

STATE AND LOCAL

A&M preparing for celebration

By CINDY GAY
Reporter

Texans are extremely proud of their heritage and Texas A&M students and former students share that pride. Since 1986 marks the 150th birthday of the Texas Revolution, it seems only proper that Texas A&M participates in the sesquicentennial celebration.

"We're out to satisfy two criteria: something enjoyable and something of lasting benefit," says Charles H. Samson, chairman of the University's planning committee for the celebration.

Samson says the activities would occur in both the early spring and the fall of next year. All plans are tentative at this stage, but Samson says he is encouraged by the response he has received from professors, students, and administration officials.

Some of the plans include:
• A symposium concerning Spain's relationship with Texas. Dr. Luis Costa, associate professor of modern languages, is coordinating the symposium.
• A symposium looking toward the future of Texas by analyzing current trends.

• A major musical activity involving campus groups.
• The publication of booklets outlining the history of each department at Texas A&M.

Samson says former students would enjoy learning about the department's growth and would have easy access to the names of their predecessors.

Samson says Gray Schlichting, MSC vice president for recreational programs, has met with several students to enlist their participation.

The committee welcomes new ideas from students, he says, and he believes they will play a unique part in commemorating the sesquicentennial.

Samson also says he hopes that students who are not residents of Texas (approximately six percent of those enrolled at Texas A&M) will gain a special satisfaction from looking into the state's history.

Texas declared its independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos, outside of Navasota.

The Texas Army defeated Gen. Santa Anna and his army at the Battle of San Jacinto 50 days later on April 21.



Nancy Blanco models in the OPAS fashion show.

Photo by PETER ROCHA

OPAS hosts gala; fashions for spring revealed in show

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

Fine arts patrons got an early glimpse of springtime Friday at a fashion show to kick off the 1985 Opera and Performing Arts Society fundraiser.

"Scheherazade" was the theme for the third annual Gala co-sponsored by the Memorial Student Center OPAS and the OPAS Guild. The event included a luncheon and fashion show at the Brazos Center, followed by a ball Friday night.

Six hundred guests attended the luncheon catered by Don Strange and about 400 were expected at the ball, which featured Ed Gerlach and his Orchestra.

Scheherazade refers to both a character in The Arabian Nights and the symphony by Russian composer Rimsky Korsakov.

"We tried to pick a theme related to the performing arts," said Gala Chairman Laurie Watson. "This was the one that everybody liked best."

Watson said the Gala probably would raise "\$30,000 at least" to support the OPAS season. Planning for the event began in July.

"I'm very pleased with the way things have gone," Watson said.

The luncheon guests enjoyed a brief trip to the Middle-East as sari-clad slaves passed out perfume and cologne samples donated by Giorgio and Polo. Indian music was performed by three musicians, including Dr. Shankar Bhattacharyya, an A&M English professor-elect.

Additional music was provided by harpists Paula Page, of the

Houston Symphony, and Joan Eidman, of the Houston Ballet. The stage was decorated with a throne and Indian pillows donated by the Houston Ballet, while the runway was flanked by three-tiered umbrellas in turquoise, yellow and pink.

"Kaleidoscope" fashions for spring and summer were presented by Foley's. Fashions for 1985 are based on the idea of options, said fashion show commentator Patti Lillpop.

The basic message is that anything goes, so long as it is feminine. This idea was evident in the array of day and evening wear presented by 30 runway models, including A&M students Nancy Blanco and Candy Crossman.

Spring and summer clothes will be form-fitting but comfortable. Tailored jackets, blouses and pants will still be popular, especially in sportswear, but the dress is the strongest fashion statement.

Skirts will be shorter this spring. Loud colors as well as pastels will be available in all styles of women's clothing.

Prints of all kinds, such as geometric, tropical and graffiti, will be found in swimwear, shorts, summer blouses and dresses.

The most popular textures for 1985 will be soft cottons and silks, especially in lingerie and evening wear.

Basic black will remain the most popular color for evening dress, but this year it will be dressed up with sequins in different colors, such as gold and silver.

Texas-style gift given to Bush at celebration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On any given night, the ballroom of the Washington Hilton hotel is likely to be a sea of tuxedos. But on this night, the check room shelves were filled with Stetsons and the dance floor was scuffed by cowboy boots.

"Like all Texas parties, it's loud and crowded and we like it that way," explained Texas' new Republican senator, Phil Gramm, shouting to compete with the country swing band.

Saturday night about 5,000 Texans — and a few pretenders — swarmed into the huge hotel ballroom to dance, hoot, drink Pearl and Lone Star beer and eat tacos and chili in honor of Vice President George Bush and his family.

"I never thought I'd own a steer," Bush allowed. The steer, donated to the Texas State Society by Mr. and Mrs. Gene Canavan and Mr. and Mrs. A. Wayne Wright of San Antonio, would be sold at auction this spring and the proceeds donated to the charity of Bush's choice.

Bush said the family had selected the leukemia treatment center at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Bush's hometown of Houston.

Hard freeze threatening valley citrus, vegetable crop

Associated Press

HARLINGEN — Rio Grande Valley citrus and vegetable growers kept a close eye Sunday on another Arctic cold front pushing into the area that threatened some of their

crops that were severely damaged last winter.

"We've been hit so many times, it's getting to be ridiculous," said Steve Johnson, a spokesman for the Texas

Citrus and Vegetable Association.

Temperatures across the Valley were expected to dip into the lower 20s Sunday night and remain there for several hours before climbing into the 40s Monday afternoon.

Last week, temperatures also dipped into the 20s, but the cold

spell was preceded by rain and sleet, which acted as insulation for most of the crops.

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