

## Theater begins 9th season

# MSC play opens June 22

by Robert McGlohon

**Battalion Staff**  
For the premier performance of its 9th season, the Memorial Student Center Summer Dinner Theater will present "Rich Is Better," June 22-25.

"Rich Is Better" is the story of two American-born Italians, Gino and Nona Gognare, who find their way through a confusing evening to get to the truth of Gino's past. Gino is rich. Yet after a year of marriage, his wife still thinks he's a lowly mill worker at the company he actually owns. Gino, it seems, wanted to marry for love — not money.

"It's more like a sit-com than anything else," Dr. Robert Wenck, director of the play, says.

Starring in the show are Brenda Dolan as Nona; Peck Phillips as Gino; Susan Anderson as Pam, Gino's executive secretary; and Dave Polakowski as a foot doctor.

Tickets for the Wednesday show are \$2.50 for students and \$3.50 for non-students. The performances on Thursday and Friday, which will include barbeque dinners, are \$6.50 and \$7.50 a seat. Tickets to the buffet and show on Saturday are \$9.50 and \$10.50 for students and non-students respectively.

Curtain time for all four shows is 7:45 p.m. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. for the last three shows.

Tickets for each performance must be purchased at least 24

hours in advance and are still available at the MSC Box Office. However, Pat Zinn, vice-president for operations for the committee advises prospective theater-goers to get their tickets soon, as the better seats are reserved quickly.

The MSC Summer Dinner Theater's second and final show of the season will be "The Man With The Plastic Sandwich," August 3-6. Show times will remain the same as with "Rich Is Better."



staff photo by Brenda Davidson

Peck Phillips, a junior theatre arts major, rehearses for the Memorial Student Center Summer Dinner

Theatre production "Rich is Better," to be presented June 22-25. Tickets are available in the MSC box office.

# Homestead tax exemption discussed in City Council

by Scott Griffin

**Battalion Staff**  
Representative of the Bryan Homeowners Association presented a petition to the City Council Monday in which the association called for a tax exemption for single homeowners.

Frank Anderson, president of the group, said the latest home evaluations create taxes which are "discriminatory and oppressive to the poor, the elderly and the widowed."

Anderson said these people should be given a 40 percent tax exemption that is allowed under state law, and he outlined a

program which would call for the 40 percent exemption for the next two years, followed by a 30 percent exemption in 1985-87, and 20 percent in 1988 and thereafter.

Anderson urged the council to put the exemption to a vote within 90 days.

He added that the present system of home evaluations is "taxation without representation."

Anderson said the present tax system is "tyranny that's controlled by a small clique which seeks to pay no local taxes."

Councilman John Mobley said he was surprised at the people who signed the petition.

"Do the people who signed this realize that taxes will have to be increased?" he asked.

Anderson said, "We realize that the rate will have to be increased, but it will be an across the board increase, and not just our group."

In other action, the Mayor Ron Blatchley responded to the Cable Improvement Association report by appointing a committee to study local cable service. Blatchley said the committee would work with both the CIA and the local cable companies in reviewing the situation.

In related action, the council approved a rate increase for

Midwest Video Corp. The new rates consist of a change in basic service from four to six dollars monthly.

An addition to the basic package will be channel KHTX, which is the network of the Houston Astros and Houston Rockets.

The other increase includes those channels not included in the basic service. Midwest has added stations WGN from Chicago and WTBS of Atlanta to this package and has asked for an increase from \$2.50 to \$4.50 monthly.

# Football player helps evacuate passengers from flaming plane

**United Press International**  
CHICAGO — An NFL player helped evacuate fellow passengers from a United Airlines jet that had a burning engine.

An engine malfunction used a "blow-torch" effect and might have triggered an engine fire aboard a United Airlines jet that saw people injured while fleeing the plane, airline officials say.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers tackle Dave Reavis was praised for his heroic efforts in helping several of the 141 passengers on board escape.

Reavis was a three-year letterman on the defensive line at

Arkansas, playing in the 1971 Liberty Bowl, the BlueGray Game and American Bowl in 1972.

The fire erupted Saturday aboard United Airlines flight 200 as it taxied down a runway at O'Hare International Airport. The blaze forced the pilot to abort takeoff and evacuate the plane.

Nineteen of the 141 passengers suffered minor injuries in the evacuation.

Nurse Judith Papan of St. Petersburg, Fla., praised Reavis for his help calming the passengers.

She said she and Reavis were seated near an emergency exit and as the plane gained momentum along the runway, they heard a popping noise "like a tire blowing." According to her, he ripped open the exit door, stowed it to one side and led her and other passengers out on the wing.

After he jumped, he tried to catch others who leaped to the ground, she said.

O'Hare Police Sgt. William Proctor said injuries were suffered either going down emergency chutes or jumping off a wing of the 727 jet. United

spokesman Chuck Novak said the incident began as the pilot of Flight 200 started "to throttle to full thrust" down the runway. Novak said the pilot, a veteran of more than 20 years, felt a thump or bump and was immediately told by the pilot of another plane that he had an engine on fire.

The injuries included broken bones, cuts and bruises as the passengers, including one infant, were evacuated from the aircraft bound for Tampa, Fla., police said.

Two passengers were hospitalized and three were treated and released from area hospitals.

# Judge OKs Sedco settlement

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — An out-of-court settlement which included testimony from a Texas A&M professor, and in which Sedco agreed to pay \$2.14 million to Gulf Coast fishermen, resort owners and others affected by a Mexican oil spill in 1979 won final approval from a federal judge, court records showed.

Sedco previously reached a similar agreement with the federal government for \$2 million, bringing to \$4.14 million the amount Sedco has agreed to pay in claims stemming from the June 3, 1979 blowout of the Ixtoc 1 oil well in Mexico's Bay of Campeche.

U.S. District Judge Robert Conor Thursday dismissed class-action lawsuits filed against the Dallas-based drilling firm as part of an out-of-court agreement in which Sedco agreed to

pay \$2.14 million to commercial fishermen, boat owners, property owners, hotels, motels, tourist developers and others hurt by the spill.

It was the world's worst oil spill, leaking 3.1 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico over a nine-month period. Oil blackened beaches in Texas and Mexico, smothered fertile fishing and shrimping grounds and caused other environmental damage. Sedco denied responsibility for the blowout but owned the rig that drilled the well. The rig was leased to Permargo, a Mexican drilling firm, which had an exploration contract with Pemex, the Mexican national oil company.

"We're glad to have completed the settlement with the class action plaintiffs and our next targets are Permargo and Pemex," said Sedco attorney

Theo Dimitry on Friday.

Attorney Richard Mithoff, who represents commercial fishermen and boat owners in the case, said O'Connor tentatively split the funds among three classes of plaintiffs.

Commercial fishermen, crabbers, shrimpers and boat owners represented by Mithoff were scheduled to receive \$1.5 million and \$500,000 in attorneys fees.

Another group consisting of developers, hotel, motels, and businesses along south Padre Island or near Laguna Madre in Cameron and Willacy counties were tentatively scheduled to receive \$600,000 in damages and \$200,000 in attorneys fees.

The rest of the settlement, about \$40,000 was allocated for a third plaintiff group consisting of condominium and home owners along South Padre Island.

Mithoff said the settlement was much lower than expected because damages were short-lived.

Dr. Roy W. Hann Jr., a professor of environmental engineering at Texas A&M University, testified Thursday damages from the spill were limited to the 1979 season.

"That was the reason the claims were not nearly as high. Based on original estimates, had there been permanent damage to larvae and the shrimp beds, damages could have reached into \$100 million," Mithoff said.

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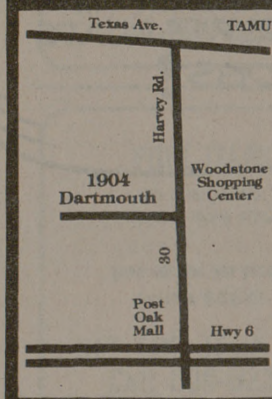
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