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### STATE AND LOCAL

### Church group observes births of music greats

The St. Andrew's Bach Society performs celebrated music by such master composers as Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frederick Handel, whose 300th birthdays are being celebrated this year, and Heinrich Schutz, whose 400th birthday is

The society is led by Thyra Plass, organist and choir master at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Bryan. She is also the music critic for the Bryan-College Station Eagle. She conducts most of the performances and often performs with the group

Plass said each performance is a community effort.

'The society consists not only of members from the congregation, but also of singers and musicians from other faiths who enjoy per-forming great choral music," she said. "A large proportion of the outstanding musicians in this area par-

One of the local musicians who performs with the society is Arch Baker, owner of Campus Photo. Baker, a cellist, said a lot of prepara-

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hundreds of hours of preparation and rehearsals," he said.

Baker said many people don't re-alize that fine classical music is per-

"Most people are not aware of how much musically does happen in this community — good, fine quality music which is available to the public but is not necessarily well-known,'

He said he believes more attention has been drawn toward classical music because of the birthdays being celebrated this year.

Handel was born Feb. 23 and Bach was born March 21, 1685. Schutz was born Oct. 8, 1585.

In honor of these composers, the society presented Bach's "Magnifi-cat" in December and Schutz' "Seven Last Words" in March, Plass said. Handel will be honored with a presentation in the fall.

Choral and instrumental membership in the Bach Society is obtained by audition, Plass said. An audition can be arranged by calling 846-3976.

#### Cheerleaders participating in drill camps held at A&M By TERI BALOG fect their routines until 10 p.m., she Reporter When they return to their rooms, many practice until someone runs

Being a high school cheerleader is grueling work that requires a lot of training, says Beverly Skipper, exec-utive director of Showtime Drill

Skipper is overseeing drill camps at Texas A&M this month. About 300 girls will participate in the camps held on the second floor of Memorial Student Center.

The girls begin their days at 8 a.m. with stretching exercises, she says. Throughout the morning they learn new routines. After lunch, they perfect and refine their routines. And for the rest of the afternoon, they learn stand routines, halftime football drills and basket-

them in," she says. "This is probably the most grueling part of being on a drill team. If they can survive this, they can survive the entire year."

Showtime Drill Team members practice a routine on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center.

Skipper says each team picks a routine for the last afternoon. They compete for trophies and a chance to be on an all-star drill team. The all-star team will participate at bowl games and other events during the year, she says.

The team members are encouraged to dress the same, Skipper says. This provides unity among the girls and helps them find each other, especially in a large camp. Also routines are easier to critique when teams wear matching outfits because the girls' arm positions are easier to see against a solid background, Skip-

The Arlington-based company has changed the type of routines it teaches since it started the camps 12 years ago, Skipper says. The dance steps now are more intricate.

Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

"The routines are the same steps just recombined, and because every-one uses the same dance terms, it has become easier," she says. The music has changed because the teams use contemporary pop music, but there has been an influx of jazz, Skipper

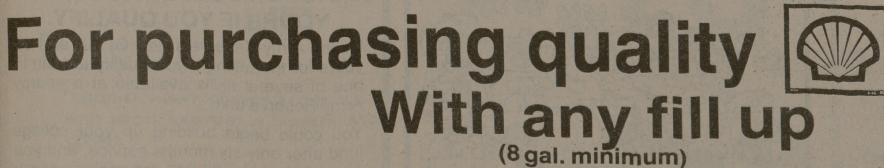
The junior-high and high-school girls attending the camp pay \$100 for the four days they're here, she

"The money pays for room and board," Skipper says. "This is one of the reasons I like A&M — nothing can beat the rooms the girls get to stay in, and the food is great.



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