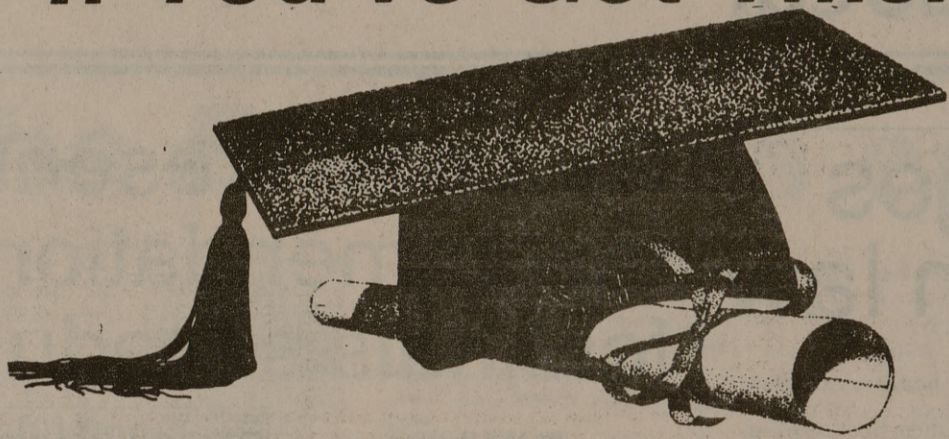
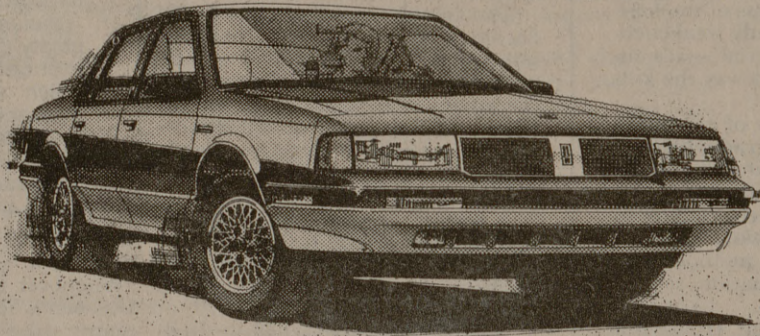


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OPAS confirms schedule of shows for '88-89 season

'Edwin Drood' to highlight theater series

By Lyneen Johnson
Staff Writer

Contracts are completed and dates are set for the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society's 1988-89 season.

An announcement of the tentative schedule appeared in *The Battalion* last month. As MSC officials anticipated, however, several changes were made in the final schedule.

"The big show that we tried to get for our theater series was 'Dream Girls,' but we ran into problems with the final contract negotiations and had to find a substitute," said Paul Weisepape, OPAS chairman.

"Although we are not bringing a really big show (like 'Dream Girls' or this semester's 'Cats'), the final schedule will be exciting in its own right," he said.

On Nov. 10, OPAS will present "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," a Broadway hit with a variety of endings.

"The musical has seven different endings, so the show is never really the same from one performance to the next," Weisepape said. "Before

the end of the show, the play stops and the audience votes on who they think the killer is. The majority determines which ending the performers use.

"This twist is a real crowd-pleaser and should be lots of fun."

Other shows in the theater series include:

- The Missouri Repertory Theatre's performance of "The Immigrant" — Oct. 20
- "My One and Only" — Feb. 17
- Mummenschanz, a Swiss mime troupe — March 27
- The Alley Theatre's production of "A View From the Bridge" — April 10

• "Big River" — dates not set
 A banquet and clinic with ballet star Rudolf Nureyev is planned tentatively for the night after his performance, Weisepape said.

"This is very tentative, but it would be a neat experience to spend some one-on-one time with such a great performer," he said.

Other performances in the music series include:

- Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra with guest soloist — Sept. 30

• Peter Serkin/ Young Uli performing the Beethoven S... — Oct. 22

• Jean Francois Paillard Chamber Orchestra — Oct. 26

• Rudolf Nureyev and F... (Paris Opera Ballet) — Nov. 2

• Academy of St. Martin's Fields Chamber Orchestra — Feb. 17

• Bavarian Symphony Or... of Munich — March 8

• Swingle Singers — April 11

The OPAS Board of Directors lectured the performances after many of the shows during a member conference in New Weisepape said.

He and the student chairman of the program advisory subcommittee also attended the conference.

Increased student involvement within the committee will be encouraged in the next year, Weisepape said.

"Along with our performance one of my goals is to strengthen Focus on Performing Arts committee," he said. "This group is involved with lectures, educational activities and performances at community and public schools."

Students get back to classics with classes in Greek studies

By Sharon Maberry
Staff Writer

Most college students belong to a generation raised on sitcoms and throwaway novels, but a few Texas A&M students have returned to the age of the classics.

About six students are completing a four-semester sequence of classical Greek studies.

Craig Kallendorf, an assistant professor in the modern languages department, began the program in the Fall 1986 because of faculty and student interest in ancient Greek studies.

"We posted signs and faculty members told students about the course, and the first semester that we offered it, the class filled up almost immediately," Kallendorf said. "In fact, it was larger than we wanted with 35 students."

"Since that first semester, we've been trying to hold the numbers down some because that (35 students) is too big for foreign-language teaching."

This semester marks the first complete cycle of the four-semester sequence in ancient Greek.

"We had an odd thing in the first cycle (of the course)," Kallendorf said. "Since graduate students and seniors get to register for classes first, they made up the majority of that first semester class. As a result, many of those students have graduated since then (as it is a two-year program) and the fourth-semester class is fairly small."

The first two semesters of ancient Greek study — Beginning Classical Greek — teach students basic Greek grammar, said Dr. Timothy Moore, who teaches three courses of the sequence.

"Grammar is taught through readings from ancient Greek authors," Moore said. "Some constructions and words are changed to be easier (for the students). The result is that students have a chance to learn a lot about ancient Greece while doing that (learning grammar)."

The third semester, Intermediate Greek: New Testament, deals with

"Students gain an appreciation of Greece and of Greek literature, which has been so influential in determining how we in the Western world are today."

— Timothy Moore, professor

straight readings from the New Testament, Moore said. Students translate passages from the Gospel of John and the book of Romans, he said. The third semester of Greek study also stresses literary aspects of New Testament writings, he said.

In the final semester of study — Advanced Readings in Greek — students study ancient Greek plays. "Students are assigned a certain amount of reading each day," Moore said. "They also do oral reports that discuss what was going on in the author's mind or how that particular work affects Athenian society or history."

Moore said that studying ancient Greek is different from languages like French and Spanish.

"Greek grammar is more difficult to learn than French or Spanish," he said. "But Greek requires one less skill than those other foreign languages. Students don't learn conversation in Greek. There is more to memorize, but they don't spend the same time on pronunciation and hearing the language as with modern languages."

Moore said he thinks the ancient Greek course is of considerable value to its students.

"Students gain an appreciation of Greece and of Greek literature, which has been so influential in determining how we in the Western world are today," Moore said. "So much of our literature, as well as our philosophy and religion, are deter-

mined by the way the thought.

"We can have our cake and too by studying Greek. There is broadening that occurs by studying other cultures that are not our own."

Studying Greek also gives a appreciation of how language grammatically, Moore said.

"A good deal of our words come from the Greek language," he said. "For example, the word 'school' comes from the Greek word 'scholē,' which means leisure because one could study at rather than working in the fields."

Chris Ellery, an English student in the fourth semester of Greek curriculum, said he is reading ancient Greek plays.

"This course gives me a background in my own area of my specialty is drama," Ellery said. "I get to go back and read the earliest dramas."

Ellery said he also enjoys ancient Greece and its people.

"I like knowing about the culture and seeing how these people thought," he said. "It's interesting to learn that human beings have changed that much."

Kristin Dye, a history student in the fourth semester of Greek, said she began studying Greek because she wanted to learn New Testament Greek. "Readings in Ancient Greek said, the plays she has learned are more difficult than the Testament passages."

"By the time the first came along," she said, "the language had simplified."

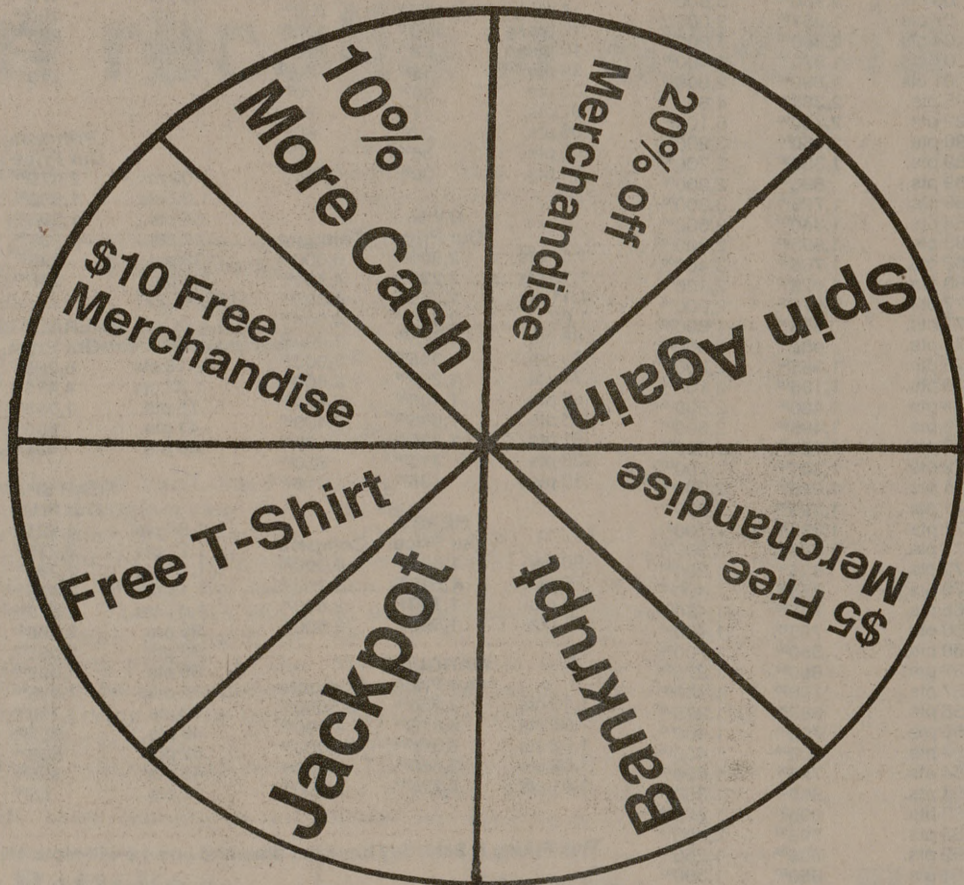
Jennifer Edwards, a senior English major in the fourth semester of ancient Greek, said she has several benefits from the program.

"As an English major, I appreciate the English language so much now," Edwards said. "I think writing has improved and learned how to study even more mainly, it (studying Greek) helped me to think more. I had to correlate the two languages."

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Mobil strike resolved after 3-month dispute

BEAUMONT (AP) — American flags replaced picket signs at the Mobil Corp. refinery in Beaumont as a three-month strike came to an end on Wednesday.

Striking Mobil workers began to stream through the plant gates for the evening shift Wednesday, about an hour after members of the local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers voted to approve a two-year contract.

Members of the local Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union approved their contract offer Tuesday.

The strike, which began Feb. 4, was the longest in the history of Mobil's Beaumont refinery.

Members of the IBEW initially rejected Mobil's proposal Monday, which put the other union in an awkward position.

OCAW officials asked their members not to cross the IBEW picket lines until the electrical workers could work out an agreement with Mobil.

Mobil spokesman Roy Dickerson would not comment on the number of OCAW members who returned to work Wednesday, except to say it was less than 100 people.

Mobil and the IBEW were hag-

gling over a one-sentence clause in the contract about who would be allowed to work switches controlling up to 4,160 volts of electricity and who would change light bulbs at the plant.

IBEW officials said they did not want non-electricians to perform electrical work because of safety reasons. Mobil, however, said it was a craft jurisdictional dispute.

Officials from Mobil and the IBEW met with a federal mediator Wednesday morning and agreed that any operating employee, which includes OCAW members, could work switches up to 4,160 volts with authorization from a top operator.

Also, anyone will be allowed to change light bulbs at the plant, Dickerson said. In the past IBEW members changed all light bulbs.

The OCAW had gone on strike because Mobil wanted to use supervisors rather than union members to operate its new centralized control center.

Under the agreement, supervisors will perform the control center jobs, and the company will not demote any employee for five years as a result of staffing changes in the control center.

Fire causes gas explosion injures one

RANGER (AP) — Fire at a Texas compression plant ignited a natural gas explosion, causing one person to be hospitalized, officials said.

It shook the windows at the station four miles from the Houston Fluid and Leasing Corp. northwest of Ranger, Fire Darrell Fox said Thursday.

The blast Wednesday left Pearson, 55, of Eastland in poor condition at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. Pearson suffered from respiratory problems, a hospital spokesman said Thursday.

"I feel like it was a miracle made it out," said Mack Coughlin, an employee whose hair was blown when the plant exploded. "When it coming, I knew it was a blow."

Ranger is about 60 miles from Abilene on Interstate Highway 40. "There was a big, dark smoke," said Pamela Pilgrimage, an employee at a Ranger compression store about five miles from the site. "I could see it clear from the windows."