

Concert Committee defends actions

To The Editor:

In light of the recent controversy surrounding the Robin Williams concert, I feel some clarification is due. The decision to direct the concert committee's buying power on Robin Williams as opposed to musical entertainment was what can be called a lack of selection. Although there were many bands available, none of these were groups which the "typical" music listner would chance the purchase price of a ticket. I have spent many hours behind survey tables and talking with students in trying to find out what kind of entertainment they would most enjoy seeing. The overwhelming consensus has always been to supply top name performers. For my critics to even imply that a group like Dire Straits was passed over is not only a blatent lie but absolutely ludicrous. Obviously a band of that magnitude would receive our full efforts, but as it was, it was never made available in this country. As for INXS and The Psychadelic Furs, it was not procrastination which prevented their appearances, but the smart detail of not being on tour in the eastern half of the United States. These same critics say that the emphasis

should not be on mass appeal groups. Well I say, why not? Past experience has proven that smaller, less popular bands do not produce even fair attendance. Every student pays for the Student Association which pays for the concerts, so why shouldn't those funds be used to please as many as it's sponsors as possible? The large fieldhouse shows have that potential. In working within the constraints of a shortened semester, vacations, facility availabilities, as well as the tour plans of each particular act, there is no feasibility in trying to fulfill the idealistic goal of a small show to please every facet of the diversified musical tastes on campus. The Robin Williams show provided the Concert Committee a chance to reach many different people and proved to be a success both financially and in terms of audience satisfaction. Contrary to my critics incorrect statement, the Concert Committee is strong on it's financial feet and will continue to try and please as many as possible and not become the pawn of a small sect of self-serving alternative music enthusiasts.

John Stewart
Concert Committee Chairman