THE BATTALION

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### Review

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# **Play dramatizes death** of black youth on drugs

**By JOHN BARNES** "You don't want to hear this .

but all you people in your "alligator underwear" had better have a 'bump with the truth.' The Sudan Art's presentation of "The Death of O.D. Walker," the story of a young black who over-doses and dies, was truly magnifi-

cent. The group, based in Houston, writes its own material and applies varying themes to the situations of the audiences. In this case, the stu-dents at Texas A&M. This "Guerrilla theater" puts its actors out in the streets researching with the people they portray. They learn their scripts through talking and interacting with the "street people." The makeup, props and costuming are practically nonexistent compared to the shocking devices used during the performance which truly involve the audience

If burglars stealing from an unfortunate in the audience, or a blazing gun battle doesn't cause realization of the importance of the play's message, perhaps a screaming, strobe-

streaked corpse might. Any sensationalism in the play was countered by a "heavy" theme, centering on an individual's escape of oppression through the use of drugs

In personalizing the problem of oppression, Sudan Arts used part of the Texas State University riot expounded by preacher Tomas Melanson. Through the death of O.D. Walker (Carl Parker), the group dramatically exposed the plight of millions of Americans to-

Excellent use of the Forum to bring audience participation to a climax was accentuated further with the quality acting of the Sudan Arts

Melanson's portrayal of the preacher was perfection to the last "A-men!" The "stoned" Parker was very realistic. (After the performance I ran backstage to check out

some of those pills he was drop-

The great characterizations given were a complement to the "guerilla' method of obtaining dramatic mate-

After the play Melanson, accompanied by Lennix Price, led the audience in folk singing. The singing was enthusiastically accepted by the predominantly black audience with clapping and dancing in the aisles.

The active evening was exactly what it should have been — a memorable, enjoyable performance for the audience. And it didn't cost students a penny. Unfortunately, last night was the first and last performance

Sudan Arts annually visits A&M. Hopefully, the Black Awareness Committee will invite the organization for longer engagements here for all the student body to appreciate (and will conduct a better public relations campaign to warn them)

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We agree this is a bit of a long story, but it is difficult to stop talking about our tasty sandwiches.

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### **Federal power distressing**

(Continued from page 1) Phillips expressed distress over the power of the federal government. "Federal congressmen have more local power than governors and legislatures of the states," he

said. "More and more appointed officials are giving power to bureaucrats who are giving more decision making power to organizations." Phillips said the people's influence is proscribed when such policy making power is given to organizations and not to the legislators they elected.

'I am deeply concerned over the bureaucracy attempts to destroy

the private businesses," Phillips said. He said agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Equal Rights Amendments are examples of organizations that have power over the private business sector

Just as Phillips said he thought conservatives must fight for their ideas all across the country instead of fighting only in Washington, there was a loud knocking at one door of the Theater. He continued over the knocking, saying the liberals were stronger in Washington and to fight only there would not be very effective. As the knocking became more

week's speaker whose politics are quite the opposite of Phillips'. Mankiewicz is a noted liberal political spokesperson. A comparison of Mankiewicz's and Phillips' views point out their

annoying, Phillips said, "That must

be Frank Mankiewicz trying to get

back in." Manckiewicz was last

differences. Mankiewicz said the defense budget needed desperately to be reduced. Phillips felt the military salaries and retirement benefits should be cut, but the money toward military hardware and ammunition was necessary for security safety precautions.

## User fees not enough

come and for the billing to be hand-

the victim to the hospital.

Sherrill is now operating the service on a temporary permit from College Station. Apparently the city is within its rights to loan private enterprise

(Sherrill) the use of its ambulance. Ed Sherrill was one of two businessmen who notified the cities that they were interested in providing ambulance service. Transportation Enterprises, inc., an Austin-based firm that operates Austin's ambulance service and shuttle buses at Texas A&M and the University of Texas, also ex-

'They never responded to the letter," Scott Keller of the Austin

(Continued from page 1)

led through a government body. "You can't make money just running an ambulance service," Keller said. "It has to be funded by more than just use fees.

"People won't pay their bills — a lot of people wouldn't be affected by a city ordinance," he said.

"An ambulance service just can't work on the free enterprise system," Keller said. "If it does work, it's not offering the level of service the public deserves. The Austin Ambulance Service



receives financial support from the city of Austin. So much support, in fact, that the city is buying the service

'Quite often ambulance service gets to be a political football - it's a real big political football here in Austin," Keller said.



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