

"Rich is Better" evokes laughs, sit-com quality

by Robert McGlohon

Director Robert Wenck describes his play as a sit-com, sort of like "Laverne and Shirley," an apt description. In the Wednesday night production of "Rich Is Better," he and a cast of four conveyed that simple essence that has kept the Nielson's for so long. Exception: unlike "Laverne and Shirley" and other such shows, the laughter was not forced. It was authentic, infectious and frequent.

"Rich Is Better" is produced by the Memorial Student Center Dinner Theater and is playing nightly through Friday.

The plot is one of misunderstanding; the vehicle is the one-probably-wednesday-through-the-play turns on a year old Rich Gino, wary of gold diggers, told trusting Nona, his wife, that he is poor — a lowly worker for the corporation actually owns. Twelve months into their marriage, that

lie comes home to roost, cackling and howling all the way.

The catalyst is Pam, Gino's executive secretary. She's not privy to the deception. Pam, however, comes to Gino's cheap apartment in a poor neighborhood to deliver the "Dallas Papers" for signature. Gino isn't home. Nona is.

They're off. What follows is a comedy of errors. "This man is a saint," Nona tells Pam, who is now in on — and doesn't approve of — the deception. "Honesty ... that's what makes all relationships work."

As Gino tries to preserve his deception, in the face of the ever increasing contradictions, lie builds upon lie. Eventually, even Pam's foot doctor is snared by the cover-up.

Gino tells his wife that Pam is ashamed of her job as a forklift operator.

What's wrong with that, Nona asks.

"It's very dusty in the warehouse," he replies, "so all the

forklift drivers have to chew tobacco."

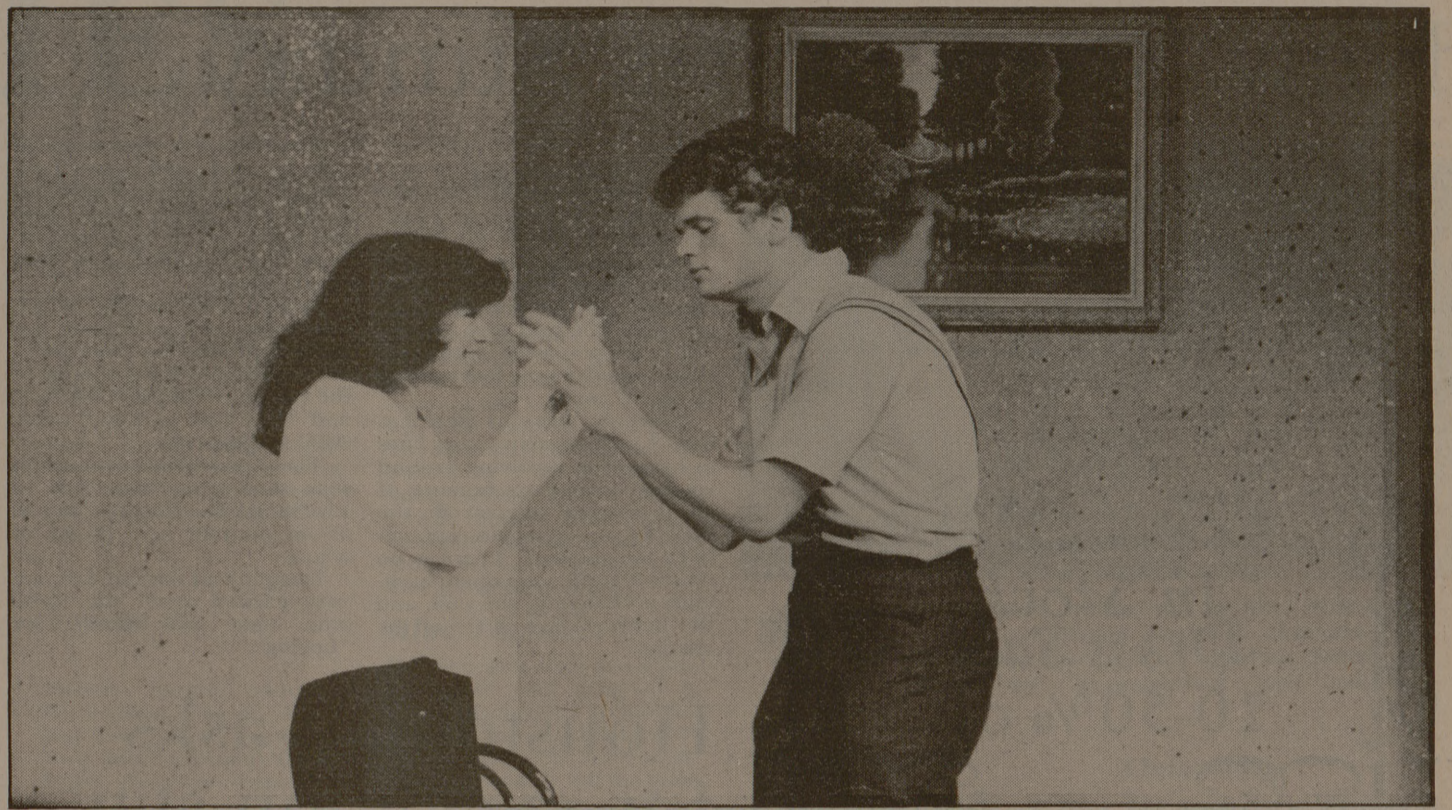
Lines such as these brought guffaw after guffaw from the audience.

Four Texas A&M students make up the cast. Brenda Dolan is Nona. Peck Phillips plays Nino. Dave Polakowski is the foot doctor. And Susan Anderson, fresh from New York University's Theater Arts Department, does an excellent job as Pam.

Behind the scenes were Donna Gough, Randy Lemmon, Fran Tindall, Carla Proctor and Jennifer Perry.

"Rich Is Better" was by no means perfect. There were the dry spells inherent in a sit-com; there were three Italians in the play but not one Italian accent; and there were the other small problems inevitable with an amateur production.

But it was a definite success. The audience never stopped laughing, at least not for long. And that, after all, is what comedy is all about.



Susan Anderson as Pam and Peck Phillips as Gino in the Memorial Student Center Dinner Theater's

production of "Rich Is Better." The play will run through June 25.

staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

CS Council hears reallocations reports

by Scott Griffin

The College Station City Council heard the final report Wednesday on the Hotel/Motel budget allocations for 1983 and is expected to vote on the rate at its meeting Thursday.

The largest allocation in the budget is approximately \$5,000, which will go to the community center for operating expenses, parking, lighting and equipment.

The second largest allocation, \$79,000, will go to the debt service fund.

The Chamber of Commerce will receive about \$75,000 from the tax, which is \$25,000 less than its share last year.

Responding to reports that the chamber wasn't pleased with the allocation, Mayor Gary Halter said, "I can assure them that it was not our intention to cut back on the chamber's funding."

The College Station Industrial Foundation is next in line

with a \$65,000 allocation, while the Brazos Valley Arts Council will receive \$30,000.

The Stage Center Project allotment is \$20,000. The money will go to the construction of a theater.

The rest of the allotments are as follows:

- \$5,000 to the Athletic Federation
- \$5,000 for the city's history project
- \$2,500 for fireworks
- \$2,067 for emergency funds

EPA files against A&M

HOUSTON — The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed \$26,500 in civil penalties against Texas A&M University for allegedly violating toxic substance regulations.

An EPA complaint charges Texas A&M's College Station utility section improperly stored transformers and capacitors containing toxic polychlorinated biphenyls, also known as PCBs.

The EPA proposed penalties are for three related violations in the storage of PCBs.

Under EPA regulations, the penalties are called proposed penalties because Texas A&M has an opportunity to answer the complaints before the penalties become final.

A Texas A&M spokesman said the university is aware of the problem and plans to take steps to correct it.

Explosion rips through mine

McClure Mine No. 1, officials said Wednesday.

The explosion occurred late Tuesday night and officials said

from 8 to 10 miners usually worked in the section.

There was no immediate word on any casualties.

Murder conviction stands

A state appeals court Wednesday upheld the murder conviction and sentence of a man who was a former co-worker during a robbery of a San Antonio convenience store.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals said it could find no reversible error in the trial of Williams, who was present during the slaying occurred. Williams confessed in two written statements his involvement in robbery-murders on Feb. 9, 1975, at two separate convenience stores in San Antonio.

When police arrested Williams about an hour after the

incident, they said they found a birthday card on Williams' table

that had been sent to him by his murder victim.



The expanded staff of the Command Performance Post Oak Mall salon: Left to Right: Margarita Brooks, Stylist; Kim Connor, Stylist; Debra Linton, Sub. Assistant Manager; Dee Greenleaf, Manager; Lisa Lynch, Assistant Manager; Olufunke Ogunlowo, Stylist; Susan Ondrasek, Receptionist. Not Pictured: Lana Thams, Receptionist.

New Manager, Expanded Staff At Command Performance Post Oak Mall Salon.

Dee Greenleaf has been named Manager and the staff expanded at the Command Performance salon in Post Oak Mall. Greenleaf was formerly Assistant Manager of the Command Performance salon in San Jacinto Mall in Baytown and also was on the staff of the company's Memorial City Mall salon in Houston. She pointed out

that the staff expansion was necessitated by the enthusiastic acceptance of Command Performance by Bryan and College Station residents.

"I've never seen such interest in Command Performance," she said. "I think our highly professional approach to complete hair care service is the biggest reason for our success. We

believe in listening to each client to determine their exact hair needs, and that seems to be important to people," she explained.

"And," Greenleaf concluded, "we know people appreciate our filling all their hair care needs, from simple trimming and cutting through styling, coloring and perms."