

“It just didn’t feel like the right time for me. A franchise is a big commitment — it’s a whole thing.”

— Emma Stone, explaining why she opted out of next year’s “Ghostbusters” reboot, featuring an all-female team of paranormal exterminators



MUSIC

Boone: Racial healer, conservative revolutionist

By EMILY LESLIE
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

If there’s one thing that conservative stalwart Pat Boone and civil rights activist the Rev. Jesse Jackson can agree on, it’s race relations.

During his 60 years in the spotlight, Mr. Boone, 81, has remained true to his faith, his family values and his conservative ideology, as he told a gathering at The Heritage Foundation on Wednesday. He also unintentionally helped close the racial gap with his R&B covers, in the opinion of Mr. Jackson, as white audiences of the time began listening to music by black artists.

“Pat Boone did more for race relations through his music than any other performer,” Mr. Jackson said.

Mr. Boone said he was stunned by such praise from Mr. Jackson.

“[Mr. Jackson] said, here’s this white kid from Nashville in the South, and he’s not only doing the music that white folks knew nothing about and didn’t think they wanted to know anything about, but he likes the original performers — Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Fats Domino — and making the white folks and their parents say, ‘Maybe this is OK after all.’”

Early in his career, Mr. Boone stood against racial segregation.



Pat Boone says the nation needs to re-establish itself in the constitutional values for which the Founding Fathers fought. In fact, he titled his speech “Call for a New American Revolution: A Manifesto.”

When asked to tour South Africa, he turned down the gig to take a stand against apartheid policy. “I [couldn’t] be part of that,”

Mr. Boone said. “I just want people who want to come see me sing to be allowed [to do so].” The government of South

Africa suspended its policy of apartheid for Mr. Boone’s tour in 1960 to allow people to see his shows. Mr. Boone even received

death threats for having mixed audiences at his concerts.

“I laugh about it now,” he told The Heritage Foundation audience, “but in Durban we did get threats — written warnings — that if I appeared onstage in this big arena with a mixed audience, which was unprecedented, that I would not leave the stage alive.”

“I didn’t usually move around stage very much then, but in this case I found reasons to move,” Mr. Boone said with a laugh.

Although the concert audiences were segregated, Mr. Boone described a time while singing “A Wonderful Time Up There” when black audience members climbed the railing to move toward the stage.

“The white audience just stood up and clapped right along with everyone else, and it ended peacefully,” he said. “The next day, as we left Salisbury, the paper read, ‘First day in many months, no reported violence.’”

Mr. Boone is the original American Idol, having won two national singing contests and becoming the youngest television star in the nation’s history at 22. He graduated from Columbia University, married and had four daughters.

His initial drive was to become a schoolteacher, he said. As his music career took off, he turned down endorsements from cigarette and booze companies in light of his staunch religious

beliefs, and managed to avoid temptations throughout his 60 years in the spotlight.

Mr. Boone openly discussed his conservative views, claiming that the nation needs to re-establish itself in the constitutional values for which the Founding Fathers fought. In fact, he titled his speech “Call for a New American Revolution: A Manifesto.”

“Our valiant ship of state is listing, springing dangerous leaks in vital places — threatening, after only [238] years, to sink into the abyss of history,” Mr. Boone said. “We want our first revolution under God.”

There is an “enemy from within,” he said, referring to “powerful forces steadily binding us all around,” including ignorance, apathy, materialism, greed, immorality and godlessness.

“Now, because of the inroads that have been made already against most of the values we hold dear, I call for a new revolution — a legitimate citizen uprising to try to re-create the kind of country that we had in the beginning,” Mr. Boone said.

“Citizens, I believe we need a new Boston Tea Party, only this time let’s not waste perfectly good tea. Let’s heave a bunch of black robes into the harbor with some of the vigilante judges in them. It won’t hurt the robes, and the ... judges can swim out and re-enroll in Constitution 101,” Mr. Boone said with a laugh.

Get Out

The week’s pocket picks

By SAMANTHA SAULT

Festival

Fete de la Musique

French-speaking and Francophile cities around the world — including Paris, Geneva and the District — will celebrate the first day of summer Saturday with Fete de la Musique, which takes place annually on June 21. American musician and French National Radio producer Joel Cohen started the event in the 1970s, and it now brings professional and amateur musicians to the city streets to perform free concerts and revel in French culture in 120 countries. From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Washington’s Alliance Francaise will take over the park at Dupont Circle for the free event. Bring a baguette and a blanket and enjoy brass band, salsa, roots rock and, of course, vintage French chansons performed by Canadian vocalist Jennifer Scott and her jazz quartet. Other activities include children’s songs and storytelling, musical instrument workshops and face painting. **Saturday in Dupont Circle. 202/234-7911. Web: FranceDC.org.**

Beer

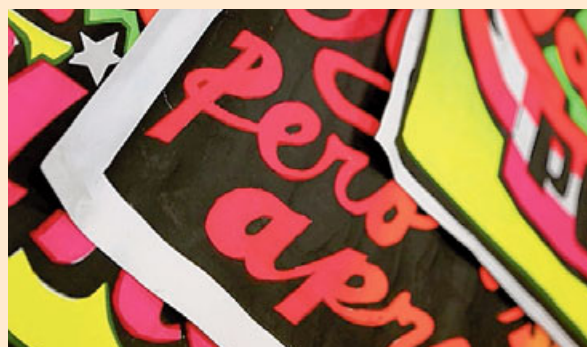
Northern Virginia Summer Brewfest

With DC Brau in the District, Flying Dog in Maryland and Bold Rock Cider in Virginia, the Washington Metropolitan area is making a name for its brewing skills. But those three big-name breweries aren’t the only ones in the region. This weekend, you can try more than three dozen from up and down the East Coast. Your admission to the eighth annual Northern Virginia Summer Brewfest will provide six drink tickets (additional tickets may be purchased) and a souvenir sampling glass, live music, cornhole games, and even demonstrations on how to cook with beer. Regional food and craft vendors will be on site, too. **Saturday and Sunday at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, Virginia. 703/631-0550.**

Concert

Tribute to B.B. King

Blues fans mourned last month when legendary singer, songwriter and guitarist B.B. King passed away at the age of 89 in Las Vegas. Born Riley B. King, the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer is one of the most influential guitarists of all time for his unique style. This week, celebrate King’s legacy with a tribute performance at the historic Howard Theatre, featuring Joe Louis Walker, another blues trailblazer, who was raised in San Francisco’s Fillmore jazz and arts district and began performing at the age of 16. He has since won several Blues Music Awards and performed on Grammy-winning albums by B.B. King himself. On Thursday, Mr. Walker will be joined by the Stacy Brooks Band, Clarence “The Bluesman” Turner, B.T. Richardson, Black Betty and Lou “Jerome” Price, among others. **Thursday at the Howard Theatre, 620 T St. NW. 202/803-2899. Web: TheHowardTheatre.com.**



Pick of the pack

Festival

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Take a trip to Peru without leaving the city. Beginning Wednesday and running through the Independence Day festivities, the 49th Smithsonian Folklife Festival will take over part of the National Mall to feature the arts, culture and food of Peru. The festival opens with the traditional procession of La Fiesta de la Virgen del Carmen by visitors from the town of Puacartambo, followed by a concert featuring Afro-Peruvian singer Eva Ayllon, who has earned six Latin Grammy nominations for her combinations of pop sounds with traditional music and dance. Performances are scheduled nearly every evening, including July Fourth, when you can learn the traditional dances Marinera and Sarawja before the fireworks. The festival also features copious children’s activities such as Quechua language workshops, storytelling, scavenger hunts and crafts for all ages, as well as a 4,000-square-foot marketplace with handicrafts, musical recordings, specialty foods, accessories and more by Peruvian artisans. **Festival through July 5 and marketplace through July 12 at the National Mall between Third and Fourth streets Southwest. 202/633-6440. Web: Festival.si.edu.**

