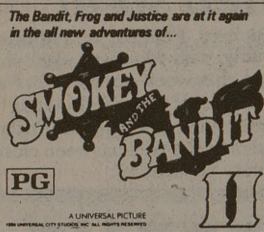


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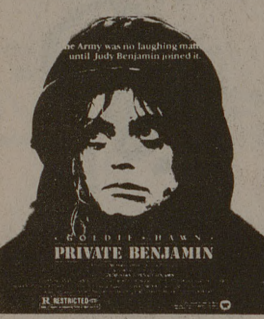
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# KAMU to hold wine tasting

## Bias towards imported wine mostly 'snobbery' — expert

By DEBBIE NELSON  
Battalion Staff

Wine tasters don't often show up in College Station. Harvey Posert of California's Robert Mondavi Winery is the exception.

Posert, public relations director, is in the Brazos Valley to assist KAMU television with its first wine tasting party Thursday night from 7 to 9 in the Aggeland Inn.

"There's still some snobishness

to thinking imported wine is better; really, what you like is better," Posert said. Seventeen California and one Texas winery will be represented in the 50 wines at the tasting.

Wine tasting is an experience for all the senses, Posert said. Tastes of bitter, salt, sour and sweet confront the palate, while the nose has "an infinite number of reactions."

"There's an old saying," Posert said. "Sell wine with cheese; buy wine with bread." Wines usually taste good when accompanying cheese, Posert explained, but cheese masks the taste of the wine, so a "real taster" eats bread or crackers to clear his palate, or simply drinks water before tasting the next wine.

In wine tasting, traditional rules apply. Taste white before red and

dry before sweet. Then follow a three-step process for tasting.

**Sight** — Hold the glass to the light, examining the wine for clarity.

**Smell** — Twirl wine in glass, sniffing the wine for aroma and bouquet.

A wine-tasting booklet for the KAMU tasting explains: "Aroma is grape fragrance; bouquet, the more subtle fragrance that comes later, from fermenting and aging."

**Taste** — Sip the wine and roll it around with your tongue. Then clear your palate and move on to the next wine.

Although some people are professional wine tasters, Posert said, "In the beginning, it's whether you like it or not."

He said, "Sometimes an absolute professional can be faced blindfolded with a heavy, rich, white wine and a light red wine and won't be able to tell the difference. It's an art, not a science."

Posert once presented California wines at the U.S. Embassy in Paris. "Their first thought was the wines were very well made," Posert said, "although the tastes were not in a large part the traditional French wine tastes."

At that time, Posert was public relations director for the Wine Institute, an organization promoting California wineries, of which there are about 600. Two months ago, he took a position as public relations director for Robert Mondavi Winery.

Posert has promoted wine for 15 years, since he moved to California from a newspaper job in Memphis, Tenn. Now 50 years old, Posert

seems to enjoy his work.

Oddly, he said he didn't have a bottle of wine in his house until he started promoting wine 15 years ago. Since then, he is a hearty wine supporter.

Wine has grown in popularity in the past 10 years, Posert said. "Texas wine consumption has doubled in the past decade and has become an important market for wine."

Americans now drink two gallons of wine per capita per year. Or 10 bottles of wine per person. California produces seven of those bottles of wine, other states produce one and foreign countries produce the other two.

A common misconception about wine is that it must be aged many years before sale. But Posert said Mondavi wines (of which there are about 12) are aged anywhere from several months to five years.

This year was an exceptional one for California vineyards. "You take what God gives you... this year is the best one in five to ten years."

Wine-making is a natural process of squeezing the juice out of grapes adding yeast for fermentation and aging the wine.

During the aging process, wine tasters savor the fate of the wines.

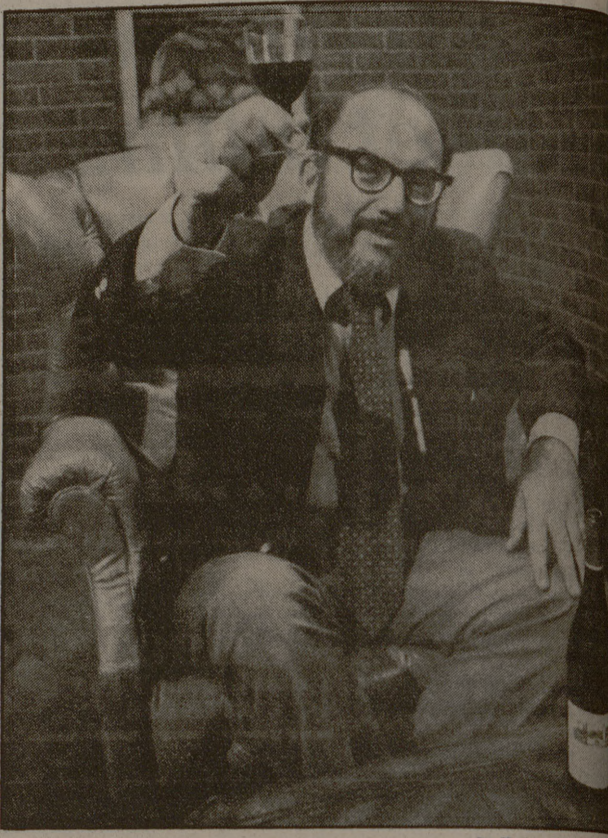
"The decisions they make about the wines are very important — which ones should be sold soon (and often inexpensively) or put into blends, and which wines show such promise that they should be put aside and handled individually."

Posert extended an invitation to the public to attend the wine tasting Thursday night.

"If you're interested in wine at all in Bryan-College Station, Thursday evening that tasting is a place where you'll be able to taste a range of wines and talk to winery representatives."

"And it may not happen again soon."

Tickets at \$5 per person may be obtained from members of Friends of KAMU or by calling 845-5611. The following area merchants also have tickets: Hastings Books and Records, Prioriteas, First National Bank, Youngbloods, City National Bank and the Aggeland Inn.



Staff photo by George Huff. "There's still some snobishness to thinking imported wine is better; its really, what you like is better." Harvey Posert of California's Robert Mondavi Winery will be at the Aggeland Inn Thursday night from 7 to 9 for a wine tasting party benefitting KAMU television.

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## Honor guard drilling

Today marks the end of the second day of drills for 72 juniors who were selected to replace graduating seniors in the Ross Volunteers.

The group, the oldest student organization at Texas A&M University, serves as the governor's official honor guard.

Under the instruction of the senior RVs, the new volunteers are preparing for two parades in December — one in Bryan and another in Conroe — and Mardi Gras in the spring. Physical and mental conditioning are the goals of the 90-minute drills held twice each week.

In addition to drill instruction, Cmdr. Roy Brantley said the juniors

are receiving training in ethics and leadership skills.

"We are promoting more ever this year the soldier, statesman, knightly gentleman image," Brantley said.

The senior RVs selected juniors based upon their character, academic and military training at Texas A&M, disciplinary record and social graces, Brantley said.

The honor guard, named after first president of Texas A&M College, Lawrence Sullivan Ross, do not select a new commander to place Brantley until the end of year.

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<b>MONDAY</b>				
Bartending	6:00-7:00	\$8.00	4 weeks	Tommy Ruddock
Bartending	7:00-8:00	\$8.00	4 weeks	Tommy Ruddock
Dancercise	5:30-6:45	\$7.00	5 weeks	Julia Mashburn
Intermediate Guitar		\$2.50	5 weeks	Greg Hargis
Videotape Production	8:00-10:00	\$2.00	4 weeks	Kenneth Mays
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
Dancercise	5:30-6:45	\$7.00	5 weeks	Julia Mashburn
Beg. C&W Dance	6:30-7:45	\$12.00	5 weeks	Taylor & Brown
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
Dancercise	5:30-6:45	\$7.00	5 weeks	Julia Mashburn
Dating, Engagement, & Marriage	7:30-8:30	\$2.00	5 weeks	Hubert Beck
Effective Communication for Women	7:00-9:00	\$4.50	4 weeks	Karen Wilson
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
Advanced C&W Dance	6:30-7:45	\$12.00	5 weeks	Taylor & Brown
Beg. Guitar	5:30-6:30	\$7.00	5 weeks	Kevin Donahue
Dancercise	5:30-6:45	\$7.00	5 weeks	Julia Mashburn
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
Beg. C&W Dance	6:30-8:00	\$12.00	5 weeks	Taylor & Brown
<b>OTHERS</b>				
Rockclimbing	(See Brochure)	\$4.00		David Hinz
Defensive Driving	(See Brochure)	\$15.00		Col. Goldsmith
Canoeing	(See Brochure)	\$14.00		Mike Ryan
CPR	(TBA)			Horowitz & Woodruff
Urban Kicker	(TBA)			Joe Parrinello
Dancin'	(TBA)			Joe Parrinello
Judo	(See Brochure)	\$ 2.00		Judo Club

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