

### CANCER ANSWER LINE

American Cancer Society  
M. D. Anderson Hospital  
and Tumor Institute

Mrs. M. R. writes: "I sometimes see the word, 'laryngectomee' in the newspapers. What does it have to do with cancer?"  
ANSWERline: A laryngectomee is a person whose larynx, or voice box, has been surgically removed, usually because of cancer. Fortunately, laryngectomees can learn to speak again through a different method of breath usage, or they can depend on a mechanical "voice" device. These people are able to work and communicate, and their ranks include lawyers, policemen and managers. They have an organization called International Association of Laryngectomees.

An office nurse explains: "I work for a gynecologist-obstetrician and we notice that many women stop coming for checkups after their children are born. Don't they know the importance of continuing health care?"  
ANSWERline: In general, women are better than men in safeguarding their health by having checkups. But, they aren't perfect. After the childbearing years it is important for a woman to see a physician and have a pelvic examination and Pap test on a regular basis. These are years when a woman is at risk of breast cancer. Besides her own breast-self-examination, she should be checked by her physician. Also, it's important for the post-menopausal woman to call any unusual bleeding to the attention of her physician right away. The American Cancer Society Unit in your community has leaflets on these subjects suitable for a physician's office and perhaps you could find a corner of the doctor's waiting room for a mini information center.

An engineer from Arkansas states: "I have an elderly aunt who is a great believer in natural foods and she claims that grapes can cure cancer. She said that she tried a

grape diet in the 1920's and cured herself. Is such a thing possible?"  
ANSWERline: There is absolutely no evidence that a grape diet ever cured cancer since the idea was first raised in 1925. There are many forms of treatment that have been scientifically shown to cure different kinds of cancer, but grapes aren't on the list. Most probably, your aunt never had cancer in the first place because if she had, and she relied only on grapes, she wouldn't be alive to pass along that kind of dangerous misinformation. It's dangerous because a cancer patient might believe it and delay or turn from proven treatment to a worthless idea. Please enjoy grapes but squash that rumor!

A lawyer writes: "I've always considered myself a bacon-and-eggs man, able to tackle a day in court by starting off right with a good hearty breakfast. Well, first the heart people tell me not to eat too many eggs because it's dangerous, and now you cancer people are telling me not to eat bacon. I'm too old to go back to Pabulum and I'm sure not going to go hungry."  
ANSWERline: Though some animal studies have shown a relationship between bacon and cancer, American Cancer Society epidemiologists say there is no good evidence that eating bacon causes cancer in human beings.

## Stearman adds cohesion to dinner theatres



Lovers, Fantastiks!

Matt (Brian McPherson) and Luisa (Boni Petersen) are oblivious to the world as they exchange promises of love. The lovers are separated by a wall built by their parents, who are the mortal enemies. The MSC Dinner Theater production of "The Fantastiks" opens this week, with performances scheduled for July 29-30 and Aug. 3-4.

Battalion staff photo by Steve Goble

Myriad facets must blend for the staging of one of Texas A&M's popular dinner theaters.

Cohesion is supplied by the effervescent Judy Stearman for "The Fantastiks" run that opens this week.

A senior zoology major and biology lab assistant, Stearman coordinates a three-pronged effort that was managed by Mike Hatch for the recent "Barefoot in the Park."

"Fantastiks" opens tomorrow. It has a "soldout" label on the Friday show, and a narrowed selection of tickets for the Aug. 3 and 4 performances. In a second summer of popularity at Aggieland, the dinner theaters combine efforts of the Memorial Student Center Summer Directorate, Food Services Department and the Aggie Players.

Stearman works with the MSC. "Her job is to make sure all facets of the dinner theater happen at the right time and the right place," explained Mary Ann Wallace, MSC assistant student program coordinator.

With a 10-member committee, Stearman rides herd on acquiring tickets, advertising and publicity, setting up MSC 201 for the show, arranging ushers and other details. A student committee worked out the budget last spring. Another group met with the Aggie Players' director, Bob Wenck, on the show and another worked with Food Services on the menu.

"So much of the work comes right at the last minute," said Stearman, who has a ready smile and laugh. She holds other responsibilities with Free University which she chairs, and the Married Students Apartment Council, as president. "But it's more fun than responsibility," Stearman assured. "I meet a

lot of people, and learn a lot about people too."

Nancy and Andy Czimskey came in for a share of Stearman praise.

"Nancy stays real close on the ticket sales (at the Rudder Center box office). On performance nights, she is masterful at getting people to the right seats, though they may have forgotten their table reservation slip."

Nancy and Andy unerringly handle ushers, she added.

"Sellouts are great," Stearman exclaimed. "It makes us feel good,

though there may be a few people too."

She commented on the industry of crowds at the "Barefoot" performances.

"One was giggly," remarked Stearman. "Another was clapping every time something happened and the Aggie Players responded. One just sat there. The other was a standing ovation."

Stearman believes her education would be incomplete without experience.

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