

'Child' suspenseful

# Mystery characterizes play

by Patrice Koranek

**Battalion Staff**  
Dramatic background music and a fine set were just the beginning of an excellent performance of Sam Shephard's "Buried Child," presented by the Theatre Arts Program in Rudder Forum Thursday night.

The play centers around a family which seems to have undergone a terrible trauma and never recovered. An old couple with two feuding sons — one is a lunatic and the other has a wooden leg — live in a ramshackle house. The

opening scene shows the old man curled up on the living room sofa watching baseball on TV while his wife nags at

## Review

him from an upstairs bedroom.

Danny Potts plays Dodge, the seemingly senile old man who also is an alcoholic. Potts, in his third production of the season, has the audience believing from the very start that he really is an old man about

to die. Perhaps his best scene is the one where he is about to choke to death; the tension could be felt building.

Peck Phillips, who plays Dodge's son, Tilden, also turns in a good performance. Although Tilden is about 30 years old, he reverts back to childish behavior throughout the play, as did some of the other characters. It is Tilden who brings up the secret of something that happened in the backyard — a mystery which continues until the end of the play.

The acting was good, but

three and a half hours made the play drag. By the last scene the audience was ready for the play to end. However, leaving early was out of the question because of the unresolved mystery in the backyard.

The actors brought out the symbolism of the play to its fullest. At times the audience seemed to lose Shephard's reasoning, but the last scene wove the separate threads into a single thought.

"Buried Child" will continue tonight, Saturday and March 3-5 in the Rudder Forum. All performances begin at 8 p.m.

# Judge orders safe opened to solve will

**United Press International**  
**LIBERTY** — A state district judge considering a family dispute over the mysterious death and subsequent bequest of a Liberty County millionaire has taken custody of a safe deposit box in Pasadena.

State District Judge W.G. "Dub" Woods, Jr. ordered the safe deposit box opened to answer family questions whether \$10,000 contained in the box was taken legitimately from the estate of Dorothy Campbell.

Campbell, 73, died of a single gunshot wound to the temple Dec. 16, but law enforcement authorities have not ruled on the cause of death.

day Campbell died, she telephoned him to ask about the money and was dismayed that it apparently had been converted into a cashier's check to Mrs.

Zeidan. Smith said he arranged to meet Campbell the next day at the meeting never took place because Campbell died that night.



# DWI approaches debated

**United Press International**  
**AUSTIN** — House Speaker Gib Lewis, under fire from representatives claiming he is pro-liquor, says stiffening penalties against driving while intoxicated offenders is more important than raising the legal drinking age or banning open containers of alcohol in cars.

Lewis Wednesday described the open container and legal age bills as "frills" in proposed DWI reforms and said he had heard from no one besides the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers who was interested in passing them.

Bills to ban open containers of alcohol in cars and to raise the legal drinking age from 19 to 21 have been the most controversial of proposals aimed at beefing up DWI laws. Lewis refused to say outright whether he favored either of the proposals, saying he wanted to see more statistics on results of similar laws passed in other states.

Some House members claim Lewis has put pro-liquor industry representatives from liberal areas of the state on the Liquor Regulation Committee, which will decide which DWI bills

make it to the House floor for debate.

Lewis, D-Fort Worth, denied that he had stacked the House Liquor Regulation Committee with pro-liquor members.

Lewis, also criticized for accepting \$5,500 in contributions from the liquor industry, said nearly every member of the House had received liquor industry contributions.

## Now you know

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