

Local

Classical quintet lulls audience

By RUTH M. DALY
Battalion Reporter

Mozart, Bartok and Schumann in Rudder Theater while the Charlie Daniels Band whooped and hollered in G. Rollie White Coliseum Thursday night.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO MSC ALL NITE FAIR



Come dressed as a character
FEB. 27 8 p.m.-3 a.m.
IN THE MSC

The Lyric Art Quintet, five faculty members from the University of Houston, hypnotized the crowd with three classical numbers in the two-hour long performance presented by the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society.

Review

The group gave a flawless recital for the well-behaved Aggie crowd.

From the beginning of the program, the musicians held the attention of the crowd, which came dressed in its Sunday-best.

And, believe it or not, no one whooped at the end of the program, although someone did say bravo a few times during the five-minute ovation.

Perhaps the best thing the quintet did for the crowd was make the composers' music come alive in the minds of the audience.

What's Up

FRIDAY
UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: Peanut Butter Fellowship will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rudder Fountain. Bible Study will be conducted at 6:30 p.m. in 145 MSC.

TAMU SAILING CLUB: Begins a weekend sailing outing in Welch Park on Lake Somerville.

CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION(EPISCOPAL STUDENT CENTER): A church service with breakfast afterward will begin at 6:30 a.m. in the Episcopal Student Center.

INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Will meet in the All Faiths Chapel at 7 p.m.

"THE BLUES BROTHERS": Former "Saturday Night Live" stars John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd stage a benefit concert to raise money for a needy orphanage, highlighted by their unique blues style. 8 p.m. and midnight in Rudder Theatre.

"THE CHILDREN'S HOUR": Will be presented at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum. Tickets are available at Rudder Box Office or at the door.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: The Catholic Graduate Students host a Mardi Gras Parade and Dance (costumes optional) at 8 p.m. in the St. Mary's Student Center.

MSC ALL NITE FAIR: Will be held in the Memorial Student Center from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Dress as your favorite Oz character.

MSC BASEMENT COMMITTEE: The Eric Johnson Band performs in 201 MSC beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 and includes admission to the All Nite Fair. Tickets available at Rudder Box Office.

SATURDAY

BAKE SALE: The Brazos Valley Food Co-operative will hold a bake sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at their store located at 4405 Old College Main, Bryan (across from Grins). Proceeds will help defray operating expenses.

WATER SKI CLUB: Will have an outing at Pecan Lake Park on Lake Somerville from 8 a.m. until dark. Non-members are welcome. Maps are available in the cubicle, 216 MSC.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Work Committee will have a project at St. Mary's Student Center from 9 a.m. until noon. Lunch provided. Coffeehouse, with refreshments, games and free entertainment will be held from 8-11 p.m. in the student center.

CLASS OF '82 BALL DECORATIONS COMMITTEE: Meets from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Lounge D between Dorms 6 & 8 toward decorations.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART CONTEST: Will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pemberty Intramural Center fields to benefit the American Heart Association.

RUGBY CLUB: Will play the Houston Heathens at 2 p.m. on the Main Drill Field.

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Training prepares TAs for classroom positions

By SHARON D. RENFROW
Battalion Reporter

Teaching assistants often catch the ill will of students who feel that TAs don't have the qualifications to plan, organize and teach an

undergraduate course. But they generally have more than enough skills, say Texas A&M faculty members.

"Most departments have an introductory course to prepare their TAs," said Dr. George Kunze, dean of the graduate college. Both the departments of chemistry and English have training programs and the Department of Education, Curriculum and Instruction has an analysis course in college teaching, he said.

A graduate student can work in any of three areas: research, lab preparation or teaching. Students working on research projects are called graduate assistant researchers, GARS. They are paid by research grant. A graduate assistant non-teaching, GANT, does research with a professor in lab as well as preparing the labs and grading papers.

The graduate student who teaches is a graduate assistant teacher, GAT, also called TA.

TA applicants are screened by department members for academic credentials and confidence. Applicants must have a combined graduate record exam score of 800 on the verbal and quantitative sections and a grade point ratio of 3.0. Kunze gives the final approval on the departments' choices.

According to figures from the office of Institutional Planning and Analysis, TAs made up 28 percent of the teaching body at Texas A&M in Fall 1980. Training programs for the 776 TAs is a necessity.

A TA workshop on teaching strategy and setting objectives for classes is held every January, said Dr. Glenn Johnson, coordinator of the graduate program in the education department. "The workshop is strictly volunteer. It gives the graduate student a chance to whet his appetite."

A workshop is also held for TAs in the English department. Before every semester, faculty and TAs meet and discuss teaching methods for composition, said Dr. Forrest Burt, director of graduate English programs.

"Once they are in our graduate program, we just don't turn them loose," he said.

"We feel that we have one of the most highly developed training programs for teachers of writing," Burt said. Each semester the TA is assigned a full-time faculty member who advises him, he said. The adviser goes over the assignments, visits the class, reviews graded themes and writes a summary on the TA at the end of the semester, he explained.

Communication with the TAs is important in the English department, said Dr. Claude Gibson, director of freshman English. "If TA has a problem he can talk to his adviser, come to me or bring it up in English 697 — a course on teaching composition," he said.

Most departments do not let TAs teach without guidance. They are given a syllabus to follow and are supervised by a professor.

"We are given a syllabus to follow in lab that corresponds with the lecture," Tim Bundy, a plants and physiology TA, said. "And there is always a professor around in our labs."

Dr. Larry Peck, lab coordinator of the Department of Chemistry, makes sure that every lab TA has an advising faculty member assigned to him. "Some faculty work with the TA verbally and others by use of the syllabus," he said.

All TAs must have at least some background, if not a degree, in the department in order to teach in it. In accounting, a TA is not allowed to teach unless he has had 15 to 20 hours of accounting, said Dr. Gary Shugart, department head. "We do not give a TA a class unless we are confident he can teach it," he said. "But if we get one bad student evaluation on a TA, we take him out of the classroom."

Regardless of the amount of training and preparation a TA has, there will still be questions he cannot answer. "Sometimes a TA doesn't have all the answers, but neither does a professor," Bundy said.

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