

Up With People is up on people

By Colette Hutchings
Battalion Staff

From the Superbowl to Jamaica, a group of students have been singing and dancing their way around the world promoting one theme — people. "Up With People" will sing and dance in a two-hour show at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24, in the A&M Consolidated High School auditorium.

Locally sponsored by College Station Community Education and the Bryan-College Station Eagle, "Up With People" will feature a 60's segment and an medley of international songs and dances the cast has learned in different countries.

"Up with People" is a group of international students, including many from the United States, who travel to different countries and live for a year with host families.

Interviews for next year's cast will be held in A&M Consolidated auditorium immediately following the Oct. 24 show.

Sherrad Hartness, promotional representative for "People," said the purpose of the group is "to build bridges of understanding between people and cultures." The members involve themselves with the community through high schools, colleges and nursing homes.

Hartness, originally from South Carolina, was a cast member in "Up with People" and now does public relations for the group.

She said although cast members learn about countries' cultures and languages, much more is learned through personal experience.

"In eleven months on the road, there's a lot of individual growth," she said.

"People" is composed of five casts with 120 members in each. Each cast has a schedule of shows in different countries.

Hartness said an invitation from the Russian government for a possible tour has members excited.

Receiving special invitations to countries is nothing new, though, "People" was the first student group to tour the Peoples' Republic of China in 1978.

Hartness said members have visited 42 countries, including Argentina, Canada, Panama, Europe and Mexico. "They love us there (Mexico), they never want to let us go," Hartness said.

Cast members have appeared in half-time at the Superbowl twice and are preparing to do so again in January 1982.

Of more than 7,000 students applying for "Up with People," 500 are chosen. Because of the rigorous schedule involved, Hartness said, candidates are screened thoroughly.

Prospective members must be high school graduates and can be no older than 26, Hartness said.

New groups spend six weeks in Tucson, Ariz., learning dance routines and preparing for the rigorous schedules ahead.

Hartness said groups are always touring. Four casts start up every summer and end the following June, while others start in January and end the following December.

Cast members are responsible for paying 1/3 of their tuition, which is about \$5,000. Most of



International goodwill, singing and dancing are all part of "Up With People," to perform Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. at the A&M Consolidated High School.

the students who participate in "People" receive scholarships.

Cast members are able to receive college credit in theater arts, physical education and writing by participating in "People."

Money for the trips is also donated by contributions from corporations. "People" sells albums and T-shirts, which account for 40 percent of the cost of a students' trip, Hartness said.

Franci VonBueren, 19, a cast member from Switzerland, is visiting College Station for the production.

VonBueren finished school and received a secretarial apprenticeship in April.

She said an "Up with People" cast comes to Switzerland every year; she applied and was accepted.

Chuck Renfroe, 18, is another cast member who's visiting Col-

lege Station. Renfroe hails from Tennessee.

He completed one year as a marketing major at East Tennessee State University and joined "Up with People" because he wanted to change schools and enjoyed traveling.

"Up with People came around at an appropriate time for me," he said.

Renfroe, VonBueren and Hartness are in College Station preparing for the arrival of the rest of the cast.

Besides participating in shows, they help find host families for the cast and make plans for meals and schedules.

VonBueren and Renfroe said their cast (cast "B") started in July and has toured Arizona (the headquarters for "People"), New Mexico, Louisiana and Texas.

After a Christmas break, the group will go to Columbia,

Venezuela, Jamaica and Bermuda.

Renfroe said he has already learned from his travels.

"What's really helped me is the P.R. (public relations) experience and working with the various businesses and Chamber of Commerces in the different cities," Renfroe said.

VonBueren said she plans to continue schooling and major in languages, so the exposure to different languages has helped her.

Tickets for the "Up with People" performance are \$4.50 for students and senior citizens and \$5.50 for adults and may be purchased at the Eagle, Keyboard Center in Manor East Mall, Hastings Records and Books in Culpepper Plaza, the book store in the A&M Consolidated High School and the Independent School District Community Education office.

Mangione's flugelhorn to jazz up A&M Oct. 25

Jazz comes to Texas A&M University Sunday with the sound of Chuck Mangione, his flugelhorn and his quartet.

The Chuck Mangione Quartet is comprised of flute and saxophone player Chris Vadala, drummer Steve Gadd, guitarist Grant Geissman and bassist Dave Pilch.

Half of the albums Mangione have been recorded live at con-

certs, including his latest album "Tarantella."

"Tarantella" was recorded at Rochester, N.Y. The concert, held to benefit the Italian earthquake victims, included jazz stars Dizzy Gillespie, Chick Corea and others.

Mangione has said concerts offer spontaneity and relation with an audience that the studio

doesn't give.

Commissioned by ABC to supply the music, Mangione is probably best known for his flugelhorn mastery in the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics theme song.

He has said the Olympics were the biggest mass media event he had ever done.

Mangione, winner of two

Grammy awards and an Emmy award, is a composer and producer as well as a performer.

Some of the songs Mangione is known for are "Cannonball Run Theme," "Can't We Do

This All Night," "Bella Via," "Give It All You've Got," "Hill

Where The Lord Hides," "Fun And Games," "Feels So Good,"

and "Tarantella."

The concert is sold out, but a waiting list is being kept at the MSC Box Office in Rudder Tower in case tickets become available.

Mangione's concert is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.

FOCUS

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On the cover: Dinah the Indian python caresses her master, John Ward, at the Texas Renaissance Festival in Magnolia. Part of the annual reenactment of the European Renaissance, Dinah represents the reptiles which were used by court entertainers. See related pictures and story on pages 8 and 9. Cover photo by Dave Einsel.