quality productions Aggie Players

By STACEY ROBERTS

If you're thinking of driv-

ing to Houston or Dallas this

weekend to see a play or

Why drive all that way

when quality entertainment

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production company of the

Theater Arts Department, of-

fer a wide variety of road

presenting their 41st season

and have been incorporated

into the newly created de-

partment which began in its

Roger Schultz, associate

professor and director of the-

ater arts, is optimistic on the

success of both the new de-

partment and this season's

that we are so far away from

the world that we can't have

He says the Aggie Players

present theater "by Aggies

For anyone wondering

about the quality and quan-

tity of this season, Schultz

says the Aggie Players are

performing five main-stage

productions including a Pu-

litzer Prize-winning comedy,

a musical and two Shake-

Although students may

culture," Schultz says.

'It's important not to think

official capacity on Sept. 1.

The Aggie Players are

trip alternatives.

performances.

for Aggies.

speare plays.

tertainment.

the Texas A&M campus?

musical - think again.

Reporter

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ing a degree in speech communications. As awareness of the new degree program grows, Schultz plans to expand the number of productions and the number of people involved.

Freshmen Theater Arts majors Deidre Doigg and Jeanie Parrent say the main reason they chose A&M for their theatrical pursuits was because of the program's The Aggie Players, the newness.

"It's like a baby," Parrent Speech Communication and says.

Doigg agrees.

"We'll be here for the first four years," she says. "We can help shape the department and watch it grow.

The first year's enrollment shows a total of 35 theater arts majors including 15 freshmen.

'It's important not to think that we are so far away from the world that we can't have culture." - Roger Schultz, associate professor of theater arts, commenting on theater at A&M.

Schultz says an 80 percent increase in attendance last season showed that more people are aware of the Aggie Players.

'Our attendance is 50-50 split between the students and the community," he says

The Aggie Players are expecting an even better season this year, but Schultz says that people must pa-tronize what is already available to make the season a success.

So far this year, more than 100 Aggies have auditioned for the fall productions and the first two shows are already in rehearsal.

audition for parts or enroll in theater arts classes are not theater arts majors," Schultz says. "We had students audition that represent all the colleges on campus."

The first presentation of the season will be "archy & mehitabel," by Joe Darion and Mel Brooks. The show stars senior theater arts major Wendy Pesek and sophomore theater arts major Troy Herbort.

The show is billed as a creative musical about a reporter who claims he receives messages from a cockroach that writes by jumping onto his typewriter keys.

"archy & mehitabel" will run Oct. 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12.

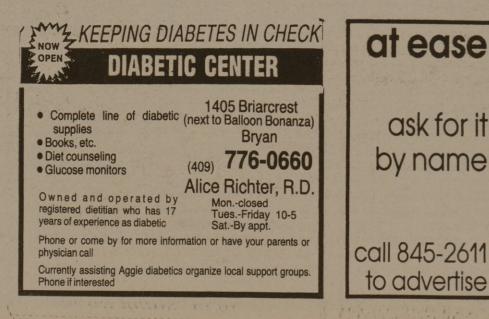
The second presentation of the season will be the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth," by Thorton Wilder, which follows the antics of the Antrobus family through the Ice Age, the Great Flood and a world war.

The semester's last offering is not a play, but a Reader's Theater piece. This entails a small group of performers, backed by music and very few props, reading selections that explore the faults, quirks and often comical lifestyles of many English monarchs.

Two Shakespeare plays will be presented in the spring semester, "A Cry of Players" and "Twelfth Night".

All productions are scheduled for Rudder Forum. Each show is \$4 for students and \$5 for general public. Season tickets, which offer holders a 20-percent savings, are available at \$15 for students and \$20 for general public. Tickets may be reserved at Rudder Box Office or by calling 845-1234.

'Many of the students who



complain that A&M does not have much to offer culturally, Schultz says that as the new department grows it will be "one more opportunity for the students and community to see quality en-

A&M was the only major university in Texas not offer-