

the city

# 'Knights' lacks credibility

By DEBBIE NELSON  
Battalion Staff

Maybe it was because they were competing with the World Series and only 30 people were in the audience. Or maybe it was because the actors didn't even claim to be Broadway material.

Whatever the reason, there was a severe lack of emotion in Stage-Center's production of "The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia" Wednesday night.

Preston Jones' play — about a meeting of a 1962 fraternity of war heroes and good old boys — could have had some very dramatic moments, as well as some very funny ones. Unhappily, most of these moments just weren't believable.

The Knights of the White Magnolia appear in their rundown meeting room, ready to hold a usual meeting, accompanied by dominoes and whiskey. Then, for the first time

## Review

in five years, they find someone willing to be initiated into their society.

The Knights go through their ridiculous initiation ceremony, get in a few fights, drink a little whiskey, and compare war stories. Members claim to have seen a lot of action in different wars, but the colonel is the only one who remembers the horrors of war.

The colonel, played by Will Worley, keeps interrupting the initiation

with increasingly gory details of WW I. Finally, recalling men being shot and bodies flying around him, he collapses.

Although the words Worley speaks are horrible and full of the bloody reality of war, the play's emotional level is so low the audience cannot believe the character is feeling any pain.

The same lack of credibility occurs in a fight scene. The town drunk, played by Roy Fitzwater, gets in an argument with a bitter cowboy, Mark Lindsay. Again, the dialogue and the action are believable, but their execution is not. Both actors smiled in the middle of their supposedly heated argument.

Despite these flaws, the play was otherwise well presented and had a

message for the audience. The Knights were founded because members were not satisfied with the Ku Klux Klan, but by the time the play begins, these men in their small Texas town are the only surviving chapter of a once-large organization.

In their initiation ceremony they had sworn to uphold the ideals of the society till they died. But the ideals didn't seem to mean the same things anymore.

An all-white club, the Knights are ironically interrupted by the presence of colonel's faithful black servant, played by Raymond Belcher. At the end of the play the Knights break up, realizing their meetings have become nothing more than domino tournaments.

The servant shuffles into the deserted meeting room to sweep up. He picks up a page of the Knights' secret initiation ceremony. Easily flicking on the lighted white cross — which the Knights couldn't get to work — the servant reads the page loudly, with more emotion than was shown by any of the Magnolias.

# Professor studies engine for fuel efficiency, design

Gas turbine design breakthroughs 30 years ago brought about a quantum jump in the production of electricity, but the current energy situation demands improvements in turbine designs, a Texas A&M University professor said.

The technology led to massive electric power generating facilities in which huge turbines powered by cheap, plentiful natural gas spin at high speeds for long periods.

"Energy producers now are talking about low BTU fuels such as from coal gasification," said Peter E. Jenkins. "Lower efficiency of the fuels will require better efficiency of the turbines, at levels not previously necessary with natural gas."

Jenkins, a mechanical engineering professor, has been named director of the Gas Turbine Laboratory at Texas A&M.

"The energy situation requires that we go on to new and better things or improve existing turbine systems. The latter is one of the goals of the lab," he said. "We have a project to couple low BTU fuels with turbines."

Jenkins specializes in measurement of various flow, acoustic and vibration problems in turbomachinery. His work in air pollution control at Purdue University, where he earned his doctorate, has helped in the development of new ways of controlling emissions from a variety of turbomachines.

Jenkins has worked for Texas Instruments Inc. in Dallas and the U.S. Department of Energy in energy conversion. He currently consults with DOE, the Gas Research Institute, American Gas As-

sociation in energy conversion. The gas turbine lab sponsors the annual Turbomachinery Symposium, with the eighth annual conference planned Nov. 27-29 at the Shamrock-Hilton Hotel in Houston.

**Sun Theatres**  
333 University 846-9808  
The only movie in town  
Double-Feature Every Week  
10 a.m.-2 a.m. Sun.-Thurs.  
10 a.m.-3 a.m. Fri.-Sat.  
No one under 18  
Ladies Discount With This Coupon.  
BOOK STORE & 25c PEEP SHOWS

**COURTS UNIVERSITY SHOE SERVICE**  
"Expert boot and shoe repair"  
104 College Main Northgate  
846-6785 (formerly Holiks)

**MANOR EAST 3**  
STARTING OVER 7:15  
ANIMAL HOUSE 7:20  
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 7:30  
CAMPUS 9:45  
MEATBALLS

**MANOR EAST 3**  
Tickets on sale at 10:30 823-8300  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MIDNIGHT

A single dream is more powerful than a thousand realities.

J.R.R. Tolkien's  
**"the Lord of the Rings"**  
A SAUL ZAENTZ PRODUCTION  
A RALPH BARSHE FILM  
J.R.R. Tolkien's "THE LORD OF THE RINGS" Music by LEONARD ROSENMAN  
Screenplay by CHRIS CONKLING and PETER S. BEAGLE  
Based on the novels "THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING" and "THE TWO TOWERS" by J.R.R. TOLKIEN  
Produced by SAUL ZAENTZ Directed by RALPH BARSHE  
A Fantasy Film  
Presentation  
DOLBY STEREO  
ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE  
CONFERENCE RELEASE  
DOLBY DIGITAL  
DOLBY DIGITAL  
DOLBY DIGITAL  
DOLBY DIGITAL

**HEAVEN CAN WAIT**

WARREN BEATTY GEMERE JAMES MASON  
CHARLES GRODIN DYAN CANNON BUCK HENRY VINCENT LUCK GARDENIA WARDEN

SCREENPLAY BY ELAINE MAY AND WARREN BEATTY PRODUCED BY WARREN BEATTY  
DIRECTED BY WARREN BEATTY AND GUY HENRY  
©1979 The Saul Zaentz Company  
Dolby Stereo  
Dolby Stereo  
Dolby Stereo  
Dolby Stereo

**Carl Bussell's DIAMOND ROOM**  
"The Beauty of Excellence"

Diamonds  
Gold Fashion Jewelry  
Precious Stones

Layaway now for Christmas

3731 E. 29th 846-4708  
Town & Country Center  
MEMBER AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

CASH - MASTERCARD  
VISA - LAYAWAY

Day students get their news from the Batt.

**MSC AGGIE CINEMA**

**BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR!**  
WINNER OF 3 ACADEMY AWARDS

FRIDAY  
October 19  
8 p.m.-Thea.

**The Godfather**  
A Paramount Picture

\$1.25 with TAMU I.D.

THE MYSTERY-COMEDY THAT TASTES AS GOOD AS IT LOOKS

GEORGE SEGAL  
JACQUELINE BISSSET  
ROBERT MORLEY

**WHO IS KILLING THE GREAT CHEFS OF EUROPE?**  
A Delicious Mystery

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
Oct. 19-20  
Midnight  
Theater

\$1.25 with TAMU I.D.

Francis Ford Coppola's  
**The Godfather PART II**

October 20  
8 p.m.  
Theater

\$1.25 with TAMU I.D.

**Voices**  
I Will Always Wait For You

Sunday  
October 21  
8 p.m.  
Theater

\$1.25 with TAMU I.D.  
PG

Advance Tickets Available At MSC Box Office  
Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Tickets Available 45 min. before showtime

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

**PREGNANCY TESTING**  
Counseling on all alternatives and birth control methods.  
Women's Referral Center  
2910 Old College Road.  
846-8437

**TOPS TX 752**  
(Take Off Pounds Sensibly)  
When: Each Thursday  
Where: Terrace Room of Star Furniture  
3400 East 29th, Bryan  
Time: Weigh-in 6:30 — Program 7:00  
Members: Those with a weight problem, come join others with a similar problem  
For more information call Vicki Riddle  
222-2395 After 5:00 — 3413

**WEIGHT WATCHERS** is a unique program of weight reduction that helps you lose weight without starving and also shows you how to keep it off forever. College Station class meets Thursdays, 8:15, Lutheran Student Center, 315 N. College Main. For further information call 822-7303. 799

**GAYLINE**  
693-1630  
Information-Referrals  
8-10 p.m. M-Th  
GSSO sponsored 3216

**FOR SALE**  
Excellent for duck hunting, \$100, call 5404 after six...304  
Toyota Celica GT. Good condition, ph. 894...3114

American Airlines half-price discount coupon. 845-1989...3413

Spaniel pup for sale. Blond female, C papers, \$130. 846-1286...3412  
Way bed was \$550, will sell \$350, size mattress, six months old, telephone, \$250, autoharp \$25. 693-2206...2915

**TWIN CITY FURNITURE**  
We still dare you to compare!  
Sofa \$399.95  
Full-Size Mattress & Box \$99.95  
Dining Chair \$199.95  
Lamps \$14.95

**Twin City Furniture**  
218 S. Main  
Bryan  
Open late Thurs. & Fri.

**Accounting Society's ANNUAL COOKOUT**  
Saturday, October 20  
All Afternoon  
Lake Sommerville, Overlook Park  
Beer tasting contest, interclass competition, faculty competition. Car pooling and maps available in SPSS. Hot dogs, chili and beer. 3313

**When Is Your Selling**  
**CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**  
No Secret At All?  
WHEN OVER 30,000 PEOPLE READ IT IN THE BATTALION  
If you've got something to sell... we'll get your message across! And our big readership guarantees you lots of prospects!  
845-2611

**There's Something for Everyone... Everywhere... in the CLASSIFIEDS**  
Affirmative Classifieds are programmed to offer you the widest selection of data for buying, selling or renting products or services! Check them!  
**The Battalion**  
845-2611

Whatever it is that you'd like to be, we've got the make-up to design it for thee!

- BALDHEAD WIGS
- FACE PUP
- VAMPIRE BLOOD
- TOOTH PAINT
- GREENE PAINT
- TEETH - EYES - LIPS - FANGS - EARS

**WAREHOUSE**  
EAST 29TH STREET  
3715 EAST 29TH STREET (713) 846-6771  
TOWN & COUNTRY CENTER

**PLITT Southern Theatres**  
846-6714 & 846-1151  
UNIVERSITY SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER  
**CINEMA HELD OVER**  
A temptingly tasty comedy for adults who can count.  
DUDLEY MOORE  
JULIE ANDREWS  
BO DEREK in  
**"10"**  
BLAKE EDWARDS  
1:15 3:20  
ALSO 9's make you gasp...  
STARTS FRI. **SKATE TOWN USA**  
CINEMA II Ends Thurs.  
5:40 CHARLES BRONSON  
7:45 JILL IRELAND  
9:50  
Adults \$2.00  
1st 1/2 hour  
ALSO **LOVE and BULLETS**