Queen concert a mediocre effort at best

By David Shaw
On November 12, the rowdy audience in Boston Garden rooked to the sound of Queen in concert. It took very little to please the largely high-school-aged crowd, and Queen complied by putting out a mediocre effort.

The concert opened with a song from the new album, "We Will Rock You," which was followed by "Brighton Rock." These first two songs had most people out of their seats; most of them would stay that way for the rest of the show. Lead vocalist Freddie Mercury told the audience to "keep up the good mood" and introduced the next group of songs as "a pastiche" of some of their older tunes: "Death on Two Legs," "Killer Queen," and "Lover Boy." The last, "I'm In Love With My Car," which is usually sung by drummer Roger Taylor, was not sung by any member of the band but instead vocals were provided by a pre-recorded tape. The tape was used again in the middle of "Bohemian Rhapsody." While the band left the stage, Mercury announced that the group "technically, the concert was marred by poor sound quality. . . . The group's choice of songs was also poor . . ."

Queen's latest concert at the Boston Garden was not as good as it should have been. Queen's mood was "laid back" and introduced the next group of songs as "a pastiche" of some of their older tunes: "Death on Two Legs," "Killer Queen," and "Lover Boy." The last, "I'm In Love With My Car," which is usually sung by drummer Roger Taylor, was not sung by any member of the band but instead vocals were provided by a pre-recorded tape. The tape was used again in the middle of "Bohemian Rhapsody." While the band left the stage, Mercury announced that the concert would attempt some songs that they had never performed on stage before. His song "Love of My Life" to the accompaniment of Brian May's solo acoustic guitar, then the whole group invited the house to sing along to an acoustic version of "39." After hearing these numbers, one can easily conclude why they had never been performed live—they don't quite work. However, Queen's performance of their harder rock tunes was brilliant. The band returned to do a few encore numbers, including the schmaltzy "We Are the Champions" from the new album. As an extra "bonus," they paid tribute to Elvis Presley, leading the screaming crowd in a chorused "I Can't Help Myself." Hopefully, this will not continue as a trend in concerts. As Mercury took his final bow, he announced, "It's been a pleasure doing business with you all.

A poor business it was. Technically, the concert was marred by poor sound quality, and awful lighting work from the spotlight crew. The group's choice of songs was also poor, favoring the newer, campier Mercury-authored tunes instead of the tighter solid rockers. After the concert had ended, someone in the audience remarked, "Queen's hard rock days are gone.

One fact that should be accounted for is that Boston was only the second stop on Queen's U.S. tour, and they might be losing some of the material in the audience's reaction. Hopefully Queen will tighten their act and give other cities a show better reflecting their musical ability.

Three members of the Miami football team left to right are#74 Brian Denny, #22 Bily Clyde Puckett (Burt Reynolds) and #31 Shake Tiller (Kris Kristofferson) in "Sem-Tough".