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**Executive of the Year chosen**

By SARAH OATES  
 Staff Writer  
 The Texas A&M University College of Business Administration has named Harold S. Hook Texas Business Executive of the year. Hook is chairman and chief executive officer of American General Corp., a Houston-based insurance firm.  
 Dr. William Mobley, dean of the College of Business, will present the award to Hook at 11 a.m. today. Initiated in 1980, the award honors outstanding businessmen who "exemplify the ideals and achievements that earn the respect of the business community."  
 Recipients are chosen by their peers and serve as role models for students in the college. More than 200 corporate executives are nominated for the award each year.  
 Besides being president of three major insurance companies before the age of 40, Hook also is known for developing MODEL-NETICS, an innovative management language designed to simplify management theory.

**Old movies renting for big bucks**

United Press International  
**HOLLYWOOD** — The most valuable commodity on Earth isn't gold or uranium. It's old motion pictures.  
 That's the tenet of Elvin Feltner, president of the Krypton Corp., a production and distribution company that owns 4,000 old films, mostly monster pictures, war films, action adventure dramas and jungle epics.  
 "Old movies are the backbone of independent TV," said Feltner. "All movies have a life in perpetuity because they suspend in motion a period of time in history. They are in constant demand by TV in this country, in Europe, Asia and South America."  
 Feltner began buying old films in 1962 when they were cheap, purchasing negative rights in perpetuity for all media. He expects business to increase in the low-power TV market.  
 "There are 250 low-power channels in operation," he said. "By the end of the century there will be a thousand. They all need movies, including mine."  
 Feltner doesn't own such biggies as "Gone With The Wind." His best known titles are Frank Capra's "Meet John Doe" with Gary Cooper, "Corregidor" and "Bombs Over Burma."  
 But his rentals run to 8,000 a month. The TV appetite is so voracious that Feltner hustles to buy 200 films a year.  
 Not many major TV channels rent Krypton films, but he thrives on independent channels, UHF outlets and cable TV.  
 Even though 80 percent of Krypton's films are black and white and many of the titles are obscure, they still circulate with astonishing regularity.

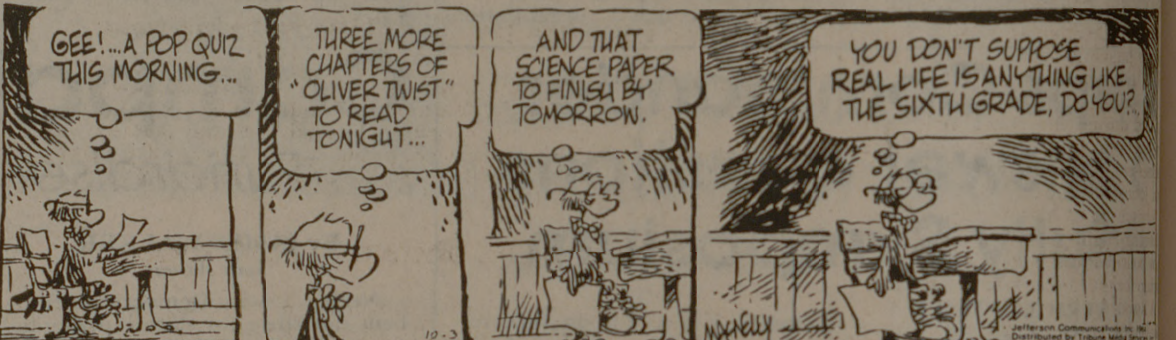
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SHOE Jeff MacNelly



SHOE Jeff MacNelly



**A&M physicist hosts, directs classical music radio show**

University News Service  
 Auto mechanics do it. Mailmen do it. Even college students do it. What is it? — listening to a classical music radio program put together by a Texas A&M physicist.  
 "I never cease to be amazed by the variety of people who tell me they enjoy listening to the show," said Dr. Gilbert Plass — by day, a specialist in the physics of astronomy; by spare time, the initiator, disc jockey, program director and one-man archivist of the tri-weekly program on KAMU-FM radio.  
 Plass got the opportunity to do the program when he wrote to the station in 1977 complaining about the lack of classical music on the air. The station director decided to give him a chance to do something about it.  
 A lot of different people seem to be glad Plass took the bait.  
 At least one auto mechanic in town finds the program provides the perfect background for repairing cars, and a substitute mailman left Plass a note one day complimenting the program, which Plass does as a gift to the station.  
 Known in some circles as "the classical crusader," he believes classical music is even more popular today than when — at the age of 11 — he became an avid enthusiast of Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Beethoven and other classical composers.  
 Jazz, the popular music of the time, was okay, Plass said, but somehow it just didn't carry the appeal of the time-honored adagios, allegros and minuets.  
 Plass got his first records — a 78 rpm, five-record set of Brahms' Third Symphony — on the installment plan when he was 12. It was in the middle of the Depression, and his mother made a deal with the store owner to buy the first three records one Christmas and the last two the next year.  
 Today his collection of 2,000 to 3,000 albums is honored in specially-designed cabinets that take up two walls in his den. It is from this massive collection — 99 percent of which is classical — that Plass finds the majority of the selections he plays on his radio program. He is somewhat proud of the fact that he has never played the same recording twice although the station does air some of the better programs more than once.  
 A graduate of Harvard (B.S.) and Princeton (Ph.D.), Plass received little formal training in music although he modestly says he can play a few simple classical pieces on the piano.  
 In physics, however, he is quite accomplished and early in his career worked at the University of Chicago on the Manhattan Project, the code name for the first self-sustained nuclear reaction, where he literally helped build the first atomic pile.  
 Plass isn't quite sure how, but he believes his aptitude in science may have something to do with his love for classical music, and he says an appreciation for classical music is more common among people trained in the pure sciences than physics and mathematics than the general population.  
 "It takes an ordered mathematical mind to study these fields and maybe that somehow relates to the order in music," he said.

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