Collier
THE BATTALION

For Matt Segrest, there's just no stopping growth in progress.

The Corps commander says the Corps is recruiting furiously, and the result may be taking over more dorms on the Quadrangle.

"Unfortunately, people's dorms get taken over," Segrest said, "but that's the expense of a growing Corps."

Segrest said the Corps plans to take the remainder of Kiest Hall and fill it with cadets next fall. The residence hall is currently filled with Corps staff on the first floor and female students on the top three floors.

Segrest said the Corps is filling the rest of Kiest because they will reach their goal of having between 800 and 850 recruits next year.

Two programs have helped Corps recruiting, Segrest said.

First, the Corps has a program each semester called "Spend the Night With the Corps" for high school juniors and seniors who are potential recruits for the Corps. Students stay with cadets for a night and learn about how the Corps operates.

Segrest said more than 100 students attended the program last fall and about 80 percent of them joined the Corps.

The Corps has also strengthened the Corps Leadership Outreach (CLO) program, Segrest said. CLO is an organization made up of former students and others who help with recruiting efforts by finding potential recruits in Texas high schools.

Sgt. Maj. Tom Epting, assistant recruiting coordinator for the Corps, said

teaming with an admissions counselor has also improved recruiting.

"We have every new, interested, want-to-be Aggie come over here to see us," Epting said. "The Corps gets first shot at them. We're going to work every possible scenario that we can to ensure that we get some good folks in here for the Corps of Cadets."

Segrest said the Corps has an agreement with the University which gives them top priority to the housing on the Quad.

"The Corps gets first shot at it," Segrest said. "If we can't fill them up, then we let other students fill them up. It's unfortunate to see people lose their spots, but that's just a priority of the University."

Segrest said he believes residents who now live in Kiest will not react as negatively as residents of Gainer Hall did last year when it was taken over by the Corps.

"I think they all pretty much like the Corps and would like to see the Corps grow," Segrest said.

Chloe Grabbe, a sophomore biomedical science major, was moved into Kiest this year after the Corps took over Gainer.

Grabbe said she was mad when Gainer was taken last year because there was no prior warning.

"I was just really mad when they said that we would have the dorm and then a week after they gave us our room numbers, they said that they were taking over Gainer and that we had to move to Kiest," Grabbe said.

Grabbe said the key is prior warning, and if she is warned this year that she will be moved, she will not be angry if Kiest is used for Corps housing.

Owen Ross, president of the Residence Hall Association, said Kiest residents have been notified of the takeover by a letter sent out at the beginning of the spring semester. The letter told the residents that as of the fall of 1995, Kiest will become a male hall.

Since these residents are being relocated, Ross said they will be given top priority to move into vacancies anywhere on campus.

Ross said that although he hates to see Kiest go as a residence hall, he understands that the Corps needs more housing.

"I personally see the expanding of the Corps positive for A&M," Ross said. "The Quad is their place to live."

Segrest said that in the next two years, the Corps will take over Briggs Hall. After that, the Corps has a goal to fill all of the dorms on the Quad by the year 2000, which would require an enrollment of 2,600 cadets.

"It would be great to go over that," Segrest said. "We could build a new dorm or take over the Commons."

"It's nothing malicious that we want the hall back," Epting said. "It's just the fact that we want it back and we want to fill it full of Corps members."

Segrest said the increasing number of cadets in the Corps will be a benefit to society.

"We're producing more cadets and more people with the leadership training from the Corps, more people that have gone through character development, outstanding citizens and outstanding leaders in the military," he said.

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