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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 al-ready 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 Fri-day afternoon. Richardson said skeleton staffs would remain on the

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.

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

Photo by Chris Lane

By Karl Pallmeyer

The Houston Ballet ended two enings of long performances at dder Auditorium Thursday with performance of "La Sylphide. Wednesday night's performance, nich included "Three Preludes," on Quixote Pas de Deux" and he Lady and the Fool," lasted alst three hours. Thursday's p mance lasted two hours and 30 inutes. The two intermissions on th nights added to the programs' gths considerably.

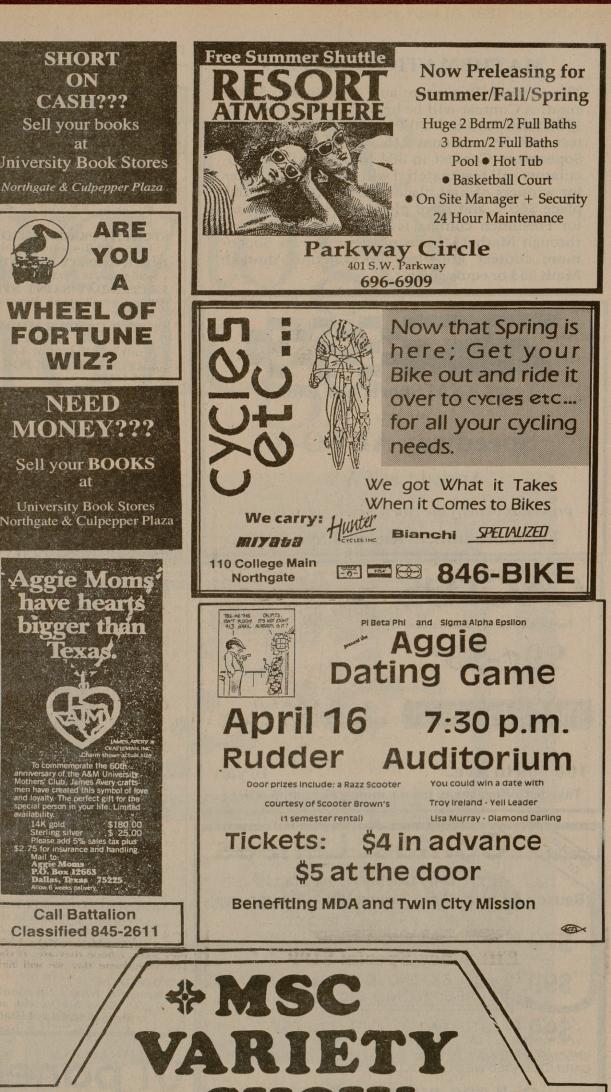
Horsing Around

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

About 1,000 people turned out to Thursday night's performance, onsored by the MSC Opera and forming Arts Society. As with ednesday's program, the evening gan with the "Bartok Concerto." Houston Ballet director Ben Ste on choreographed the "Bartok oncerto," a tribute to composer ela Bartok. Sixteen ballet artists nced to Bartok's Third Piano ncerto. Since the piece told no ory, the dancers' movements were signed to emphasize musical pasges and to convey the spirit of the

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Sometimes the dancers' arm wements seemed erratic, perfectly tching the erratic rhythms of Bar-'s music

The second movement of the connto was the most striking. At first e dancers were bunched together what looked like a sculpture of nan bodies. As the music began pick up, the dancers peeled off "sculpture" in pairs and danced bund the stage for a short while. fore long, two performers were on stage to dance solos and ets. The rest of the company soon turned to the stage and reformed "sculpture.

"La Sylphide," composed by Heran Lovenskjold and choreoaphed by August Bournonville, is tragic love story tied into the su-rnatural. "La Sylphide" is the ry of James (danced by John nsback), a young Scottish farmer s about to marry Effie (Kerri cClatchy). On the evening before wedding, James wakes to see the phide (Rachell Jonell Beard) ncing around the room. James s under her spell.

In the morning, the wedding ests arrive. One guest, Gurn (Paul Gros), is unhappy because he is so in love with Effie. When Madge orio Perez) the soothsayer prets that it is Gurn, not James, who marry Effie, James throws the 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 o posed as a state official has been ged with stealing geiger coun-'s from city fire stations, authori-

"He belongs to a survivalist club, nd he was going to sell them to tembers in case of a nuclear attack," re Department Deputy Chief L.O. artin said.

Geiger counters are devices used neasure radioactivity. Miles N. Cable, 21, of the River aks 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.

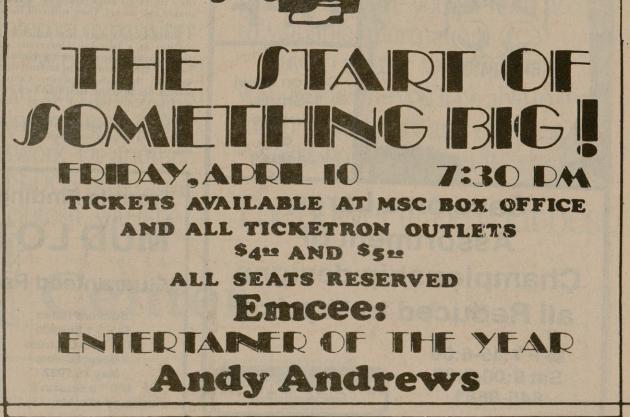
Martin claimed Cable used fake identification when he visited the stations, telling officials he was with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and was picking up old geiger counters that were to be replaced with new ones, Martin said.

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.



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RUDDER AUDITORIUM