

Funds pass halfway mark for Houston arts center

United Press International
HOUSTON — More than of the estimated \$65 million led to pay for a new Houston performing arts center has been raised through donations.

Houston has been responding to our fund-raising efforts use the people here are organizing we have to have theaters," said Irl Mowery, executive director of the Houston Lyric Theater Foundation. "It's not like musical chairs at our facilities now."

Although private funds are being used, the theaters will be operated by the city. The center is being built on municipal land downtown along the Buffalo Bayou, near the existing Albert Thomas Convention Center, the Jones Hall for Performing Arts (symphonic hall), the Nina Bayne Alley Theatre (drama theater) and Houston Music Hall.

"It will be like a downtown theater district," Mowery said. He said \$37.3 million has been donated to build the two performing arts theaters at the Wortham Theater Center. Ab-

out half of the amount came from private individuals; the remaining gifts were from corporations, many of which have their headquarters in Houston.

The project's name was changed in October from the Lyric Theater to the Gus S. Wortham Theater Center after the Wortham Foundation donated \$15 million, which will be paid in installments spread out over a three-to-five-year period.

Construction is scheduled to begin in early 1983; completion of the structure is planned for fall 1985.

Mowery said the center will consist of two theaters — one to seat 2,300 and another for 1,100 — plus a park in front of the building. The larger theater will be for the Houston Ballet, Houston Grand Opera and traveling tours. The smaller theater will be primarily for the Society for the Performing Arts; it will be used for recitals, dance groups and chamber music.

The buildings will be seven stories high. The entrance hall will be a triangle-shaped building, which leads into the grand foyer and theaters on the adja-

cent block. The two buildings will be connected by a walkway over a street.

When Jones Hall was completed in 1966, it temporarily filled the needs of the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Ballet, the Houston Symphony, the Society for the Performing Arts and touring shows. But by 1973

the arts had outgrown the facility, Mowery said.

But season-ticket holders have 92 percent of all opera tickets, and the ballet often is compelled to perform in theaters outside Houston because no dates are available at Jones Hall. Thus, many Houstonians seldom get the chance to see the two companies perform.

What's Up at Texas A&M

Thursday

SC CEPHEID VARIABLE: Walt Disney's "The Absent-Minded Professor" will be shown at 8:30 p.m. and 10:20 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL: The group will leave for Sherwood Nursing Home to sing and visit at 6:30 p.m. from the chapel, 315 N. College Main.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE: There will be a reception for graduating international students from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in 145 MSC. Wear your caps and gowns because a photographer will be present.

STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (SFAE): Be sure to fill out a student survey in today's Battalion.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN ACTION: The new organization on nuclear awareness will have a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Gallery of Langford Architecture Center. A film will be shown.

TEXAS A&M ICE HOCKEY TEAM: There will be a meeting to discuss fund raising and summer activities at 8 p.m. on the sixth floor of the library in the multi-media room.

Friday

INTER VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: There will be a final meeting and worship service at 7 p.m. in the Canterbury House.

AGGIE ALLEMANDERS: There will be a graduation for the square dance class from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in 201 MSC.

EPISCOPAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Group will meet for Holy Eucharist and breakfast at 6:30 a.m. at the Canterbury House, 902 Jersey St.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: Friday night Bible study will be at 6:30 p.m. Check MSC video for room number.

OFF CAMPUS CENTER: There will be a meeting to assist in finding roommates for the fall semester at 3 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

SENIOR RING DANCE PICTURE PICK-UP: Pick-up will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the main hallway of the MSC.

Saturday

SENIOR RING DANCE PICTURE PICK-UP: Pick-up will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the main hallway of the MSC.

AMU HANG GLIDING CLUB: There will be a powered hang gliding exhibition on the Polo Field.

Sunday

CLASS OF '82 PARK DEDICATION: There will be a ceremony open to the general public in the wooded area south of the MSC/Rudder Guest Parking Lot between Throckmorton St. and Houston St. at 1 p.m.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: The Presbyterians will meet at A&M Presbyterian Church, 601 Church St. and the Disciples will meet in 145 MSC. Both meet at 5:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL: The Fellowship Supper will be at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel, 315 N. College Main. There will be a presentation on the topic: "Communicating the Good News" at 7 p.m. also in the chapel.

DIETING?

Even though we do not prescribe diets, we make it possible for many to enjoy a nutritious meal while they follow their doctor's orders. You will be delighted with the wide selection of low calorie, sugar free and fat free foods in the Souper Salad Area, Sbis Dining Center Basement.

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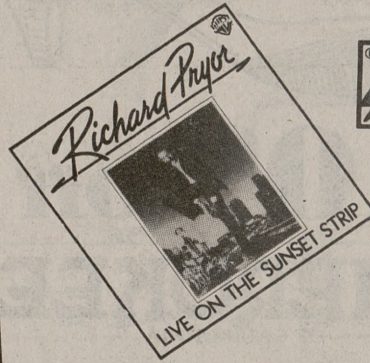
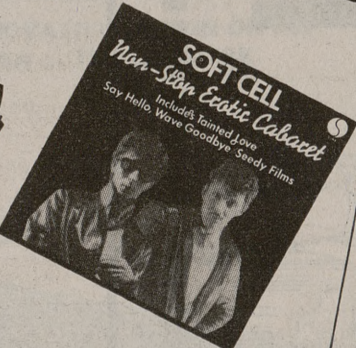
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