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# Choirs fill theater with energy at A&M's 'Gospelfest '86' show

By Karen Kroesche  
 Staff Writer

Contagious energy filled the air in Rudder Theater Saturday night as gospel choirs from all over the state convened for "Gospelfest '86... A Gospel Music Extravaganza."

The 5th Annual Gospelfest was sponsored by the Voices of Praise, a five-year-old subcommittee of the Memorial Student Center's Black Awareness Committee.

The show featured both gospel songs performed in the traditional manner, and more contemporary spiritual tunes featuring jazzy piano, organ and percussion accompaniment.

But regardless of the flavor of the music, all of the choirs sang with genuine emotion and sincerity. And the audience, for its part, couldn't help but get caught up in the celebration.

The Voices of Praise — 75 members strong — set the crowd in motion as they opened the evening with their high-energy performance.

The singers got the full-house audience on its feet with their powerful voices and upbeat rhythm, and the show featured moving compositions by the group's own musicians.

The Voices of Praise was followed by the Voices of Zion, a small but talented choir from Houston, and the Coliseum Park Baptist Church Inspirational Choir from San Antonio.

A high point of the show was a rather untraditional rendition of the Lord's Prayer by Innervations of Blackness, a student choir from the University of Texas at Austin. Innervations' members wore beautiful rose-colored dresses, matched by suits with rose cummer-



Members of Voices of Praise perform at 'Gospelfest '86.'

Photo by Doug Lab...

bunds instead of the traditional choir robes, and the performance was as dynamic as the group's appearance.

Other "Gospelfest" performers included the Soul Lifters from Sam

Houston State University, the Baptist Student Movement Choir from Prairie View A&M University and Psalms 150 from Lamar University.

The show was concluded by a mass choir performance as all the

groups joined for the final...

The combined voices of the pel choir members created a level of intensity that had to be heard to be believed.

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## Scientist: Few MIA remains can be positively identified

DALLAS (AP) — Very few of the remains of missing-in-action servicemen returned from Southeast Asia can be positively identified, and saying they can be is cruel to their families, a researcher says.

Dr. Michael Charney, a forensic anthropologist and professor emeritus of physical anthropology at Colorado State University, said he has examined the remains of 19 servicemen identified by the military and concluded that the identification can be verified for only two.

Charney, in Dallas Saturday to address a meeting of Vietnam veterans, said military officials "were making judgments that nobody could make. So I have been tearing at them ever since. It's not right to do this to the families. They should tell them the truth."

Charney, 74, is director of forensic science laboratory at Colorado State. He said he is an expert on bone identification and facial reconstruction and one of 34 certified forensic anthropologists in the United States and Canada.

Charney said he told a House subcommittee in September that if his sample of 19 investigations held for all returned MIA remains, 90 percent have been misidentified.

But Col. Keith Schneider, a Defense Department spokesman, said Sunday that it was "complete and total rubbish" to contend that 90 percent of MIA remains have been misidentified.

Charney said his work has changed the way the military refers to the identification process, a contention that Schneider disputed.

*"Identification is made by exclusion. . . if several people have been found and one hasn't, what is found is the missing person."*

— Dr. Michael Charney

At one time, Charney said, military officials claimed that identifications were biological, but "they no longer say the bones match."

"Now they say identification is made by exclusion," he said. "That means that if several people have been found and one hasn't, what is found is the missing person."

Schneider said the military has never claimed that identifications

were made purely by forensic means and said it was "rather amusing" that Charney would say his efforts led to a change in military procedure.

"We've said that identifications are based upon all the material that is available," he said, including medical records and crew manifests.

Charney, 74, said he and other experts have become involved with the identification question because families of MIAs want to be sure whom they are burying.

Schneider said that three independent forensic scientists visited the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Honolulu last December and examined cases involving more than 30 MIAs, including a case where the remains of 13 servicemen had been mingled together.

The scientists said most of the identifications were sound and legally supportable, according to Schneider.

Of the 13 commingled bodies, the panel agreed with two of the identifications, Schneider said. Though the panel did not support the Army's identification of the other 11 bodies, it did not say the military had misidentified them, he said.

## Last of signs for Route 66 sold for \$70

AUSTIN (AP) — The last sign that marked the route of Route 66, a highway popularized by a television series and which have been sold to a private collector for \$70 each.

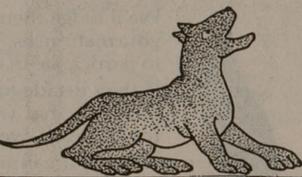
James Tullos of Athens said he ended up buying the signs at a state-surplus auction Saturday. "It was just an investment," he said, but he waited until the price dropped to \$70 before raising his bid.

Before auction officials even finish counting up the number of signs he had bought, Tullos had sold three for \$80 each. He said he was disappointed because he didn't get their individual bids in soon enough.

Leo Wood of Elgin paid \$70 for a shield-shaped sign with his collection of about 10,000 license plates from around the world.

"There's not going to be any more," said Wood of signs for Route 66, which he traveled to live in Arizona and travel to California. "It's the end of an era. That's why these are so important. That style of life is gone."

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