



Agriculture Week at Texas A&M

Dr. Jarvis Miller, president of Texas A&M University, signs a proclamation naming this week as Agriculture Week at the University. The week's events will end Saturday with the 44th Annual Cotton Ball and Pageant. At-

tending the signing ceremony are, left to right, Dwayne Suter, Gene McAnelly, Mike Humphrey, Tom Paterson, Dean H. O. Kunkel, J. C. Cotton and Bobby Tucker.

Academic counseling

Survival programs

By VICKI WHORTON

About 20 percent of the freshman class at Texas A&M University, approximately 948 students, have a grade point ratio below 2.0, according to the Academic Counseling Center.

This figure applies to the freshmen who entered Texas A&M in the fall semester of 1977 directly from high school. It does not include special provision students, transfer students, or students who waited a year or more before entering college.

The percentage is not unusually high when compared to previous freshman classes, said Dr. Arthur L. Tollefson, director of the Academic Counseling Center, adding that the pattern is much the same year after year.

Thirteen percent of the sophomores had a GPR below 2.0 at the end of the 1977 fall semester, said Tollefson. By the time a student is a junior or senior, Tollefson said, the percentage goes down because winnowing takes during the first two years.

Students who have a GPR below 2.0 aren't necessarily on scholastic probation, Tollefson said. That is determined by the academic deans on an individual basis.

Scholastic probation serves as a warning system for the student, said Tollefson, adding that it's amazing how many don't heed that warning. He said that many students feel that their probation is temporary and they will not believe that they actually could be suspended. This keeps them from taking sensible action, he said.

It's a kind of culture shock when a freshman enters college, said Tollefson. The student leaves a protective home where, in many cases, he was pushed into studying by his parents, to a world where he has no one looking over him, he said.

"You just have to adapt," Tollefson said. The hardest thing for a freshman is to learn discipline, he continued. Freshmen have to make a big adjustment, and those with a GPR below 2.0 need to learn how to study, he said.

The University does have help for these students. One such help program comes from the Academic Counseling Center.

According to Tollefson, the function of the center is to help the students adjust to realities.

The center offers "Academic Survival Programs." One of these is the Academic Counseling Experience (ACE).

ACE is an experimental program set up for freshmen who enter Texas A&M and quickly find themselves on scholastic probation. At the beginning of this semester, all academic advisers received an announcement about the ACE pro-

gram. Student response was poor, however, and the center randomly picked 150 freshmen on probation and invited them to participate in ACE. Thirty-five percent of those invited responded.

The program helps the students identify their problem areas, said Dr. Betty Mayfield, a center counselor. Most often students don't realize how little they study, said Mayfield. ACE tries to help students budget their time and set priorities. During the meetings, the students talk about their problems and give support to one another, said Mayfield.

The feedback from the group has been very positive, Mayfield said. When asked whether or not they

wanted to continue meeting, most of the students said yes.

The strange thing about this program, said Tollefson, is that most academically troubled students don't come even when they are invited.

Tollefson said it's a dilemma of how to invite students, and if reluctant people are brought in, cooperation usually isn't good. Tollefson said center personnel would rather have people come in on their own.

For students having scholastic problems, Mayfield suggested seeing a counselor at the Academic Counseling Center, located in room 107 of the Academic Building.

"There's plenty of time for fun and study," Mayfield said. "You just have to get organized."

Orchestra concert: 'magic'

By CONNIE BURKE

When Rhapsodie Espagnole was first conducted in 1908, the audience hissed after the second movement. The composer, Florent Schmitt, shouted from the balcony, "Play it again for the people downstairs who didn't understand it."

Tuesday night there were no hisses when the Dallas Symphony Orchestra performed Rhapsodie Espagnole in the style of traditional Spanish music. The Rudder Auditorium concert was sponsored by the Opera and Performing Arts Society.

Eduardo Mata, conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, performed magic as he waved his baton. As soon as he lifted his baton, a soft, steady, slow rhythm of violins hypnotized the audience.

Mata conducted with a flair that demonstrated complete control of the orchestra.

The orchestra performed the second movement of the Rapsodic, the Malaguena, which is a Spanish dance. The third movement performed was a Cuban dance titled Habanera. The suite ended with a long and flowing movement called Faria ("The Fair"). The piccolos in this piece were very good.

The "Four Dance Episodes from the Ballet, RODEO" was the highlight of the evening. The four episodes were extracted from Agnes de Mille's "cowboy ballet."

The first episode, "Buckaroo Holiday," employed polyrhythms suggestive of a "Charleston" origin. The movement was lively and contained much variety. The symphony

orchestra jumped right into the melody, which characterized horse galloping and "cowboy" music.

The third episode, Saturday Night Waltz, had an unusual introduction. It projected a string orchestra in the process of "tuning up." The final movement Hoe-down, portrayed some square dance tunes.

The symphony orchestra concluded with Symphony in D Minor which is divided into three parts: Lento-Allegro non troppo, Allegretto, and Allegro non troppo. The symphony orchestra handled the constant shifting harmonies well. It made smooth transitions, and the melodies that recurred throughout the work unified the movements.

The melody was carried out smoothly by violinists who played the finale triumphantly.

If the audience expected the second half of the program to be lively, then they were disappointed. The Symphony in D Minor did not offer much variety or liveliness. However, it offered the audience a chance to forget their worries and relax to the humming violins.

THE BATT DOES IT DAILY
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Fairy tale magic

"Rip Van Winkle," the classic fairy tale of one man's answer to a nagging wife — a 20-year nap — will run April 13-15 and 19-22 in the Rudder Forum at Texas A&M University.

Directed by Dr. Robert Wenck, this production will close the 32nd theater season of Texas A&M's Aggie Players.

The story, which takes place immediately after the Revolutionary War, concerns Rip Van Winkle, his extensive nap and the consequences resulting from his absence. The legend has all the elements of a good fairy tale: elves, magic spells and an evil villain.

Chuck McDaniel, a senior from LaMarque, stars as Rip Van Winkle, and Karen Miller, a Uvalde senior, will star as his nagging wife, Gretchen.

Steve King, a senior from Waco, has the unenviable task of playing the bad guy, Derrick Von Beekman.

Also included in the cast are six area school children ranging from ages 6-12 to play the village children.

An added attraction to this production is improved seating in Rudder Forum, and the addition of an olio curtain to give the show an "old time" feel.

The curtain, used at one time by theater owners as a means of selling advertisements to local merchants, is the forerunner of the modern commercial.

Tickets are currently on sale in the Rudder Box Office and will be available at the door the night of each show. Performance times are at 8 p.m.

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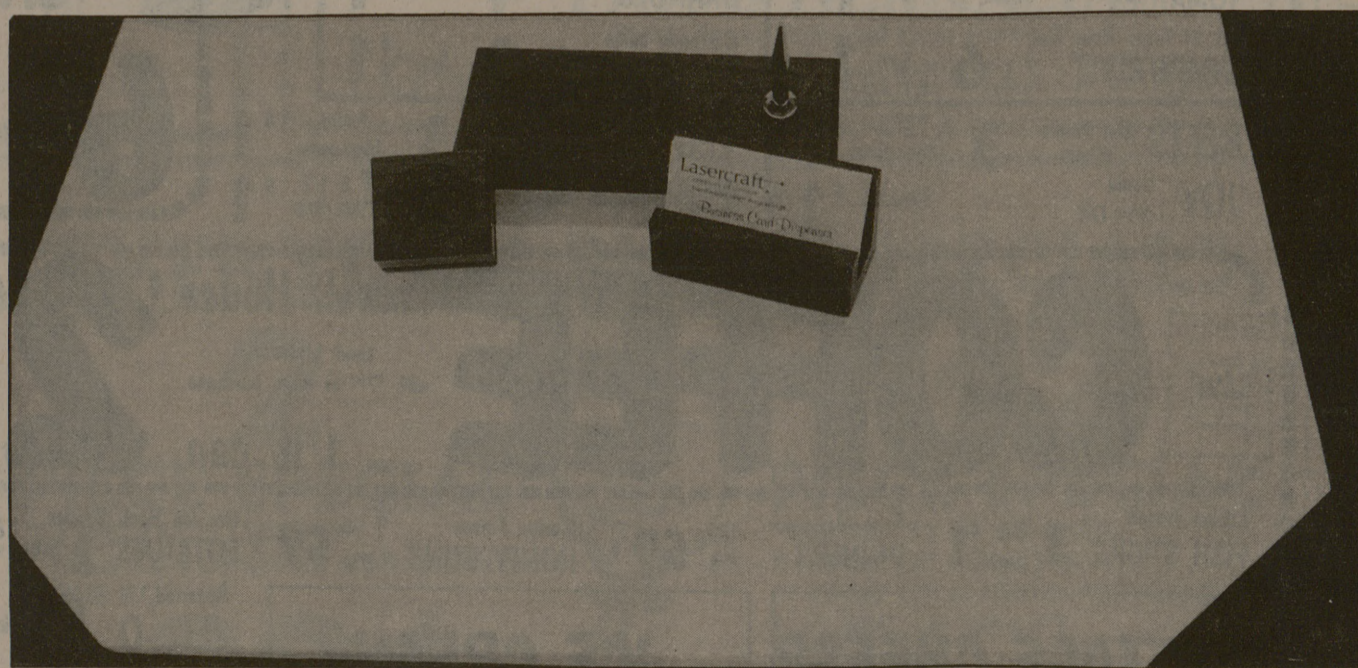
ATTENTION

The following positions are now open on the Summer Programming Committee:

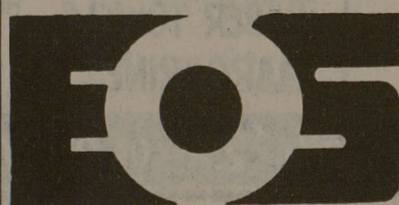
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Come to Room 216 MSC FOR MORE INFORMATION

Deadline for application is April 11



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