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AGGIELIFE

Just in case You missed it.

A look back at a semester of entertainment

BY AMANDA PALM
The Battalion

If you close your eyes for a moment and think back to the events surrounding the Texas A&M campus this fall, it would be difficult to remember everything that occurred, because of the unforgettable impact the Bonfire collapse had on Aggies everywhere. But not everything that occurred this fall was tragic or sad.

The community hosted many music events to entertain thousands of students. MSC OPAS did its best to enlighten and educate the public with a variety of plays, operas and musicals and *The Battalion* made an attempt to aid students in everything from how to be cool under pressure to the proper behavior for out-of-town football games.

A Semester of Concerts

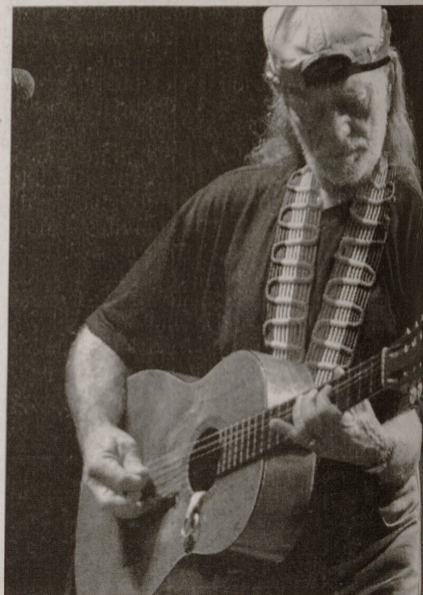
Students have had opportunities to attend a wide array of musical events since August. Pushmonkey kicked off the semester Sept. 15, before the official Ag Kickoff concert could start the semester. With hard-rocking sounds, Pushmonkey began the music calendar of College Station with a bang.

The Ag Kickoff then brought a different type of music to the area. With Pat Green headlining the kickoff, joined by Cory Morrow, Dub Miller and the Highway 6 Band, the seventh annual event was a success despite being moved from Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater to the Texas Hall of Fame. Finishing the month of September, Last Free Exit and Tripping Daisy offered alternative sounds for students. And, of course, no semester would be complete without performances by Robert Earl Keen and Jack Ingram. Keen always will be a favorite among the Aggie crowd, and Ingram's popularity with Aggies continues to grow the more he plays.

October brought College Station two musical extremes. The Highwayman, Willie Nelson, could be heard from the grounds of Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater on Oct. 7. For those not interested in country music, Cowboy Mouth provided a perfect rock alternative just one week later at the Texas Hall of Fame. The fall semester finished its musical scene with a performance by the Robison Brothers in mid-November. Other performances scheduled for the later part of November were canceled or postponed because of the Bonfire collapse.

MSC OPAS

In its 27th year, MSC OPAS brought four performances to the stage this semester. The season began in September, with the Don Cossacks of Rustov. The troupe, which has performed for four centuries, gave the audience a vocal and choreographed composition of



CODY WAGSTON

Willie Nelson entertained the crowd on October 7 at his performance at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater.

Russian heritage. In October came the swinging sounds of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, which dazzled audiences with the sounds of New Orleans and Dixie jazz. November brought the musical "The King and I" of music, dancing, bright costumes and stage production. "The Nutcracker" ended the semester's performances with the music of Russian composer Tchaikovsky.

The Battalion

With the benefit of Texas A&M students in mind, *The Battalion* embarked on a week's worth of "how to" articles to aid students in their daily activities. The series began with advice on how to be more suave when dating with the opposite sex. For all the guys and gals there, remember the advice Melissa Pantano gave:

1. Assume the person you are calling has a crush on you.
2. Women have faces as well as bosoms.
3. Only meatheads get into bar brawls.
4. Don't pay with gift certificates.

The next "how to" column focused on keeping yourself happy. This can be a difficult thing to do when you're with the stresses of college life, but Jeff Wolfson gave this advice: Play a favorite CD, dress nicely, drink water and focus on your friends.

The third installment of the series dealt with the doldrums of domesticity. College students don't want to be destined for filth. Just put in some effort: clean your clothes clean, try new recipes, pick up your apartment and if you feel really adventurous, try a little gardening.

Heather Brondy enlightened both male and female readers with the art of the easy letdown. She advised males to be honest, not to take advantage of a girl at a bar and then bolt, to only tell a guy to call if you really want him to and not to pretend you like a guy just back at another.

Finally, after a week of information, the last installment of the "how to" series educated students on the etiquette of attending away games. Simply dress accordingly and do not patronize the home-team fans.

This semester has hosted some incredible and some artistic cultural performances and even a little advice from *The Battalion*. Reminiscing is always enjoyable, especially when there are so many wonderful events to look back on. Cherish the memories of both the good and the bad, because very rarely will there ever be one without the other.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

"Nutcracker," pleased ballet lovers December 3.

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We at UCS are proud to be a part of the A&M and College Station community. We wish all Aggies good luck on finals and a safe return to what we feel is the best place on earth, Aggieland.

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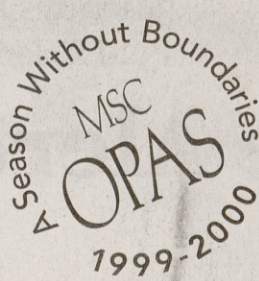
The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber
January 22 & 23

Romeo & Juliet
Ballet de l'Opera de Bordeaux
February 25-27

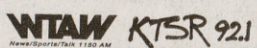
Spirit of the Dance
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Annie
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