



Wendy Pesek and Richard Strayer appear in the opening night performance of *Summer and Smoke* Thursday in Rudder Forum.

Dave Scott, Battalion staff

Summer and Smoke close but fizzles due to length

by Bonnie Langford
Battalion Staff

The theater arts program almost came through with another good play, but it suffered from its length. The performance opening night lasted four hours. "Summer and Smoke" is a long play, but the theater arts production could use faster pacing to keep it from being too long.

The sound effects need some work. The scene with the winter wind howling has too much wind, but in contrast the party scene with the Mexican band could have been louder.

Wendy Pesek, who played Alma Winemiller, needs to polish her projection during the sound effects. She also needs to

face the audience more when she is delivering her lines. Despite these problems, she did present a believable Alma.

She also did a good job of changing character when Alma was supposed to become a more liberal woman.

Review

The portrayal of Dr. John Buchanan Jr. by Richard Strayer saved the play. He shone throughout the entire performance. He came off as the lady's man he was supposed to be. The charisma, body language and sex appeal were where they should have been.

His performance hurt Rebecca Hernandez, though. She played Rosa Gonzales and was supposed to be the fiery, wild lover but she couldn't hold her

act in comparison to Strayer. The use of Spanish dialect added to the play, but it too has potential for greater things. All of the players spoke the language with what seemed to be ease, except for Gay Culbertson who played Gonzales. His act as the mad drunken father was almost comical instead of threatening.

One comical relief that was on target was Mrs. Winemiller. Joyce Hayes did a great job of keeping the play from becoming too somber. She managed to successfully portray a crazy woman and kept the scenes that were supposed to be meaningful from becoming too sad.

A woman that does a believable job of changing characters was Judy Redding. She portrayed Nellie Ewell as a silly young girl and then as a mature young woman.

The period costumes helped

in the character changes, while also adding to the overall play. It was obvious that work went into making these beautiful costumes.

If these problems are corrected, the play will be the right choice for the American College Theatre Festival.



Lab allows A&M faculty, students to study policies

by Kelly Miller
Battalion Reporter

Texas A&M students and faculty now have the chance to help state leaders solve complex

policy problems by working with the University's Public Policy Resource Laboratory.

The PPRL, which opened in September on the first floor of

Harrington Tower, was established with \$180,000 in special funds from the state.

"The idea has been at A&M for about 10 years," Dr. Arnold Vedlitz, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and director of the laboratory, said, "but we've just now convinced the state legislature and the University to go along with it."

"The lab is not like a biology lab," Vedlitz said. "It's really a center or institute that people can use. We'll also offer seminars or talks on certain topics, but no academic credit is involved."

University students and faculty from several social science disciplines, including political science, psychology, sociology, economics and history, can work on real-life policy problems faced by public and private sector leaders at the center, Vedlitz said.

"The state leaders have expressed the need for assistance in developing the most efficient and effective means of serving the needs of our state," Vedlitz said.

Five areas will be researched through the PPRL:

- The Texas Poll, a semi-annual telephone survey of Texans' attitudes on public policy issues.

- Texas Data Archive, a computerized archive of historical and modern Texas public records.

- Social Science Research Group, a program which emphasizes health policies, social policies, industrial relations, and management of new technology.

- Economic Development, a program which examines regulatory issues, decision-making analysis and political economy.

- Data Processing, a program designed to help faculty, government and private sectors in the development of computer software and other data processing applications related to the social policy sciences.

The involvement of students in the PPRL projects is very important, Vedlitz said.

Increase planned for bike parking areas on campus

by Chris Cox
Battalion Reporter

Texas A&M is planning to expand the number of bike racks on campus in response to an increase in need, the director of security and traffic with the University Police says.

The University is exploring the idea and some sites are being considered for the new racks, director Robert Wiatt said.

"There is no specific commitment on where they will go," he said. "Several places are under consideration."

A study is underway but the final decision for placement of the racks has not been made.

Wiatt said a resolution on the pending should be announced soon with sources and sites under consideration.

Funding for the project also is being explored, Wiatt said. As soon as the funding is approved, construction will begin, he said.

Wiatt said while the funding hasn't been approved, the project is "extremely optimistic."

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Note: Latecomers will not be seated during the first 15 minutes of the performance.