

Gregg Allman *Se Murio*, RIP—and an Amplification and Good News: Michael's Rock and Roll Posse

I was saddened to read of the death of Gregg Allman at the age of 69, although these days, at least one major rocker dies every week—and Keith Richards defies the medical and epidemiological odds. I saw the Allmans at the peak of their power, in 1970 or 1971, as an usher at Columbus, Ohio's Veterans Memorial coliseum, when I was a college seminarian student at the Pontifical College Josephinum. In addition to seating people, we were supposed to police for patrons who were smoking joints. By evening's end, I had confiscated dozens from might as well been a Cheech and Chong gathering. I remember the gig well, and remember the head usher telling us we could not sit down in the few empty seats, as long as anyone was smoking. Given the battering of his life, it is remarkable Gregg lived as long as he did, and playing until near the end. (Thanks to the more than a dozen of you who wrote me to ask if I had heard.) This interesting concert vault acoustic piece (above) will lay him to rest. The recent *Rolling Stone* also has several informative pieces and recordings. I always find it interesting how the really loud musicians can round out their repertoire by playing acoustic sets (*see also* Nirvana). May he rest in peace. [http://www.concertvault.com/gregg-allman/video/key-to-the-highway\\_102082.html](http://www.concertvault.com/gregg-allman/video/key-to-the-highway_102082.html)

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Whenever *The New Yorker*, with its vaunted fact checking capacity, makes a mistake, it runs a Dept. of Amplification. In that spirit, I wish to correct a mistake I made in my recent review of U2's concert at NRG Stadium, when I said it was the first football stadium concert I had ever attended. It may have been the lingering psychotropic effects of the Allman ushering gig, but I forgot that in my first semester at UH, in late October, 1981, I attended the Who Houston concert at the Astrodome, where the then-Houston Oilers played, and I even stood on the floor all night, the difference between my being 31 and being 66.

I remember the concert itself well, and I surely would consider the Astrodome—still standing like the Sphinx it is, 100 yards from NRG—a stadium. I misremembered it as a football field, in part because it was chiefly used as the baseball Astros' home, and partly because I never attended a pro football game there. I did attend dozens of Astros games, including their final game, and even went to several UH Cougars games there in their glory days. UH used the 'Dome, because the campus field was an old decrepit high school stadium.

And many Houston Rodeo and Livestock shows have appeared there, including the iconic Selena concerts in the mid-1990s, when she would pull in 60,000 Tejano music fans. (See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG1S-J1DZU4> )

In any event, I should have been more careful in explaining my musical venue experience. And I thank David Bradley, my erstwhile VP for Administration and Finance when I was president at UHD, for the correction.

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And the Good News: Houston Public Media, home to the UH PBS television and NPR radio station (88.7 FM), will begin carrying my LAW OF ROCK AND ROLL radio shows on Saturday evenings, beginning on July 1, at 7:00 pm Saturdays, in the first minute of the *Studio 360* program—immediately following *Prairie Home Companion*—and I will return to my NM studio in a few weeks to record 12 more shows to begin the school year. In addition, I will be in the KUHF recording studio tomorrow to cut some promos for the July rollout.

That is the good, the bad, and the ugly for the time being....

Michael