

'Papillon' gets standing ovation

By SUZIE HEMBY
Battalion Reporter

The orchestra opened softly and then gradually built up to a roar as "Papillon," performed by the Houston Ballet, was presented by the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS) Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. The packed house anxiously awaited the opening curtain. OPAS dedicated its 1980-81 season to J. Wayne Stark, former director of the

fallen in love with the Shah. One of the most amazing scenes is when Hamza turns the butterfly back into Papillon. Parker definitely does some quick changing, and it pays off. The Shah then tries to kiss Papillon, but Hamza intervenes and he kisses her instead, turning her into a beautiful woman, and turning Papillon back into a butterfly. Bijan, a shepherd played by William Pizzuto, is in love with Papillon

Review

Memorial Student Center, who was honored as the founder of the society. The ballet opened with Hamza the witch, played by Richard Munro, concocting a brew to make her beautiful. Hamza has captured Papillon, a beautiful maiden played by Janie Parker. Hamza wants to be beautiful like Papillon, so she conjures up a brew which is supposed to do the trick, but which doesn't work. The most impressive scenes were the dancing butterflies and the scene in the Shah's palace. Hamza, distraught with her ugliness, turns the beautiful Papillon into a butterfly because the Shah has fallen in love with Papillon and Hamza has

the butterfly and chases after her. Meanwhile, the Shah and the beautiful Hamza get married and Hamza instantly becomes ugly again. The ballet had a climactic ending and the audience thoroughly enjoyed it. Hamza works out her marriage problem by turning the Shah into an ugly, old man, and she sets Papillon's wings on fire. Bijan tries putting them out, but sets himself on fire and they both die. The audience gave the ballet a standing ovation as Papillon and Bijan floated to heaven and Hamza and the Shah fell in love again. The show was excellent and the dancers were exceptionally talented.



Hamza the witch stirs her brew as prisoner Papillon watches. MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society presented the Houston Ballet's production of "Papillon" Wednesday night in Rudder Auditorium. Photo by Dave Einsel

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Water could increase salt usage

By SUZIE HEMBY
Battalion Reporter

"My own particular feeling is that when water contains as much sodium as it does around here, it is at a level that could very well be influencing people's salt taste; and they might be using more salt in their diet than they should be," said Dr. Harold Wolf, a civil engineering professor and former member of the Environmental Protection Agency national drinking water advisory council. People who are high salt (sodium) users often lose their salt taste, much like those who smoke. The more salt a person uses, the more he has to use to taste it, Wolf said. The Bryan and College Station water contains normal amounts of minerals, calcium, manganese, barium, sulfate, chloride, fluoride

and nitrates, but it contains a high level of sodium, he added. Wolf said that Bryan water has 185 milligrams of sodium per liter. College Station has 317 milligrams of sodium per liter and Texas A&M has 205 milligrams of sodium per liter. Three percent of the population is on a sodium restricted diet, which calls for a sodium intake of less than 2,000 milligrams per day, Wolf said. Wolf also said 40 percent of the population would benefit if their sodium intake was reduced to less than 2,000 milligrams per day. Wolf said people with severe heart conditions should drink water with a salt content of no more than 20 milligrams of sodium per liter. It would probably be safer for those people to drink distilled water, he added.

"The question of excess sodium intake is a question of diet," Wolf said. People would do better to throw away their salt shakers than to stop drinking their water." Wolf said that he doesn't drink the water here because he hates the taste. "This water has almost pure baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) in it," he added. He said that he doesn't use salt, and not using it has improved his health. Wolf said he advocates the demineralization of drinking water but said water used for other purposes such as showers should be left alone. "The average person uses about 150 gallons of water a day but only drinks about two liters. Therefore it is not economical to demineralize all water," he said.

He added that a demineralization station would be useful to the area. Funded by tax dollars, the station would produce free drinkable water for the citizens. "The only problem with this is that bottled water companies would feel that this would be in competition with them," he said.

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County plans renovations

By STARR MOORE
Battalion Reporter

The Brazos County Commissioners approved \$400,000 for the proposed renovation of a 10,000-square-foot building to house the tax office in a special meeting Wednesday morning. The tax office will be moved to the Western Auto building located off 25th Street. The renovations will include a new roof and air conditioning system, new floors, additional walls and outside paneling. The county commissioners also approved a new telephone system for the courthouse that should be in use in 90 days. The system will give additional phone lines with more efficient operation.

The eight lines will be computerized to work in the event of a power failure. Private lines will be transferred over to the new system as they will not be needed because of the added feature of line security. The telephone system will ultimately save \$300 a month, a GTE spokesman said. Commissioners were undecided as to who should get the job of improving the Brazos Pavilion and Rodeo Arena. Two firms submitted bids for building bathrooms with shower installations and the prices ranged from \$3,000 to \$7,000. A new sign at the Brazos Center will probably cost \$3,000 to \$5,000.

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