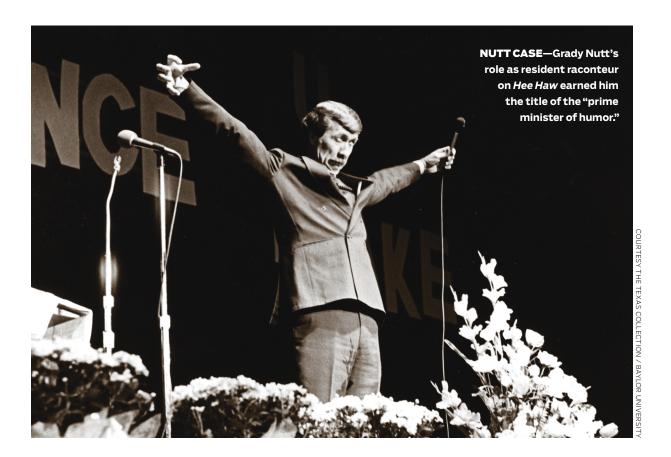
BACK A LOOK BACK A LOO



The entertainer

Remembering consumate storyteller Grady Nutt

In a 1982 Welcome Week speech, Grady Nutt '57 said, "I started [at Baylor] planning to be a minister; that's all I ever intended to do . . . all I ever wanted to do, but got side-tracked into telling crazy stories and remembering stuff that you really ought to forget."

Nutt combined his ordination as a Baptist minister and his master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with his love and talent for telling stories. The result was a professional humorist known for his tales about churches and preachers.

Best remembered for his performances on the *Hee Haw* television show, Nutt entertained the country with singing, juggling, and his ability to play half a dozen musical instruments.

A regular on the *Mike Douglas Show*, Nutt spoke at churches, colleges, and venues around the country. He wrote *Being Me: Or Self You Bug Me!* and *The Gospel According to Norton*, and he recorded several albums, including *The Flip Sides of Grady Nutt, Humorist!*

Although Nutt became a national figure, he never let go of his roots. When asked about Baylor, Nutt said, "It's a place that loves folks. It's a place where real community can happen. It's a place where grace ain't cheap. And it's a place where dreams get to float."

Nutt loved Baylor, and Baylor loved Nutt. When he was tragically killed on November 23, 1982, in a plane crash in Vinemont, Alabama, Baylor responded. Just two days after Nutt's death, the Baylor Alumni Association announced the establishment of a fund in the humorist's honor. Originally, the fund was created to award money to student entertainers, but at the request of Nutt's widow, Eleanor, it was modified to "assist students in difficult or emergency financial situations."

The BAA sent a letter to the Class of 1957, notifying them of Nutt's death and asking for their participation in the creation of the memorial fund.

Nutt's life encouraged people to laugh, and his death encouraged them to give. —Blair Stephens

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