

May 1, 1981

Executive Board, Folklore Society of Greater Washington

I have several reasons for objection to the scheduling of the Micheal Cooney concert in the Ethical Society building May 15 if other halls were available.

1. Physical comfort (lack of). No one seriously expects the Ethical Society to have air conditioning capable of handling any crowd, much less a crushing one. The room has often been unbearable on cool nights. Are we prepared for the cases of heat stroke if it is over 80 that evening? Stage fans? Smelling Salts?

2. Philosophical Fundamentals. We are about to turn away our own members from one of our top events of the year. Inexcusable! SRO's may be fine for commercial promoters but are incongruous for our organization. With the size of our recent audiences, it is contrary to all experience to expect to satisfy our growing membership and contrary to our Society's aims to be exclusionary.

3. Defeat for Publicity. This is an event which could bring us good press and many new members which instead will have to be minimalized. Any newcomers attending this concert will probably not relish this crushing experience.

Not the best recruiting posture, is it?

4. Cost of tickets. A \$ 4/5 differential is not adequate. Members have usually been charged much less proportionately than non-members. (It used to be half).

5. The Chair Rental Bugaboo. Hiss. Once again, renting chairs to make the Ethical Society somewhat adequate to the need. The Ethical Society apparently feels no such obligation to us. The additional labor required is reaching ridiculous proportions...not just for events like this but for all functions.

I understand the performer requested a small hall. Too Bloody Bad & T.S.! I strongly feel that our primary obligation is to our membership. If the performer's fee or audience draw exceeds the smaller facility, there can be no choice.

As an organization, our foremost aim must be to accomodate all ~~an~~ members (within reason) who wish to attend and afford them humane treatment.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Rodgers', written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'R'.

Richard L. Rodgers
General Grouch, FSGW