

# Butterflies Are Free' offers memorable theater, food

By FLAVIA KRONE  
Battalion Campus Editor

A good play is more than a well-written script. Performers, director, stagecraft crew must combine talent, energy and imagination to transform the written word into memorable theater.

The group of students now re-creating Leonard Gershe's play, "Butterflies Are Free," promise to give good theater to audiences attending the production from tonight through Saturday.

"Butterflies Are Free" is the first two dinner theater productions being sponsored by the MSC Summer Dinner Theater this year.

A special non-dinner performance will be presented tonight at 8. Tickets for the non-dinner performance are \$2 for students and \$3 for the public.

"Butterflies Are Free" is a light comedy dealing with a young, wealthy, blind man's escape from the clutches of a domineering mother and the independence of a shabby, room, New York City apartment. He becomes involved with a 19-year-old divorcee much to the horror of his mother.

Don Baker, the blind boy finds independence through his relationship with the flighty Jill Tanner, said Christi Binz, who plays her. "And she discovers her identity through him."

Leonard Gershe got the idea for his comedy from the life story of a blind man who asked to report to his draft board for induction. Unconvinced he was blind, the draft board let him I-A, and the story re-

ceived wide-spread media attention.

The play was tried out at a summer theater in 1969 with such success that two months later it opened in New York where it ran for 1,133 performances.

"Butterflies Are Free" received high acclaim from critics who called the play humorous and warm-hearted without being overly sentimental.

It has taken the students about five weeks to produce the play under the direction of Lawrence Leach, assistant professor of English. Working with a \$250 budget, the students have improvised most of the costumes and set decorations.

"The copyright fee cost us \$150," said costume coordinator Keith Brooks. "That means we had about \$100 to work with. So far the costumes have cost us only \$5 and most of the set furniture belongs to the Theater Arts Department or professors."

The cast of characters for "Butterflies Are Free" in addition to Binz as Tanner includes Steve King as the blind Don Baker, Trisha Cox as the domineering mother and Phillip Hafer as Ralph Austin.

Rhonda Reger of the MSC Summer Dinner Theater Committee said beef stroganoff will be the main course served at every dinner performance. The buffet also will include a second entree of either Polynesian chicken, sweet and sour pork or seafood creole plus four salads, a variety of vegetables and dessert.

Dinner performances of "But-

terflies Are Free" have tickets priced at \$4.95 for students and \$7 for the public. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by the play at 8 p.m. each night from Thursday through Saturday.

Dinner and all performances will be held in the MSC Ballroom. Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office.

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# Medical school admits class of 'doctors-to-be'

Sixty-two students, averaging 21.7 years of age, academically higher than the national average, have been accepted into the College of Medicine at Texas A&M University.

When classes begin this fall, they will be the second class to enroll in the state's newest medical school.

The Texas A&M medical school, emphasizing family and internal medicine, allows students to enter as undergraduates and complete their formal instruction up to two years sooner than traditional programs.

Average age of the group is 21.7 years.

The new medical students stand a notch above their national counterparts academically. Their mean grade point ratio is 3.69 and average MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) score is 9.3, compared to the national average of 8.

"The scholarship of the students applying here was extremely high," said associate dean William Ward. "But grades alone do not automatically qualify a student."

"We also look closely at the individual. In this subjective aspect, we are interested in extracurricular activities and community service, for example."

Texas A&M conducts its medical education program in cooperation with Scott and White Hospital in Temple and Veterans Administration facilities in Waco, Temple and Marlin, where clinical phases of the curriculum are carried out.

Due in part to an increasing number of applications to the Texas A&M College of Medicine, officials have set a Dec. 15 deadline on applications for the 1979 program. Forms are available from Ward's office in the Doherty Building. Applicants must have attained at least the status of sophomore.

Biologists and veterinary researchers from Texas A&M University will spend this summer fishing — for science.

The scientists will collect fish, rimp, crabs and microscopic organisms from two dozen sites in the Gulf of Mexico, most around shore oil platforms, to see how drilling and oil production affect marine life.

Studies will be made on the numbers and types of animals found to record any changes in population that may have caused. Other tests will look for indications of parasites disease due to the stress of pollution.

Biologist Jerry Neff and veterinary anatomy researcher Raymond ... have been named principal investigators on the project, the 70,000 Texas A&M phase of a .9 million contract let by the Bureau of Land Management to the Southwest Research Institute of San Antonio.

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