

TEXAS EVENTS

Austin

WOMEN: A Women's Symposium is being held through March 28 at the UT Texas Union, located between 22nd and 23rd streets off Guadalupe. The week of seminars will focus on the changing role of women in education, business and politics. Prominent women in local, state and national arenas will speak.

Dallas

POMPEII: The *Pompeii AD 79* exhibit ended last Tuesday at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. However, the museum staff will be busy in April restoring the eight galleries used to house the exhibit, and a permanent collection will be installed by the opening date of May 2. Until then, the pre-Columbian and African Galleries will be open, along with the museum shop. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Monday. For more information call 214-426-2553.

Fort Worth

SYMPHONY: The Fort Worth Symphony Pops Concert will take place March 31 at the Kennedy Theater, 1111 Houston, and will feature Doc Severinsen and his trumpet. The show is at 8 p.m., and ticket prices are \$4-\$10.

Houston

HOUSTON FESTIVAL: The first Houston Festival: Main Street Plus, which began last Friday in downtown Houston, will conclude this weekend. Entertainment is presented to the public free at five outdoor stages. The festival includes reminders of Texas cultural heritage, plus both open and juried arts and crafts sales.

San Antonio

INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES: The institute presents the history of the state through oral and visual methods, and brings some historical events to life through special demonstrations. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays for planned or just relaxed tours. Admission is free. The institute is located on the southeast corner of Hemisfair Plaza downtown, at the intersection of Durango Street and Interstate 37.



Elsewhere

ROUND TOP: The 12th Annual Winedale Spring Festival and Fourth Texas Crafts Exhibition will be held April 6-8 on the grounds of the Winedale Historical Center, off FM 2714 in Round Top. The festival will include traditional music on the grounds, such as blues, Irish fiddling, gospel singing and bluegrass. The East Texas String Ensemble of Nacogdoches will also perform. There will be demonstrations of spinning, weaving, blacksmithing, soapmaking, fireplace cooking and various crafts. Crafts for sale will include pottery, wood and metal works, silver, stained glass, jewelry and others. A ticket for the entire weekend is \$2 for adults and 50 cents for children. For more information call 731-278-3530.

ANDERSON: The Anderson Trek will be held April 7 and 8 in and around the town, which is in Grimes County. It will consist of guided tours of homes built during the Republic of Texas days (1836-1845), a street dance, western parade, arts and crafts booths and other displays. The trek will be held from 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information call John Gudelman at 845-6551.

BRENHAM: The Washington County Heritage Society Tour and Antique Show will be held March 31 and April 1 in and around Brenham. Nine homes and four churches will be included in the tour to provide examples of the various architectural styles used in the area throughout the 19th century. The homes range from a classic "dog-run" log house built in 1824 (shown below) to Greek revival and Victorian-style mansions, and have been furnished with standard furniture of the period. Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Adult tickets are \$5 for the entire tour or \$1.50 for a particular house. Children are admitted free. For more information call 713-836-3695.

ORGANIZATIONS

Texas A&M Symphonic Band

In spite of the fact that there is no school of music at Texas A&M University, there are many musical groups on campus that offer students and faculty a chance to continue their interests in music. The Texas A&M Symphonic Band is one of them.

The band was first organized in the spring of 1974 after Major Joe McMullen, associate director of the Texas Aggie Band, was asked if he would be interested in starting such a band and being its director.

He agreed to do so, and today Texas A&M has a 70-piece symphonic band which McMullen said he directs "for fun and enjoyment."

"There was a desire for a symphonic band long before I came," he said. "I think there was a positive feeling on campus for one."

When the band first began five years ago, McMullen said he auditioned about 65 people and seated 58. The band now seats 70 people, and last fall held between 140 and 150 auditions for positions.

To more clearly emphasize the amount of growth experienced, McMullen said he listened to 28 flutists trying out for one position this year. The band currently has two bassoon positions from four auditions, whereas in the past McMullen was lucky to audition even two bassoon players.

He said it is the band's policy to audition everyone in the fall who was interested in playing. Enough people are then chosen to complete the 70-piece band, and those who do not make it are put on a waiting list.

Texas A&M faculty and staff members may also play in the Symphonic Band and are not required to audition as the students are, McMullen said. He added that there are four playing in the band now.

The band is limited to only 70 members because most music written for symphonic bands is restricted to this size, he explained. "You get a better balance and more compact sound with a smaller ensemble," McMullen said.

The band plays a variety of music.

"We try to play the full spectrum of concert music — marches, overtures, operatic selections, Broadway musicals, international selections, and Latin American rhythms," he said. In a campus performance last December, the Symphonic Band devoted its entire program to the music of German composer Richard Wagner.

"It is not very often that a band will do one composer through a whole concert," McMullen said. But Wagner's music varied enough from piece to piece to allow a band to do this without boring the audience.

"We've also done informal concerts in the MSC lounge, out by the Rudder fountain and for the married student housing adjacent to Hensel Park in the evening," said Jim Metcalf, a graduate student working on a doctorate in education administration.

The band has traveled across the state and the rest of the country recently.

"In 1977, we had an opportunity to represent Texas A&M at the Texas Music Educators' Association in San Antonio," said McMullen. The band was one of only three college bands that were chosen to play.

"We were the first and only group from Texas A&M to be represented at the Texas Music Educators' Association since its 50 years in existence," he said.

This year the band was invited to New Orleans to play for the American Association of School Administrators' Convention.

"We got a standing ovation," said Sara Feldman, a finance major and band president. She said she thinks the New Orleans concert was the most significant event they had ever played for.

"I think a lot of students look at the Symphonic Band as an outlet from a strict academic curriculum," said Rosemarie Rose, a journalism major who is vice-president of the band. "I think the caliber of the music has improved over the three years I've been a member. The opportunities have improved, also."

"The group changes every year, but it's a lot of fun," said Feldman. "It's something I enjoy doing with a group of people."

Metcalf said that "the character of the band changes each year without any sacrifice in the quality."

"Considering that Texas A&M has no school of music, we do maintain some groups (choral and instrumental) as fine as those of any other university," Metcalf said.

The Symphonic Band practices weekly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:30 to 1:45 in the Adams Band Building.

"We're always happy to have visitors," said McMullen.

Plans for the rest of the semester include a concert on Apr. 12 at A&M Consolidated High School and an "old-fashioned concert in the park" Apr. 19 at the married housing next to Hensel Park.

BOOKS

Bestsellers

FICTION

1. *War and Remembrance* — Herman Wouk
2. *Overload* — Arthur Hailey
3. *Chesapeake* — James A. Michener
4. *SS-GE* — Len Deighton
5. *The Stories of John Cheever* — John Cheever
6. *Evergreen* — Belva Plain
7. *Hanta Yo* — Ruth Beebe
8. *Dubin's Lives* — Bernard Malamud
9. *Second Generation* — Howard Fast
10. *Dress Gray* — Lucian K. Truscott IV

NONFICTION

1. *Lauren Bacall: By Myself* — Lauren Bacall
2. *The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet* — Herman R. Tarnower and Samm Sinclair Baker
3. *Mommie Dearest* — Christina Crawford
4. *How To Prosper During the Coming Bad Years* — Howard J. Ruff
5. *A Distant Mirror* — Barbara Tuchman
6. *American Caesar* — William Manchester
7. *Linda Goodman's Love Signs* — Linda Goodman
8. *Sophia: Her Own Story* — Sophia Loren
9. *Nurse* — Peggy Anderson
10. *In Search of History* — Theodore White