

Oakland Ballet performers offer mystical showing of 'Nutcracker'

By Tom Reinarts
Reviewer

The average age of the audience for the Texas A&M Memorial Student Center Opera and Performing Arts Society show Wednesday eve-

ning at Rudder Auditorium was considerably lower than it has been for past performances. The major reason for this was the fact that the "Nutcracker" was being presented and many children were attending.

The Oakland Ballet provided the dancers and the music, written by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovski, was played by the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra. The ballet was choreographed by Ronn Guidi and, accord-

ing to the show program, has been performed by the Oakland Ballet since 1972.

The ballet company was founded in 1965 by Guidi. The company, which has a total of only 28 members, has a reputation for doing unique, innovative and historically significant works. In the past it has presented ballets such as Bronislava Nijinska's "Les Biches" and "Les Nocees," as well as other contemporary pieces.

The program also states that Guidi's interpretation of "Nutcracker" follows the original story written by E.T.A. Hoffmann rather than the ballet adaptation by Alexandre Dumas.

"Nutcracker" tells the tale of a mystical Christmas. When the magical Uncle Drosselmeyer and his nephew visit the children Marie, Fritz and Louise, he gives them each a gift, and the toy nutcracker is given to Drosselmeyer's favorite niece, Marie.

After an entertaining evening Marie dreams that the toy nutcracker comes to life as a prince. In the dream the mouse king challenges the prince to capture Marie but finally is defeated. Marie and the prince then are escorted through the Land of Snows to the Kingdom of Sweets for a celebration.

The best performance of the evening was given by Michael Lowe as the Rose Cavalier. He is a talented dancer with strength and excellent execution. Erin Leedom as the Snow Queen also gave a strong performance.

The show was light-hearted with humor used in several places. When the children Marie, Louise and Fritz were playing, the antics were amusing, as was the dance of the ginger children, who were portrayed by children from the Oakland Ballet Academy.

The costumes and scenery were not lavish but still retained the flavor of the classic tale. The outfit for Drosselmeyer was the best, but those for the snowflakes were disappointing.

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, led by Franz Anton Krager, provided excellent accompaniment for the ballet.

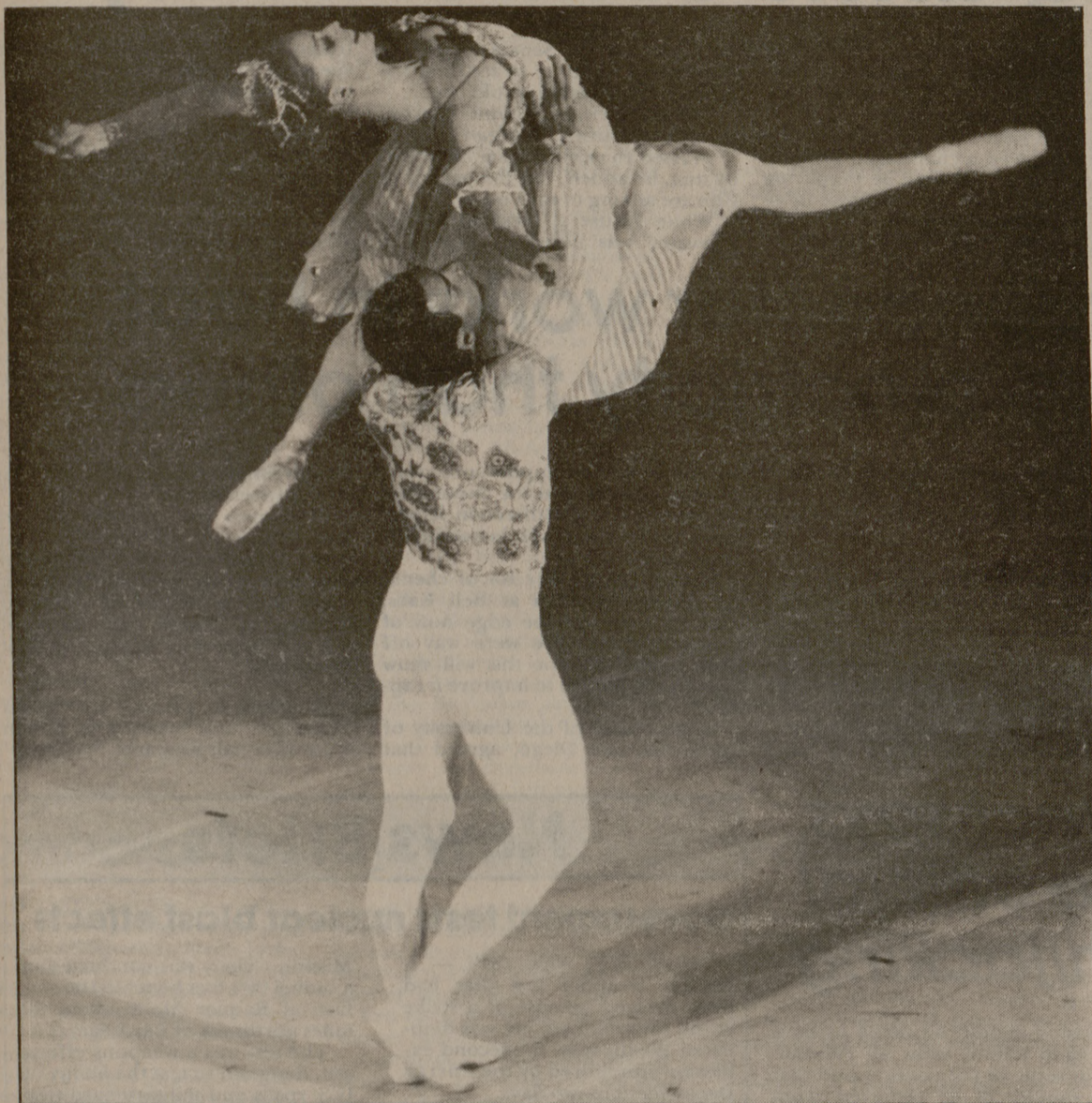


Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

The Snow Cavalier lifts up the Snow Queen in the first act of the "Nutcracker," as performed by the

Oakland Ballet. The cavalier was played by Ron Thiele and the queen by Erin Leedom.

Review

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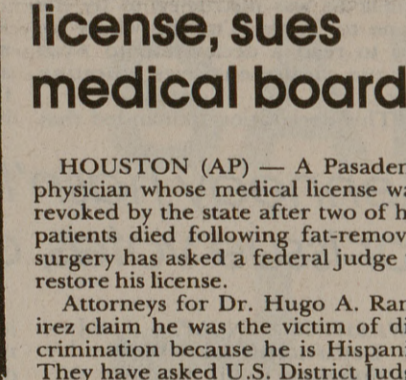
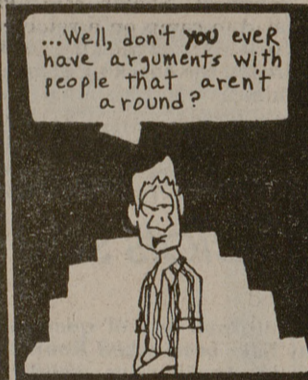
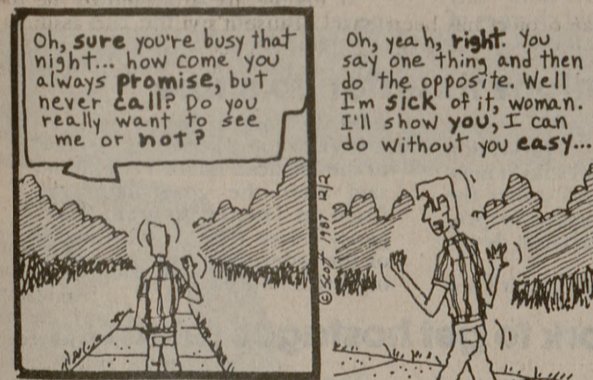


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Doctor loses license, sues medical board

HOUSTON (AP) — A Pasadena physician whose medical license was revoked by the state after two of his patients died following fat-removal surgery has asked a federal judge to restore his license.

Attorneys for Dr. Hugo A. Ramirez claim he was the victim of discrimination because he is Hispanic. They have asked U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes to restore Ramirez's medical license.

Testimony in the non-jury trial began Tuesday and continued on Wednesday in federal court. Ramirez is suing the Texas Board of Medical Examiners, which suspended his license in April and then revoked it.

A witness called by Ramirez's attorneys testified that an analysis of the board's disciplinary actions indicated the board was more likely to revoke licenses of doctors who met certain "discriminatory factors." Among the factors were birth or education in a foreign country, having a non-Anglo name and becoming involved in unusual or weight-control treatments, said Gene Mitchell, president of the Texas Wellness Council.

Ramirez was born and educated in Colombia.

But Joe Franco, the board's director of investigations, testified that the board did not consider a doctor's nationality in investigating a claim. Franco said he was of Mexican descent and that several board investigators are also Hispanic.

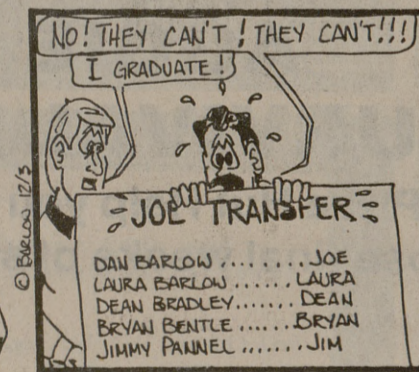
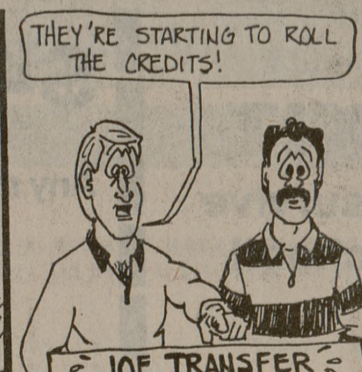
Ramirez's license was suspended after one patient died in March and another suffered serious complications after liposuction.

The board also considered other cases, including another death following liposuction surgery by Ramirez, before revoking his license.

Waldo



Joe Transfer



by Dan Barlow

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