

Local



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Mrs. Laura Partridge (Sharon Barrow) questions T. John Blessington (Sid Catlett) about the duties of the chairman of the board of General Products Corp. in Texas A&M University Theater Arts' production of "The Solid Gold Cadillac." The show will run tonight and Saturday night at 8, as well as next Thursday through Saturday nights.

'Cadillac' needs minor tune-up

By BECKY SWANSON

The Solid Gold Cadillac had a hard time getting cranked up Thursday night.

But after a slow start, the Texas A&M Theater Arts performance picked up speed and had some funny moments in the middle scenes; finally coming together at the end.

The fairy-tale farce is set in the New York business and Washington political scenes.

Mrs. Laura Partridge (played by Sharon Barrow), a 10-share stockholder in a giant corporation, speaks out at a stockholders' meeting which begins her battle against "the system" of big business politics.

Partridge, a stage actress has-been, is hired by General Products Corp. as director of stockholder realtions, in hopes of appeasing her objection to large salary increases for the board of directors.

With no previous business experience, Partridge plays havoc with previously-passive systems of operation by corresponding with thousands of small stockholders.

The four corporate executives who control General Products, Blessington, Metcalfe, Gillie and Snell (played by Sid Catlett, David

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Troxell, Kyle Owen and Matthew McClung, respectively), spend much of their time — not to mention the better part of their stomach linings — trying to stop Partridge.

Partridge is sent to Washington to persuade Edward L. McKeever (Terry Martin) — formerly the chairman of the board of General Products — that the company needs government contracts.

Instead, Partridge convinces McKeever that he doesn't need his government position as much as his old company needs him, and he hurriedly resigns and leaves suddenly with Partridge, creating a stir in the media and gossip circles.

McKeever's theatric recitation in his Washington office is one of the funniest scenes in the play. The audience had many a chuckle during this school-boy effort at Shakespeare.

McKeever's reception at General Products is anything but warm, and the plot thickens ...

However, frequent set changes between short scenes caused the play to drag and the audience to become restless.

The play will run for five more shows: tonight, Saturday and next Thursday through Saturday. All shows begin at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum.

Female society also accepts men as well

By LYDIA JOHNSON

The club name for the Society of Women Engineers is a little misleading. They also accept men.

"The organization was previously designed for girls, but we have a few guys who are members and encourage others to join," said Peggy Fisher, conference publicity chairman for the organization.

The organization is geared toward promoting women in all facets of engineering, such as mechanical, industrial and chemical, said Penny Handsel, conference chairman.

"We try to encourage women and provide support and help them in their personal development," Handsel said.

The 200-member service organization will hold its 6th annual Nuts and Bolts of Engineering conference for high school students Jan. 30-31. Registration deadline is Dec. 1.

The two-day conference will include a banquet, tours of the University and panel discussions featuring college students and professional engineers. Two scholarships will also be awarded.

Handsel said the conference is designed to give students interested in math and science a firsthand look at the opportunities available in engineering.

"We want them to have an inside look of what it's all about," Handsel said.

She said a panel of Texas A&M

University students in engineering will answer questions concerning engineering and Aggie life.

"The professional panel discussion will give the high school student the opportunities available by having an engineering degree," Handsel said.

Handsel said the tours of the different departments will aid a student

as he begins to decide what aspect of engineering is suitable.

"By letting them see each type of engineering, it will help them decide if they want to work in that particular field," Handsel said. "If they think they want to major in computer science, we'll show them the key punch machines, terminals, and computers. Then they might decide that's

not what they would like to do. So they can look at the chemical engineering department and see all the

facets of being a chemical engineer and decide if that's what they want to do."

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