

DECADE OF DECADENCE

KHLR's latest music radio show takes listeners back to the '80s

By Rhonda Reinhart
Staff writer

Big hair was in style, MTV had just found its place on television airwaves and Molly Ringwald movies were the rage. It was the '80s, and although the decade has passed (along with parachute pants and big earrings), at least one aspect of the era lives on — the music.

In an effort to preserve the music of the '80s, KHLR has started an all '80s radio show called "Decade." The show, hosted by Rob Clark,

airs every Sunday from 9 p.m. to midnight. The two week-old show is the only all '80s radio program in Bryan-College Station.

Clark, who is also editor of Spotlight, The Bryan-College Station Eagle's weekly entertainment guide, said the first week of "Decade" received a good reaction from listeners.

"I was surprised to see how many requests I got the first night," he said. "The '80s show is something I think this area has been starving for."

Amanda Clark, an '80s music fan and no relation to the show's host, said "Decade" is a good idea

for a radio show.

"The '80s rocked," she said. "Musically, it was awesome. When I think of the '80s, I think of bad hair, bad clothes and good music."

She said she thinks '80s music is popular because of its appeal.

"I think people like '80s music because it is good music," she said. "It's somebody actually singing instead of screaming. It's rock you can dance to without slamming into somebody."

The main focus of "Decade" is well known pop/rock, including early hits by Cyndi Lauper, Michael Jackson and Madonna. There is also a sprinkling of tunes by groups like Bananarama, who never made it onto the '90s music scene.

Rob Clark said he tries not to repeat songs from show to show.

"I'm trying to play a good variety of music," he said. "We're playing a lot of songs that haven't been played since they were released."

Mike Fitch, program director for KHLR, said the future of "Decade" looks promising.

"I think it will take off because it's not the same old thing," he said. "We're only in the fledgling stages, and it will only get better from here. It's going to grow, and we're going to keep working on building a library for the show."

Rob Clark said the main attraction to '80s music is the nostalgia factor.

"When most of us were growing up, this was the music we chose to listen to," he said. "It's not what our parents made us listen to in the car. It's fun to remember where you were and what grade you were in when you were listening to this music."

He said the influence of the '80s should not be overlooked.



DEREK DEMERE/THE BATTALION

Rob Clark hosts "Decade," an '80s music show on KHLR Sunday nights from 9 p.m. to midnight.

'Blue Suede Shoes' dances into Aggieland

When I was in elementary school, my mother dragged me to see "The Nutcracker." Since that experience, I have never been a big fan of ballet. It's always good for a nap, but nothing else.

This July, I changed my mind.

I had the privilege of seeing "Blue Suede Shoes," performed by the Cleveland Ballet, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, Calif., and I never knew ballet could be so fun.

OPAS is bringing "Blue Suede Shoes" to College Station March 31-April 5, 1998.

Tickets are now available in the OPAS office. David Oakland, producer of "Blue Suede Shoes" and Cleveland Ballet president, said even Texas A&M students, many of whom were born the year of Elvis' death, will enjoy the production.

"The sound bite for the college kids is that we're taking something boring and shaking it up," Oakland said.

And that is exactly what they did. If it is possible to jitterbug on toe shoes, that is what these dancers did. This is not tights-wearing men arabesquing to "Swan Lake" — this is real music, real clothing and modern dance.

Elvis songs filled the air. I know this might be more exciting for my parents' generation, those who grew up with those songs.

But I promise, college students will be surprised when they realize they know every word to "Teddy Bear" and "Jailhouse Rock."

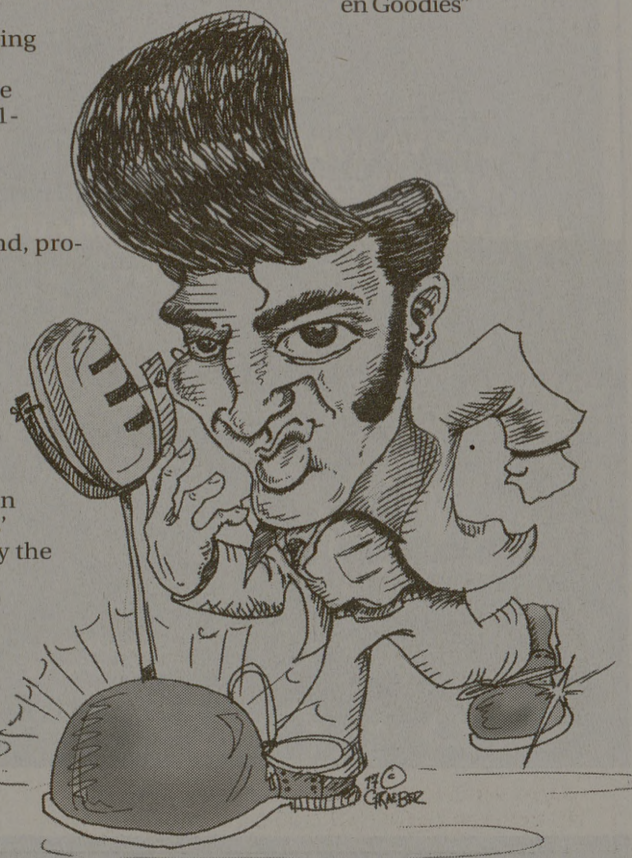
Okay, so it's not Tripping Daisy, and it's not Marilyn Manson, but good music is good music that lasts generations. Choreographer Dennis Nahat said the ballet has a unique appeal to music fans of all ages.

"What I believe is important is to show our heritage and continue to develop new things that relate to the dancers today and the people today," he said.

The ballet features several different sets including "High School," "Hot Dog Drive-In," "In The Army," "Highways and Lonely Streets," "Saturday Night," "Jailhouse Rock" and "Rockin' Golden Goodies"



April Towery
Junior journalism major



As I looked at the audience members at the ballet, I came to the conclusion that I was probably the only one wearing my high school prom dress. But seeing "Blue Suede Shoes" is even more captivating for audiences of college students who may have never had the chance to experience the music of the era.

PLEASE SEE OPAS ON PAGE 4.

Moore: Acting at ease as Navy SEAL

G.I. Jane

Starring Demi Moore
Directed by Ridley Scott
Rated R
Playing at Hollywood 16
*** 1/2 (stars out of five)

By Aaron Meier
Staff writer

Movie watchers have grown accustomed to Demi Moore's sweaty, toned body being flashed across the screen. Admittedly, *G.I. Jane* does

have its fair share of flesh, but it is complemented by the hard work necessary to acquire her physique, such as one-armed push-ups and upside down sit-ups.

Stomach crunches and dead lifts aside, *G.I. Jane* rivets the viewers to their seats with some of the best action scenes of the summer.

G.I. Jane centers on the character of Lt. Jordan O'Neil, the first woman to enroll in the elite Navy SEAL training program. Lt. O'Neil must fight to finish her training and attempt to prove the potential of women in the military.

The role of Lt. O'Neil fits Moore perfectly. She does not need to act at all. Moore seems to have finally realized audiences do not like her in dumbed-down versions of classic

novels (*The Scarlet Letter*).

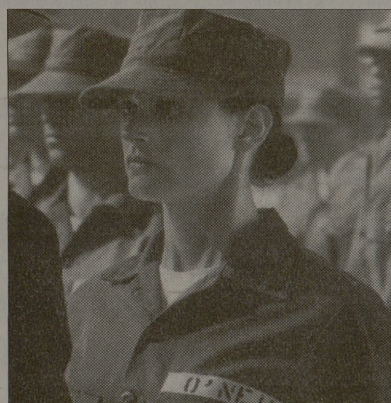
To be fair though, Moore does command the film with a powerful physical presence few women in Hollywood possess.

Ridley Scott, director of *G.I. Jane*, utilizes this presence expertly. Pain coupled with rugged strength pour through the screen as Moore battles to complete her SEAL training.

The plot and writing of *G.I. Jane* are not ground breaking by any means, but surprisingly the film does not turn into a soapbox for the women in combat movement. Action is *G.I. Jane's* meal ticket, and it does not try to entangle itself in the politics and ideology of women in the military.

Scott has created this summer's first and only non-stop action film.

From the opening scenes to the closing credits, fists fly, bones break, blood is spilt and tears fall.



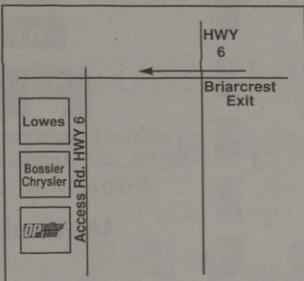
Demi Moore stars in *G.I. Jane*.

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