

# State and Local

## Opening night of circus offers chills, thrills to B-CS residents

By Karen Kroesche  
At Ease Editor

It was colorful, crowded and, at times, chaotic. It was electric, exciting and highly entertaining. In essence, it was the circus.

Circus Vargas has arrived in College Station, bringing animals, acrobats and entertainers of all varieties. The Big Top was raised at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Brazos County Kooze Arena, setting the stage for the opening performance Tuesday night.

An estimated crowd of 4,000 attended the opening night performance, which began at 7:30 sharp and lasted a full two-and-a-half hours. People of all ages watched in amazement as jugglers juggled, dancers danced, and, of course, the clowns clowned around, in three different rings.

The crowd consisted mostly of families with cotton candy-faced children, but Texas A&M students were scattered throughout the crowd, and they seemed to enjoy the show as much — if not more than — their younger counterparts.

Jennifer Bobbitt, a sophomore

Spanish major, said she was "dragged out" to the circus by fellow student and friend Steve McCann, but was glad she made the effort.

"It's a great study break," Bobbitt said.

Senior Michelle Fox, a psychology

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— Michelle Fox, A&M student

major, won tickets to the show from a local radio station. She and her friends said they enjoyed the show, and were particularly pleased with the quality of the entertainment.

"We're impressed," Fox said. "We thought 'How much fun could a circus be in College Station?' but it's been better than we expected."

Fox said her favorite part of the show was the elephants, for an obvious reason.

"I'm a senior," she explained. "I like elephants."

In addition to the elephants, the show was highlighted by animal trainers, tightrope walkers and daring acrobats.

One acrobatic feat in particular, sometimes called the suicide act, set audience members on the edges of

their seats. The Ayak Brothers, a duo from South Africa, performed on the trapeze 40 feet above the ground — without a net.

At one point, one member of the duo jumped off the shoulders of his partner and was airborne for a hair-raising second, before interlocking his ankles with those of his brother.

The tension was quickly relieved, however, with the entrance of a full entourage of clowns, accompanied by elephants and sequin-costumed performers.

Ringmaster Joe Pon, who's been with Circus Vargas for six years, kept the show moving with short bursts of dialogue between the acts. He was appreciative of the opening night audience, and said he was hearing "a lot of hootin' and hollerin'."

"It's a great audience," he said. "This is definitely an Aggie crowd."

Pon, a former high school teacher, said he enjoys Texas audiences, because they are more likely to vocalize their appreciation.

"People here tend to enjoy themselves more," he said. "It's more a local crowd."

Circus Vargas, a \$15-million production that bills itself as North America's "largest traveling big top," includes 400 performers and animals and travels to 150 cities across the United States and Canada.

Last night's performance was the first of five shows; the remaining four are scheduled for 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. today and Thursday. Tickets still are available at the Circus Vargas office in the Food Court at Post Oak Mall, at the MSC Box Office and at the circus.

## Former student seeks A&M support in race for seat in Congress

By Cindy Milton  
Staff Writer

An old Aggie Tuesday night discussed his tie to the University to let students know that being an Aggie can lead to a lot down the road.

Greg Laughlin, Class of '64 and a candidate for United States Representative for the 14th District spoke to about 30 students during a program sponsored by the Aggie Democrats.

"I'm the only Aggie running for U.S. Congress," he said, "and I'm running as an Aggie."

Laughlin told the students that the 14th District and its surrounding counties — including Brazos County — will play a big role in supporting him for the Congressional position.

Laughlin majored in history at A&M and after graduation earned a law degree in Austin. He went into the Army, working in military intelligence, where he received the nation's highest security clearance.

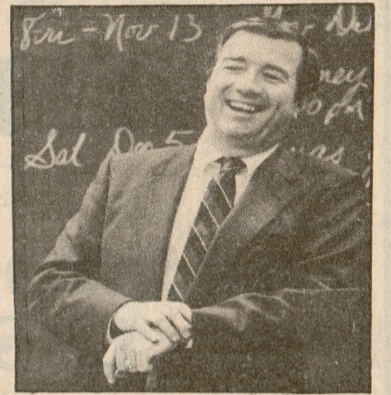
Laughlin remains active in the Army Reserves. Keeping up with the military, he said, is one factor that is a campaign bonus for him.

"I have insight to the military that few people in Congress have," he said. "The military duty served by its members is low, and that is something I think is really sad."

Laughlin said it is important to know what is going on in the military before Congress can take actions and know exactly how they are going to work.

He got laughter from his audience when he referred to President Reagan as "the great actor," who, after promising to decrease the deficit has done nothing, he said, to improve it.

"The Administration is trying



Greg Laughlin, congressional candidate

to convince everyone that they're conservative, but they are spending more money than ever before... especially on defense," Laughlin said. "One of these days someone up there is going to have to realize they'll have to pay for all of that."

Laughlin also said that he sees the Persian Gulf as a big issue in the future. He talked about his buddies in the Corps of Cadets during his four years at A&M that never returned from Vietnam.

"The United States shouldn't be policeman for the world," he said. Congress, he said, should be concerned with young Americans, and national commitment should be a top priority.

Laughlin wrapped his speech up by stressing the importance of more Texas representation in Congress. He said Congress has 14 members from "that school in Austin," and only one Aggie — Democrat Joe Barton.

"A friend told me that being an Aggie may be one of the greatest things going for me — there's a lot of support here," he said.

## Texas seeks \$525,000 in federal aid to rehabilitate damaged oyster reefs

AUSTIN (AP) — The state is seeking more than a half-million dollars in federal disaster assistance to rehabilitate flood-damaged oyster reefs in San Antonio Bay, officials said Tuesday.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fisheries division has applied for \$525,000 in disaster funds for the work.

The department has asked for emergency aid to allow it to place 32,500 cubic yards of culch across 500 acres of public reefs in the bay," said Gary Matlock, fisheries division director.

Culch, usually made of oyster shell, is material laid down on reefs to provide a spawning bed for oysters.

"Because the oysters in San Antonio Bay were

devastated by a natural disaster, this is the only area in Texas that might qualify for this type of financial assistance," Matlock said.

Until this past summer's unusually heavy rains that damaged oyster production, San Antonio Bay in Calhoun County had been the second-most productive in Texas, supplying 20 percent of the state's harvest, officials said.

During the previous three years, the bay's oyster reefs yielded an annual average of 1.7 million pounds of shucked meat with a dockside value of \$2.7 million.

Last week, Parks and Wildlife officials took a representative of the National Marine Fisheries Service out to the reefs to inspect the damage

and validate the application for emergency aid.

"Not a single live oyster was found in any of the samples," Matlock reported.

Matlock said the existing shell base on the reefs are heavily infested with various marine organisms and algae. Once the surface of a shell is fouled, free-swimming oyster larvae are less able to adhere and mature.

Parks and Wildlife experts say that fresh shell layered on top of the old reef would provide a clean site suitable for oyster larvae to attach and would slow the spread of further infestation.

The Parks and Wildlife Department request covers only the purchase and planting of culch material.

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2.04	\$4850	1.10	\$3200
2.03	\$4785	1.01	\$1975
2.02	\$7650	1.01	\$1175
2.01	\$5675	.93	\$2950
1.83	\$2900	.91	\$2585
1.55	\$2295	.90	\$1890
1.26	\$3675	.81	\$1575
1.17	\$2525	.74	\$995
1.16	\$1395	.71	\$2900
1.10	\$1345	.57	\$895
1.08	\$2250	.55	\$895
1.06	\$1975	.47	\$695
1.02	\$2375	.47	\$628
1.01	\$2200	.35	\$425
1.00	\$1950	.30	\$475
1.00	\$1345		
.87	\$895	PEAR	Our Price
.84	\$1275	1.80	\$3495
.80	\$1025	1.22	\$2390
.80	\$1200	1.14	\$2375
.78	\$995	1.04	\$2085
.76	\$1095	.60	\$1195
.75	\$950	.55	\$795
.73	\$1145	.52	\$665
.72	\$1175	.51	\$695
.71	\$1145	.45	\$325
.71	\$1055	.37	\$350
.71	\$1175	.31	\$245
.70	\$895		
.69	\$775	OVAL	Our Price
.67	\$760	3.15	\$6300
.65	\$815	1.52	\$5275
.63	\$975	.83	\$1350
.62	\$715	.83	\$1350
.61	\$715	.71	\$1495
.60	\$895	.46	\$375
.59	\$695		
.59	\$930	EMERALD CUT	Our Price
.57	\$930	2.16	\$6295
.55	\$695	1.83	\$6300
.55	\$865	1.36	\$4900
.54	\$695	.74	\$1350
.54	\$875	.42	\$695
.53	\$695	.38	\$595
.53	\$795		
.52	\$495	HEART	Our Price
.51	\$845	2.30	\$4500
.50	\$795	.89	\$1750
.50	\$695	.27	\$335
.49	\$650		
.48	\$650	SQUARE	Our Price
.42	\$695	.46	\$920
.41	\$660	.33	\$385
.40	\$470		
.35	\$375		
.30	\$335		
.20	\$165		
.10	\$63		
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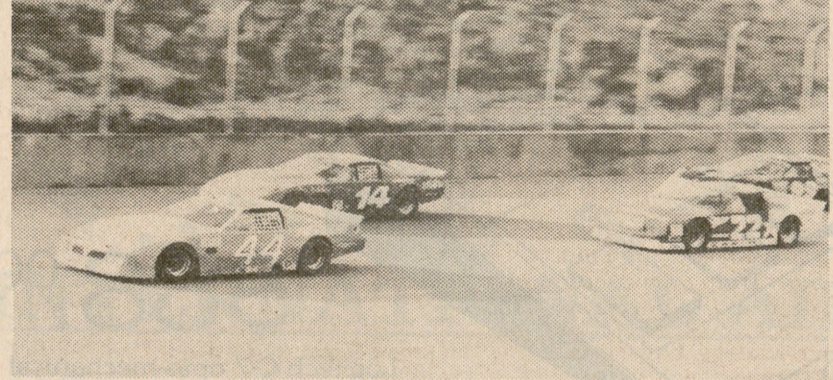
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