

Local

'Whorehouse' is best little musical in Texas

By NANCY FLOECK
Battalion Staff

With a lively cast and a jazzy musical score, Monday night's presentation of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" was, as one song said, "even better than an Aggie football game."

From the opening scene, a brief musical history of the Chicken Ranch, to its last, the closing of the legendary brothel, the cast delighted a packed Rudder Auditorium with its quick one-liners,

energetic dances and animated characters.

The musical is based on the La Grange Chicken Ranch, a Texas brothel, and Marvin Zindler's successful crusade to close it.

Francie Mendenhall played Miss Mona, the sophisticated yet kind madam. She quickly captivated the audience while admitting two new girls to her "boarding house" and, singing in a clear strong voice, acquainted them with the rules: clean language,

clean bedrooms and no tattoos.

But other characters stole the show. Shy, a dowdy girl in plaid shorts, a striped shirt and cowboy boots, had the audience howling with laughter at her transformation from a naive dud to "a working girl."

The loud-talking, pistol-packing sheriff — a virile, balding John Wayne-type — spat obscenities every other sentence, but captured the audience with his philosophical reflections — "I can tell when someone is pissing on my boots and saying it's a rainstorm" — and his intimidation of Melvin P. Thorpe, an caricature of Marvin Zindler.

Wearing a red, white and blue tie, Thorpe is introduced to the audience on "Watchdog News" as he energetically tells the world what every Texan already knows: "Texas has a whorehouse in it!" Thorpe's sidekicks, the Watchdog Strutters, and a group of women wearing yellow chiffon dresses, bouffant hair-dos and looking like a tacky version of the Andrew Sisters immediately respond with "God have Mercy on our souls."

The cast sang beautifully, especially Susan Beaubian. She played Jewel, the Ranch's maid, and awed the audience with a clear, soulful voice that ranged several octaves as she sang "Twenty-four Hours of Loving."

But the crowd's favorite scenes involved Aggies.

After beating the University of Texas in their traditional Thanksgiving game, the Aggie football team is treated to a night at the Chicken Ranch, compliments of Texas A&M alumni and Senator Wingwoah, a long-time Ranch customer ("It's a fine institution and I'm proud to have it in my district").

They sang: "We gonna whomp, and stomp ... those little gals won't ever be the same," and at the end of the number, they thrilled the audience again by exchanging several seconds of whoops with them.

"I hope the Aggies don't win," one buxom blonde Ranch worker said. "They're always saying things like 'Howdy.'"

But with the closing of the brothel, the musical became sentimental, though not mushy. The sheriff and Miss Mona separately reflect on their feelings for each other, and the Ranch's inhabitants try to convince themselves everything will turn out alright. "Me, I'll be just fine and dandy," they sang.

And after the performance they gave, the audience could believe it.



Melvin P. Thorpe of "Watchdog News" member of the cast of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," presented by Melvin P. Thorpe, is a Town Hall.

Join Rabbi Neal Borovitz
from U.T. Hillel
at
Sukkot Service
Tuesday, Oct. 13 7 p.m.

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Underwood Hall dedicated

By LISA SURMAN
Battalion Reporter

Ammon Underwood, 94, was honored Saturday in a dedication ceremony for one of Texas A&M

University's two newest residence halls.

Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services, presided over the dedication of

Ammon Underwood Hall, a 302-woman modular dormitory behind the Commons complex.

Underwood said that having the dorm named after him was a surprise. "I've had some great surprises in my life, but none as great as this," he said.

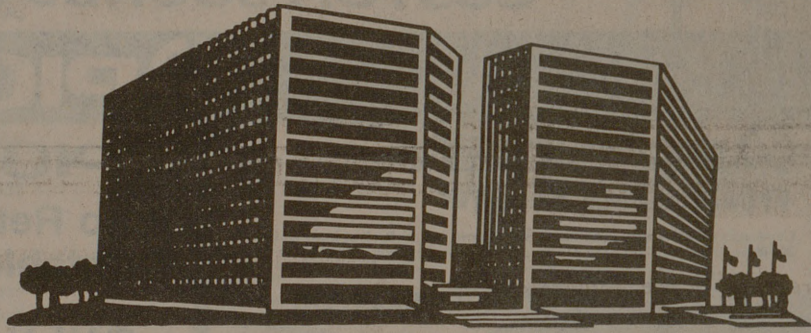
Underwood, Class of '07, received his degree in civil engineering and has donated \$1 million of real estate to the University. Eventually, the University will receive the rest of his estate.

Underwood Hall President Angie Kerr, a junior journalism major from Temple, said that although Underwood has no chil-

dren, "he has 302 terrific girls who love him very much and appreciate everything he has done."

Underwood, who now lives in Buchanan Dam, worked for British East Africa Ltd. as an irrigation engineer, the Federal Reserve Bank and the Farm Credit Administration during his career. He credits his experiences at Texas A&M for his extensive travel success.

"This is a great school," he said. "I've loved it from the first day I entered the school and even now. Don't forget it — the longer you're here, the more of an advantage it can be to you."



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NOTICE OF INTERVIEWS — PETROLEUM ENGINEERS

October 13 & 14

The Midland National Bank, Midland, Texas, will conduct interviews for reservoir engineering positions in the bank's Oil & Gas Division. Applicants should be eligible for a B.S. degree in Petroleum Engineering in December or May.

Interviews will be conducted by E. H. Blackaller, Senior Vice President, Manager/Oil & Gas Division, and Pete Bauerlein, Vice President, in the W. T. Doherty Building on October 13 and 14.

BRIEF JOB DESCRIPTION

Midland National's petroleum engineers, working under experienced professionals, are immediately involved in evaluation of oil and gas leases, reservoir engineering, and the financial and banking aspects of oil and gas exploration and production.

Job assignments are flexible, affording daily contact with independent producers, geologists, landmen, attorneys, and representatives of other banks.

The area included in evaluation work covers the entire continental United States. In addition, engineering and financial evaluation includes such properties as refineries, gasoline plants, coal mines, gas gathering systems and other oilfield related facilities. There is ample opportunity for wide exposure to a variety of professional challenges immediately upon employment.

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A descriptive brochure concerning the full scope of these positions will be available in the Petroleum Engineering Department, W.T. Doherty Building.

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SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERS MEETING

Speaker: Mr. R. S. Hutton, Jr.
from Cities Service Oil Co.
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