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features

Battalion Page
October 21, 1983

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River Bend Gallery

707 Texas 693-7337
In The 707 Shopping Village College Station
10-6 Mon.-Sat. till 8 p.m. Tonight
Valid thru Oct. 23

What's Up at Texas A&M

Thursday

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY GROUP: Ramiro Galindo presents "Proper Technology — From Selection of Social Organization to Financing a New Project" in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES: All recognized student organizations are invited to apply for cubicle space in the Renovated Pavilion. Deadline for applications is Oct. 29. Come by 221 MSC for applications and more information.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: A general meeting will be held Monday from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in 350/350A MSC.

TAMU FENCING CLUB: A meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in 267 E. Kyle to discuss a Halloween party and upcoming tournaments. Fencing pools will be held afterwards.

MSC HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Attention ladies! Anyone interested in competing in the 1983 Miss Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant should complete an application form. The forms are now available in 216 MSC at the Hospitality cubicle. The deadline for all entries is Nov. 5 at 5 p.m.

INDIA ASSOCIATION: A Celebration of "Navaratri" Festival will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 212 MSC. Indian women will be dancing in traditional colorful saris and everyone is welcome to join the Garba dance (folk dance of India). Admission is free.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Leadership Training Class will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 115 Kleberg. Everyone is welcome.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL: Group will meet at the University Lutheran Chapel, 315 N. College Main, at 6:30 p.m. and go to the Sherwood Nursing Home to sing and visit.

ANGELINA COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: The second meeting of this semester will be at 7:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder. The AggieLand picture and Christmas party will be discussed.

AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS CLUB: Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the MSC lounge to have pictures taken for the AggieLand. Please, dress up. Mr. Charles Osenbaugh and Mr. Mike Caldwell will discuss "Opportunities in Real Estate" in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 115 Harrington.

YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF TEXAS A&M: Plans for elections and a party will be discussed in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 137 MSC.

MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE: "The Day the Earth Stood Still" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. in 404 Rudder. Admission is \$1.

INTRAMURAL-RECREATIONAL SPORTS: A volleyball team manager's meeting will be held at 5:15 p.m. in 164 E. Kyle and a soccer team manager's meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

TEXAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION (T.P.E.A.): Penny Beaumont, T.P.E.A. Political Education Chairman, will present "Election Issues — The Loss and Responses from our Candidates in our Upcoming Nov. 2 Election" in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder. The public is invited to attend.

FRESHMEN AGRICULTURE SOCIETY: A steak dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Hensel Park. Admission is \$2.

TEXAS A&M EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: A meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

DESOTO HOMETOWN CLUB: A general meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 131 Academic and Agency Building. Be sure to bring money for dues.

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 Bryan-College Station
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First ladies pay the price

Handbags cost thousands

United Press International
NEW YORK — Judith Leiber ranks as the number one bag lady in the nation. Handbag lady, that is.

She's a designer who caters to the affluent, and many prominent women including Nancy Reagan are her customers. Some think nothing of paying \$3,000 for an alligator travel bag or \$2,000 for a handbeaded evening purse.

"Look, there's a reason for my price tags," Leiber said, as she showed a \$2,000 rhinestone studded metal box evening bag. "There are 8,000 to 9,000 tiny stones, hand cut crystals from Austria, all put on by hand."

The Hungarian-born designer manufactures nothing but handbags and belts, the latter equally crafted, but less expensive.

You can pick up a silver-plated, three-row stretch belt with antique-like clasp inlaid with simulated black diamonds and two onyx stones for \$260. Or, there's a leather belt with a 1920s-inspired buckle of simulated black diamonds and semi-precious stones to harmonize with the belt color, only \$215.

Leiber's designs, about 100 each year, are found only at the finest stores and specialty shops in the country. Understandably so, at those prices.

She said the recession hasn't hurt her multimillion-dollar business one whit.

"Instead, there seems to be a resurgent demand for quality," she said. "More Americans are leaning to the European habit of buying less, but better."

"After all, if an elegant woman pays \$5,000 for a (James) Galanos gown, she can afford a \$2,000 evening bag. These things endure."

Certainly it's built an enduring business for Leiber and her husband, Gerson Leiber, an artist. She is president of the family-owned firm and he is secretary-treasurer. The volume is in the millions annually.

She has picked up several designer awards along the way, including a special Coty American Fashion Critics' award in 1973.

Judith Leiber was born in Budapest and learned her trade by doing. She said she was the first woman accepted as an apprentice in the Hungarian Guild handbag system. She rose in the prescribed steps to jour-

neyman and then to her own book.

About the only clue to find for her choice of careers is the fact that her grandfather had a millinery factory in Vienna.

Her first job was as a dress and sample maker in the bag industry. Nearly 20 years ago, she launched her own business and remembered her first success was a gold chatelaine evening bag-pouch shape hanging from a gold chain.

Leiber's showrooms are lodged in a vast block from the Empire Building.

"I've not branched into other things — shoes, perfumes or the like — because I want to do things that are their own," she said.

"I suppose that's why prices sound high. I want to use only the best materials and workmanship."

Materials come from all over the world. A tannery in Scotland does the initial processing.

"The alligator handbags come back, because it's a giant material and the alligator no longer is an endangered species in the United States of Guinea," she said.

"We get ostrich from South Africa; they are endangered. Snakeskins from India and India lizards from Java and so on. We're sort of a little United Nations operation."

Leiber ticked off names of some of the owners of her designs: Barbara Sinatra, Jacqueline Onassis, Pat (Michelle) Buckley, Ann (Claire) Trevor, Rosemary Rosalynn Carter, Pat (Lady Bird) Johnson, Dwight Eisenhower and Nancy Reagan.

"I hope to keep collecting ladies," Leiber said.

BUILD THE HELL OUT OF BONFIRE DANCE

Saturday Oct. 23 8-12 p.m.
G. Rollie White Cols.

Tickets: \$2 Singles and \$3 Couples
Available at the MSC and at the Door.

All Proceeds go to Bonfire.
Come by after the Benefit BBQ.

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Thursday: Wine Sampling
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