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## 'The Devil's Disciple' Aggie Players Present Opening Night Comedy

By JULIA JONES

"The Devil's Disciple," performed by the Aggie Players, is a fine play which deserved a much larger audience than it had on opening night. The dialogue is witty and entertaining, and the acting is very good.

Set in 1776, the play is about a rebel named Dick Dudgeon, alias the Devil's Disciple. He is hated by people in general and by his family in particular for his heretical views and unorthodox lifestyle. In the course of events his uncle is hanged, his mother and father die, and he is accused of treason by a military court. Walt Meissner does a great job as the hero. He is dashing and manages to give his part the understatement and subtlety it needs.

"Disciple" is also about Anthony Anderson, the local minister. Under pressure he under-

goes a change of heart about his lifestyle and recovers the affections of his wife. Mark Scott, playing Anderson, gives another great performance and for the same reasons as Meissner. They manage to show great emotion and subtlety at the same time. This is rare for amateur actors. Many college productions seem to believe that shouting is acting, not "Disciple."

John Steele and Tim McCanlies set up a good comedy routine as General Burgoyne and Major Swindon. Their dialogue is funny and the comedic timing is perfect. McCanlies plays the soldierly fool and Steele gives a very convincing performance as a powerful and intelligent man. He also brings to the part the small mannerisms that make the

character more realistic. He uses a limp and facial and vocal mannerisms to excellent advantage.

If I had any criticism of the play it would be about Bernard Shaw, the author. He carries his characters a bit too fast and does not give them time to establish their relationships. Some of the acting by Worrall and Gandy needs to be toned down. This, too, can be blamed on Shaw. He wrote parts for men and did not bother to make his females either likable or reasonable. However, it is an entertaining play. It is presented at the new University Center, and the stage, if it can properly be called that, is in the round. They have surrounded the area by seats slightly higher than the stage which brings a sense of immediacy that an elevated stage cannot achieve.

People left "Disciple" openly commenting on their enjoyment. When asked, some commented that it, and plays in general, had a lifelike quality that television could never give. See "Disciple," it runs through Saturday, and find out for yourself.



From the Sticks They Come . . . (Photo by Gary Baldasari)

## Ag Rodeo Club Sponsors Calf Roping Contest

The Rodeo Club is having a work session and team meeting this evening at 6 at the arena.

A jackpot calf roping contest is planned for 2 p.m. Sunday at the Aggie Arena. Anyone can enter this tie-down contest.

A "Match" Rodeo will be held Dec. 1 in Simonton at 8 p.m. in which the Aggies will compete against Sam Houston State University.

The following week, Dec. 6 and 7, the first National Intercollegiate Rodeo will take place at Wharton Junior College at 7 p.m. The boys' events are bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, tie-down calf roping, ribbon roping, steer dogging and bull riding. Girls will compete in barrel racing, goat tying and breakaway roping. Boys teams are composed of six members and girls teams have three members. Only intercollegiate members with a 2.5 grade point ratio can enter. Twenty members of the A&M team plan to participate in the events.

## Admirals to Review Corps At Football Game March-In

A former student of TAMU now wearing flag rank of the U. S. Navy will review the Corps of Cadets in a Saturday march-in to the Aggie-SMU game.

Rear Adm. Merton D. Van Orden, Chief of Naval Research, will take Corps unit salutes in the 12:20 p. m. march-in.

Adm. Van Orden attended TAMU during 1939-41, before appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy. He was in the Class of 1943, in reunion here last month.

With Adm. Van Orden on the Kyle Field reviewing stand will be rear Adm. J. Edward Snyder Jr., Oceanographer of the Navy; President Jack Williams; Col. C. E. Hogan, TAMU professor of naval science, and others.

The two Navy officers will arrive Friday and take part in the weekend "Marine Affair" program including dedication of the Oceanography-Meteorology Building.

Adm. Van Orden will also be guest of honor for the annual U. S. Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Duncan Hall Saturday evening.

On Friday, they will attend a Cadet Corps briefing, a social event of the Texas Maritime Academy Board of Visitors and a 7 p. m. lecture by Jacques Cousteau at the Rudder Center Auditorium.

A campus tour will follow the 9:30 a. m. Saturday dedication of the Oceanography - Meteorology Building.

The Corps march-in will include

the Parsons Mounted Cavalry, the Fish Drill Team marching as a separate unit and a group of cadets representing the TMA.

Adm. Van Arden became Naval research chief at Arlington, Va., last May. He was previously vice commander of the Naval Electronic Systems Command in the Navy Department.

Adm. Snyder acts as the naval oceanographic program director for the Chief of Naval Operations. A line officer, he commanded the U. S.'s last active duty battleship, the New Jersey, in the Vietnam conflict during 1968-69. He held several other commands and key posts.

Both Navy officers wear the Legion of Merit, among numerous other decorations.

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