

What's Up at Texas A&M

Thursday

MSC Summer Dinner Theater: Tickets are on sale at the MSC Box Office for the Theater Arts presentation of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple."

Saturday

TAMU Roadrunners: Predict Your Time Five Kilometer Run. Whoever comes closest to predicting their time on the run will win a pair of running shorts.

Monday

MSC Summer Dinner Theater: Meeting at 3:30 p.m. to discuss plans for final preparation of "The Odd Couple" production. Any interested students are welcome.

'Shadows' interpret dialogue

Deaf can enjoy the theater

United Press International
HOUSTON — A man dressed in black stands behind an actor on stage during a play. He doesn't say a word, but wildly moves his hands and arms, his face reflecting the emotions of what the actor is saying.

The man is "shadow playing," or telling the deaf and other hearing-impaired people in the audience what the actors are saying.

Shadowing is being introduced in Houston this month at the Alley Theatre during two performances of Agatha Christie's mystery, "The Unexpected Guest." The shadows are interpreters for the deaf, and they repeat in sign language the lines of the actors.

Each major actor has a shadow, who will parallel the actor's performance.

When the actor is not in a conversation, the shadow leaves the stage. No more than two shadows appear on stage at the

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same time, said Suzi Cravens, director of special events for the Alley.

"This concept will open up

theater to an entire new audience, to a group of people that has never been able to enjoy a play before," said Cravens. "Acting and shadowing work together so well because they are both art forms."

The shadowed performances are scheduled for July 30 and Aug. 1. People without hearing disabilities also are buying tickets for the shadowed shows.

Shadowing was first tried in Atlanta in 1976 by a group called Stage Hands Inc. Debra Brenner, president and founder of the group, is planning to come to Houston to train interpreters.

The project is costing about \$8,500, which will be paid by the Pennzoil Co., based in Houston, Cravens said.

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"I would be deeply honored to have my performance sha-

dowed in the way that has been illustrated and discussed today," said actor Jim McQueen, after an improvised performance by a shadow and an actor. "I am very

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"You need six pairs of eyes to go back and forth to watch interpreters on the side (stage)," Koch said. She was in amazement at the result and said, for the first time in her life, she understands why people consider the theater-citing.

The Alley has a board of 11 hearing-impaired people or interpreters advise on matters of handicaps.

"We don't do anything out first discussing it with the board," Cravens said. "All they know what they want

"Pinocchio: Evviva!" But the show will be performed theater-in-the-round, she cannot be used. But interpreters will stand in front of a section of 64 deaf children they can "hear" it.

Cindy Koch, who is deaf, is the mother of two deaf children. She said shadowing actually follows the rather than suffer the "ponging effect" of side-stage interpreting.

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Reporters, police reverse roles in special workshop

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It was a reporter's dream come true: a police public information officer breaking with tradition, holding nothing back, telling all he knew about a crime.

But the lucky "reporters" scribbling down the information were actually law enforcement officials, who on this day found themselves interviewing reporters acting out the roles of law officers.

The police and the reporters were all participating in what may be the largest role-reversal situation ever set up in the Midwest for the benefit of the media and law enforcement officials.

On a cool Saturday morning in late spring, the Kansas City Broadcast News Alliance staged four scenes on the grounds of KSHB-TV for "reporters" to cover:

- The crash of a single-engine plane apparently piloted by a famous country-western singer;
- A meeting between police and citizens angry about rapes in their area;
- A robbery in which a police officer apparently killed a suspect;
- And an apparent arson-murder.

Officials from police and fire departments from across metropolitan Kansas City joined in the event, called the "On The Spot — Off The Record" workshop. They were assigned as reporters to either the mythical "Kansas City Rag" newspaper, two radio stations or a television station. Their job was to cover one of the

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four events and have their stories ready by a 1 p.m. deadline.

Reporters were then assigned duties as police and fire officials.

"I did notice, even though we assumed roles (that) in many cases we slipped into our old roles," said Sgt. Jim Treece, the public information officer for the Kansas City police depart-

ment, and a member of Kansas City Broadcast News Alliance.

Treece said he saw one investigator who played a reporter at the arson-murder scene go from interviewing a witness to interrogating him.

And the "public information officer" at the shooting scene poured out all the information she knew to the gathered "reporters."

During the critique period after the deadline passed, Jim Pritchett, Kansas City Broadcast News Alliance president and news director of WHB Radio, admitted the real reporters probably talked too much as "officers." He explained to the police that reporters naturally want to keep people informed and so lapsed into roles they wished real police information officers would enact.

The pretend "reporters" also found that when given the opportunity, they fell into many of the same traps that they claim reporters often fall into. Take, for instance, the easy and sensational quote.

During the "homeowners" meeting, ersatz Chief of Police Jim Overbay (KCMO-TV news director) calmly gave out crime prevention tips, including a sug-

gestion that residents should keep on a porch light.

Treece, who had taken the role of an irate citizen, said: "I do not believe that a 75-watt bulb will keep a rapist from my house, but my .357 magnum would."

And the "reporters," of course, latched on to that angle for their stories.

Treece admitted that in their stories, the "reporters" did have misquotes. And that was odd, he added, because nothing upsets the police more than being misquoted.

"We short-change the media people," Treece said in his assessment of what officers learned, which also included making stories fit the style of the medium and feeling the pressure under which the media work.

Capt. Clark Sheckles, with the Crimes Against Persons Division of the Kansas City police department, said as a television reporter he gained an appreciation of the cameraman's job.

"I could identify with the reporter, but I saw that the cameraman was the nuts and bolts," he said.

Weather varies in small areas

United Press International
Climatologists have found astonishing variations in wind speed, temperature and humidity can exist in areas a few miles, a few yards, even a few feet apart.

In New York City, according to Science Digest, the wind velocity on one street corner was 25 mph, while a block away it was only 5 mph. In an Ohio valley less than a mile long, scientists set up 109 microclimate stations. The highest annual temperature recorded at each varied widely: one registered a high of 75 degrees Fahrenheit and another of 113 degrees. In autumn, they found that below-freezing temperatures occurred more than a month later at some locations than at others.

McGill University researchers criss-crossed Toronto to record the drops in temperature between early afternoon and late evening. At the lakefront, the drop was 3.1 degrees; in a

low-lying section of the city, it was 20.2.

Humidity can vary by as much as 8 percent between a city and

its surrounding rural areas. In general, urban air is drier in the daytime and more humid at night.



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