

Local / State

Century Singers prepare for classical concert

By KITTY FRALEY

Battalion Reporter
The Century Singers, who are in the midst of celebrating their 10th anniversary this year, are

gearing up for an Easter concert this weekend to be held at the A&M Consolidated High School auditorium, said Nancy Theeman, the group's director.
The concert will be the Easter

portion of Handel's "Messiah" and will feature such songs as "The Alleluia Chorus," "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" and "The Trumpets Shall Sound."

The Century Singers is the only mixed choir at Texas A&M University.

"Being a member of this group is not easy because it's very competitive," Theeman said.

There are 60 people in the choir, which rehearses four times a week for a total of five hours each week.

A 10-minute musical audition is held at the beginning of the fall semester, she said.

Each applicant is screened by three permanent staff members on musical ability and then interviewed. These two things determine who makes the group.

The group gives about 20-25 performances each school year for a variety of organizations, Theeman said.

Concerts are given for a number of on-campus functions like banquets and symposiums. Off-campus groups such as churches and A&M Mother's Clubs also request concerts.

The Century Singers' music is about one-half classical and one-half popular.

The 6:30 p.m. concert Sunday, sponsored by the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in College Station, will feature only classical music.



Staff photo by Brian Tate

Gotcha' covered

Stand-up comedian Paul Rodriguez shows his interpretation of a Jewish person holding up a bank, with his bandana over his nose to hide his identity. Rodriguez performed in the Memorial Student Center lobby Thursday afternoon. Sponsored by the MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Culture, Rodriguez told many comic stories, including many about his Mexican nationality, as well as about the Insta-Girl device, a plunger he uses to attach to a girl and take her along with him, and the Mexican Express Card, a soft tortilla he produced for the audience.

Clayton leads fight for water trust bill

United Press International
AUSTIN — Speaker Bill Clayton — yielding his post to campaign personally for the proposal — Thursday passed his pet legislation, a constitutional amendment dedicating state surplus revenue to a water trust fund.

The speaker had little problem getting the 127-14 vote, although opponents tied him up in debate for three hours.

Under the proposal, which voters will decide in the November election, half of all the state surplus would be deposited in a water trust fund and the remainder in a reserve fund. The Legislature by a two-thirds vote could appropriate the money in the reserve for special or needed programs.

The water trust fund would be used to meet future water problems, Clayton said. He said water would become more critical in the state, especially since the population is expected to grow to 25 million in less than 30 years.

"This is an innovative tool that will help Texas in the future," Clayton said. "We will be able to solve water problems before they become a crisis."

Reps. John Bryant, D-Dallas,

and Frank Gaston, R-Dallas, presented several amendments that were all soundly defeated. Bryant argued that the state's surplus always been used to avoid raising state taxes.

"Those surpluses are what we've used to avoid raising taxes the last 10 years," he told Clayton. "If water is a crisis, don't waste a program now instead of creating a fund for the future?"

Gaston said it would be better to sell bonds for water projects.

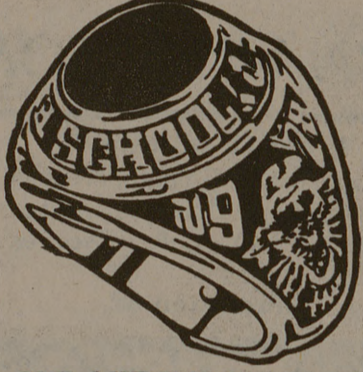
"Why not raise interest rates on those bonds that can't be sold rather than take the drastic measure to create a fund for what there no program for?" he asked.

Clayton said his proposal would be a form of tax relief for the citizens and would help meet the critical water problems of the future.

"This will help every citizen in our state," the speaker said. "This is one program that will help Texas a long-range planning that will help the state for many years to come."

Bryant said the measure was another "sham" that did not provide tax relief.

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