

Review

'Crimes' funny in tragic way

By MIKE DAVIS
Reporter

A Southern household filled with family skeletons is the perfect combination for a tragedy with comic results. "Crimes of the Heart," presented Thursday night in Rudder Auditorium, took that combination and left the audience laughing one minute and reaching for a Kleenex the next.

"Crimes of the Heart" — a delightful play — brings back the memories of family reunions, both the good and bad. The play was brought to life by the characters' detailed facial expressions and exaggerated body movements. These antics, combined with a set like a grandmother's kitchen, make the absurd plot believable.

"Crimes of the Heart" takes place in Hazlehurst, Mississippi five years after Hurricane Camille. The three MaGrath sisters are brought together because Babe, the youngest, has just shot her husband because she can't stand his looks and falls asleep at the sound of his voice.

Lenny, the oldest, is trying to celebrate her 30th birthday which no one remembers except her cheap cousin Chick, played by Dawn Didawick. Also, Lenny finds out her pet horse of 20 years, Billy Boy, was struck by lightning and killed the previous evening.

Meg, the black sheep, has returned from Hollywood to help Babe. But to complicate things even more, Meg's old flame, Doc Porter, played by Tom Stechschulte, has returned to town with his Yankee wife and to half-Yankee kids. Meg left Doc to

pursue a singing career that never materialized.

The plot twists and turns as Babe gets a crush on her lawyer, played by David Allison Carpenter. He wants to prove Babe's husband, Zachery Botrelle, is a fraud and a brute. Babe, played by Cyd Quilling, is the stereotypical blond with a high, squeaky voice and air-headed pearls of wisdom. Babe has been having an affair with Willie Jay, a black 15-year old who came over to the house to play with his dog — Dog. Unknown to Babe, photos were taken of her and Willie Jay in the garage.

Meg MaGrath, played by Kathy Danzer, is the brassy, seductive sister. Because she found her mother and the old orange cat hanging in the cellar 16 years before, her top priority in life was to be a strong person.

Caryn West played the sometimes sad, sometimes paranoid, but always hilarious Lenny. Lenny has devoted her life to taking care of Granddaddy, with the exception of one brief affair which she called off because of her shrunken ovary.

The play takes the light-hearted approach to everyday life's ups and downs, shown by Lenny and Babe's uncontrollable laughter over Granddaddy slipping into a coma. Throughout the play, the sisters never seem to be on the same emotional plain, until Lenny's birthday wish that they all be smiling together. The wish and the play is finished by the three devouring large pieces of Lenny's "one day late" birthday cake.



Photo by ERIC EVAN LEE.

A scene from 'Crimes of the Heart'

Galveston mayor dies

United Press International

GALVESTON — Mayor Gus Manuel, who last summer advised residents of his island city not to evacuate their homes ahead of Hurricane Alicia, died Thursday at St. Mary's Hospital in Galveston from complications related to cancer. He was 54. Manuel had been hospitalized since Monday in Galveston. He died about 8 a.m.

Manuel became widely known last August when he advised residents of Galveston Island not to evacuate their homes, despite the onslaught of Hurricane Alicia.

Although he initially had been criticized for his decision, he turned out to be correct because the brunt of the storm missed the city. City Manager Steve Huffman ordered flags in the city to be

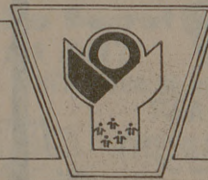
flown at half mast until after Manuel's funeral. Mayor Pro Tem Jan Coggeshall will take over the job until the city's scheduled election in April.

In September 1982, Manuel had one cancerous kidney removed and later underwent surgery for malignant tumors on the remaining kidney. He is survived by his wife Nancy and four children.

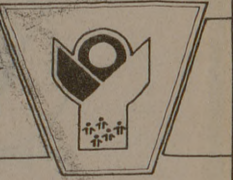
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Dorm's microwave proposal approved

By LISA PEDERSEN
Reporter

Haas Hall's proposal for a microwave oven for their dormitory was approved by Student Affairs this week.

The proposal, written by Julie Hilton, vice president of Haas Hall, said the microwave will be used for limited food preparation and will be located in a storage room on the second floor, says Haas Hall's President Dee Dee Pearson.

"Haas Hall has been given the approval right now to go ahead and purchase and have the oven installed on a two-year trial basis. We will then evaluate it and see how it is going," says Nyla Pomey, housing programs supervisor.

When the residents of Haas Hall asked the permission to put a microwave in that's all they had in mind. But when the request went from the Residence Hall Association to the department of Student Affairs, it set off a study of the entire dormitory food situation.

RHA asked that light cooking, such as boil-in-bags, be permitted in dormitory rooms. The request was denied by Student Affairs.

"We disapproved that because essentially we see it as cooking and we don't allow cooking in the rooms. It would be changing the policy and at this time it is something we

would rather not do," says Pomey.

Ron Sasse, associate director of Student Affairs, says he is looking into several possibilities for improving the dormitory food situation.

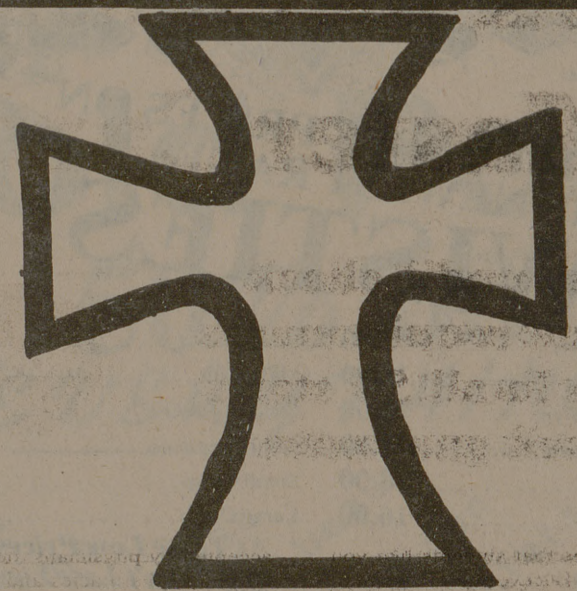
There has always been snack privileges in the rooms, but cooking in the rooms has never been approved, Sasse says. He realizes the cooking regulations are not being obeyed, but the policy is difficult to enforce, he says.

"The dorm rooms are not designed for cooking, they are designed for living," Sasse says. "We have a super meal plan, so why do you need to cook in the rooms?"

Sasse says dorm rooms don't have the proper facilities for cooking which makes ventilation, disposal, and clean-up a problem. In addition, the rooms don't have the proper electrical system to handle the overload, and cooking would make the insect problem worse.

"We want to enhance the living environment without the problems," Sasse says.

To meet students' needs, Sasse is considering centralized cooking rooms, with microwaves and boil-in-bag concession stands, and an optional meal plan — 12 meals a week, for example — in addition to the five and seven-day plan.



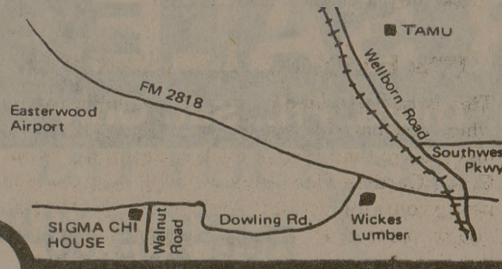
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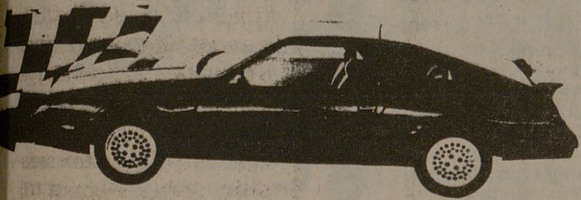
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