



Photo by Chris Lane

### Horsing Around

Sherman Scurry, a junior pre-med major, escapes the sunlight by relaxing in the shade provided by her 4-year-old horse, Sir Presso.

## House OKs half-day off for Easter

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas House members who plan to take three days off for the upcoming Easter weekend grudgingly voted Thursday to let state employees take a half-day off.

The Good Friday battle began when Rep. Bob Richardson, R-Austin, sought approval for giving all state employees half the day off. Rep. Bill Ceverha, R-Richardson, objected, saying state workers already get enough holidays.

Ceverha said the Good Friday half-day off, which traditionally has been granted, should be covered in the bill that sets up state holidays. He objected to it being done in a separate resolution.

Richardson fell five votes short of the two-thirds majority he needed to bring the motion up for a vote.

"They're not even going to let them off to go pray for help now," Richardson said. "It's a direct kick in the teeth."

His motion later came up on a motion for reconsideration, and was approved on voice vote after Ceverha added an amendment that said state offices could not close Friday afternoon. Richardson said skeleton staffs would remain on the job.

Ceverha said the amendment satisfied some of his concerns about the half-day holiday but added, "I still think it's a lousy idea."

The House and Senate will not meet next Thursday or Friday. They also will take off the Monday after Easter.

## Houston Ballet ends 2 nights of spirited dancing at A&M

By Karl Pallmeyer  
Music Critic

The Houston Ballet ended two evenings of long performances at Rudder Auditorium Thursday with its performance of "La Sylphide."

Wednesday night's performance, which included "Three Preludes," "Don Quixote Pas de Deux" and "The Lady and the Fool," lasted almost three hours. Thursday's performance lasted two hours and 30 minutes. The two intermissions on both nights added to the programs' lengths considerably.

About 1,000 people turned out to see Thursday night's performance, sponsored by the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society. As with Wednesday's program, the evening began with the "Bartok Concerto."

Houston Ballet director Ben Steadson choreographed the "Bartok Concerto," a tribute to composer Bela Bartok. Sixteen ballet artists danced to Bartok's Third Piano Concerto. Since the piece told no story, the dancers' movements were designed to emphasize musical passages and to convey the spirit of the piece.

Sometimes the dancers' arm movements seemed erratic, perfectly matching the erratic rhythms of Bartok's music.

The second movement of the concerto was the most striking. At first the dancers were bunched together in what looked like a sculpture of human bodies. As the music began to pick up, the dancers peeled off the "sculpture" in pairs and danced around the stage for a short while. Before long, two performers were left on stage to dance solos and duets. The rest of the company soon returned to the stage and reformed the "sculpture."

"La Sylphide," composed by Herman Lovenskjold and choreographed by August Bournonville, is a tragic love story tied into the supernatural. "La Sylphide" is the story of James (danced by John Grensback), a young Scottish farmer who's about to marry Effie (Kerri McClatchy). On the evening before his wedding, James wakes to see the Sylphide (Rachell Jonell Beard) dancing around the room. James falls under her spell.

In the morning, the wedding guests arrive. One guest, Gurn (Paul McGros), is unhappy because he is also in love with Effie. When Madge (Dorio Perez) the soothsayer predicts that it is Gurn, not James, who will marry Effie, James throws the old woman out of the house.



Photo by Bill Hughes

Two members of the Houston Ballet dance the Bartok Concerto during the company's performance Wednesday in Rudder Auditorium.

During the wedding dance, the Sylphide arrives and entices James to leave his friends and future wife. Madge follows them into the forest with a magic scarf and promises James that it will make the Sylphide fall in love with him. When he puts the scarf around the Sylphide, her wings fall off and she dies in his arms. Madge has taken revenge on

James for his treatment of her at the wedding dance. Her revenge is complete when Effie marries Gurn.

Beautiful costumes and sets helped to make "La Sylphide" a wonderful experience. The dancing was incredibly graceful and well-choreographed. The audience seemed well-pleased, despite the length of the performance.

## Man charged in thefts of geiger counters

HOUSTON (AP) — A survivalist who posed as a state official has been charged with stealing geiger counters from city fire stations, authorities said.

"He belongs to a survivalist club, and he was going to sell them to members in case of a nuclear attack," Fire Department Deputy Chief L.O. Martin said.

Geiger counters are devices used to measure radioactivity.

Miles N. Cable, 21, of the River Oaks area of Houston, was charged

with theft and held in lieu of \$2,000 bail, Houston Fire Department spokesman Richard Hawkins said.

Since the alleged thefts took place from fire stations, Fire Department investigators handled the case and filed charges, Hawkins said.

Martin claimed Cable used fake identification when he visited the stations, telling officials he was with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and was picking up old geiger counters that were to be replaced with new ones, Martin said.

The ruse was helped by the fact that old geiger counters were being replaced by the state emergency management officials.

Fire officials at one station would not hand over the \$735 unit before checking with state officials, who said no one had been authorized to pick up the device.

One firefighter recorded the license plate on the car the suspect was driving at the time.

Cable was arrested at his home Wednesday.

**SHORT ON CASH???**  
Sell your books at University Book Stores  
Northgate & Culpepper Plaza

**ARE YOU A WHEEL OF FORTUNE WIZ?**

**NEED MONEY???**  
Sell your BOOKS at University Book Stores  
Northgate & Culpepper Plaza

**Aggie Moms have hearts bigger than Texas.**  
To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the A&M University Mothers' Club, James Away craftsmen have created this symbol of love and loyalty. The perfect gift for the special person in your life. Limited availability.  
14K gold \$180.00  
Sterling silver \$25.00  
Please add 5% sales tax plus \$2.75 for insurance and handling.  
Mail to:  
Aggie Moms  
P.O. Box 12663  
Dallas, Texas 75225  
Allow 6 weeks delivery.

Call Battalion Classified 845-2611

Free Summer Shuttle  
**RESORT ATMOSPHERE**  
Now Preleasing for Summer/Fall/Spring  
Huge 2 Bdrm/2 Full Baths  
3 Bdrm/2 Full Baths  
Pool • Hot Tub  
• Basketball Court  
• On Site Manager + Security  
24 Hour Maintenance  
**Parkway Circle**  
401 S.W. Parkway  
696-6909

**CYCLES etc.**  
Now that Spring is here; Get your Bike out and ride it over to cycles etc... for all your cycling needs.  
We got What it Takes When it Comes to Bikes  
We carry: **Miyata** **Hunter** **Bianchi** **SPECIALIZED**  
110 College Main Northgate **846-BIKE**

PI Beta Phi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
**Aggie Dating Game**  
April 16 7:30 p.m.  
**Rudder Auditorium**  
Door prizes include: a Razz Scooter  
courtesy of Scooter Brown's (1 semester rental)  
You could win a date with  
Troy Ireland - Yell Leader  
Lisa Murray - Diamond Darling  
**Tickets: \$4 in advance \$5 at the door**  
Benefiting MDA and Twin City Mission

**MSC VARIETY SHOW**  
RUDDER AUDITORIUM  
  
**THE START OF SOMETHING BIG!**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 10 7:30 PM  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MSC BOX OFFICE AND ALL TICKETRON OUTLETS  
\$4<sup>00</sup> AND \$5<sup>00</sup>  
ALL SEATS RESERVED  
**Emcee: ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR Andy Andrews**