

# OPAS begins; treats patrons with orchestra

By Shane Hall  
Staff Writer

The 1988-89 MSC-OPAS music season began in grand style Friday night in Rudder Auditorium. On tap for the evening was a performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "Requiem Mass," which brought together an impressive array of talent.

## Review

"Requiem Mass" was written for a quartet of solo singers, a mixed chorus and an orchestra. The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, directed by Franz Anton Krager, provided the music for the performance and the Houston Symphony Chorus supplied choral voices. Topping everything off were four soloists from the Metropolitan Opera in New York: Diane Curry, mezzo-soprano; Francis Ginsberg, soprano; Gary Bachlund, tenor; and Kurt Link, bass. This combination of musicians and singers made for a stunning performance that was warmly received by the audience.

"Requiem," written by Verdi in 1873 in honor of Italian writer Alessandro Manzoni and first performed in 1874 on the anniversary of Manzoni's death, is much like an opera except that there are no costumes involved. The four soloists at Friday night's show made it seem even more like a performance of "La Traviata" or another Verdian opera

with their outstanding individual performances. Curry and Link were especially impressive in their respective ranges. Link's booming vocal and expressive gestures were spectacular during the composition "Lux Aeterna."

Ginsberg's spellbinding rendition of "Libera Me" gave a closing to the show that the audience loved. Combined with the soaring voices of the chorus and the Brazos Valley Symphony's riveting musical work, "Libera Me" was the most impressive moment of an excellent evening.

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, guided by Krager's baton, was great throughout the performance of "Requiem." From the solemn, meditative nature of "Requiem and Kyrie" to the sheer dramatic intensity of "Dies Irae," the symphony did a commendable job.

The voices of the Houston Symphony Chorus were good as well, making a fine vocal compliment to the symphony's music.

But Curry, Ginsberg, Bachlund and Link were the real stars Friday night. On "Lux Aeterna," written for three soloists, Curry, Bachlund and Link took the spotlight, and all three shined. They gave their all during the show and the audience loved them.

As the symphony completed the final notes of "Libera Me," a deafening round of applause from the nearly sell-out crowd filled the interior of the auditorium.

# General Dynamics works with Taiwan on secret fighter jet

FORT WORTH (AP) — General Dynamics Corp., one of the nation's leading defense contractors, has been working on a secret fighter jet project with nearly 200 Taiwanese engineers and administrators for at least three years, according to a published report.

In a copyright story, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Sunday that Fort Worth-based GD has been secretly working on the Indigenous Defense Fighter program, a billion-dollar effort to develop a new jet fighter for Taiwan.

What began as a feasibility study in the early 1980s developed into a full-scale development employing hundreds, if not thousands, of engineers and administrators at top aerospace companies throughout the United States, the newspaper reported.

A prototype is expected to be released later this year with test flights scheduled for early 1989.

"Nobody ever expected this," a GD official familiar with the project said. "We thought it was just a way to keep some guys in research and engineering busy."

The new fighter is described as a lightweight twin-engine jet resembling GD's single-engine F-16. The fighter is expected to have a top speed of Mach 1.2.

For now, it is considered crucial for Taiwan's defense, yet there's no guarantee it will work as planned. Much of the design and engineering has been performed by young Taiwanese trainees; the power plant is being designed by a U.S. company that has never built a powerful fighter engine.

# Cities hike taxes to cover revenues

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas cities that operate on bare-bones budgets have hiked property taxes in an effort to recover revenues lost to dwindling property values.

The tax bite this year got bigger in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth, along with a number of other counties, officials said.

"There comes a time at which you take the step some governments have had to take," John Kennedy, senior research associate for the Texas Research League, said. "You can only hold the line for so long."

Kennedy said there are indications that many local governments are in a bind at a time when demands are increasing.

The problem in raising taxes, he said, is that the tax burden to finance

city, county, school and other government services is becoming so great that it may lead to protests and calls for tax rollbacks.

Sam Seale, director of the Texas Association of Counties, said the loss of taxable property value due to the oil bust has been widespread in Texas, but the Gulf Coast region was probably hit hardest.

Seale described taxes imposed on property owners as nearing saturation level, and that state lawmakers should consider funding alternatives.

Among other problems, counties are raising taxes to pay for the jail detention of convicted state prisoners the Texas Department of Corrections refuses to accept because of prison overcrowding.

# Houston heads state in economic change

HOUSTON (AP) — After suffering the economic brunt of a lagging petroleum industry, troubled shrimp and fishing businesses and a sagging real estate market, Houston is setting the pace for a slow and steady economic recovery for the state.

And a new study says it will continue to do so through the end of the year.

Harold Gross, an economist at Southern Methodist University, said Houston is doing more trade through its port and has seen a resurgence in petrochemical investments.

"Houston is benefiting both from the lower dollar (value) and consequently higher volume of goods passing through its port, as well as the millions of dollars being invested

in upgrading the area's refining and petrochemical complex," said Gross, of SMU's Center for Enterprising at the Edwin L. Cox School of Business.

"Renewed industrial vigor, in turn, has boosted business and consumer confidence," he said.

The SMU study reports Houston's overall employment will rise by 1.9 percent in the fourth quarter, led by an expected 3.6 percent seasonal gain in trade and a 3 percent gain in government employment. Other gains are expected in the service industry, mining and manufacturing.

But new jobs in construction and transportation are unlikely and the report projects a 1.6 percent decline in the finance, insurance and real estate jobs.

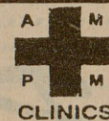
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## A102

### Intro. to The Short Story

When Carla told me that my date was a little short, I thought she was talking dollars and cents, not feet and inches. So there I was at the door, in my spiked heels, staring at the top of my date's head.

All I could think was, how do I get myself out of this? I could imagine how my legs would ache if I had to walk around with my knees bent all evening.

So to stall for time, while figuring out how to fake malaria, I made us some Double Dutch Chocolate.

When I brought it into the living room, I discovered that Gary was a chocolate lover too. Ahh, a man after my own heart. Okay, I decided I'd give him a chance. So we sat down and saw each other face-to-face for the first time. He had a nice smile.

After some small talk—I mean conversation—I discovered that we both love Updike, hate the winter weather, and both have miniature schnauzers. So, we made a date to introduce Shadow and Schatzki next week.

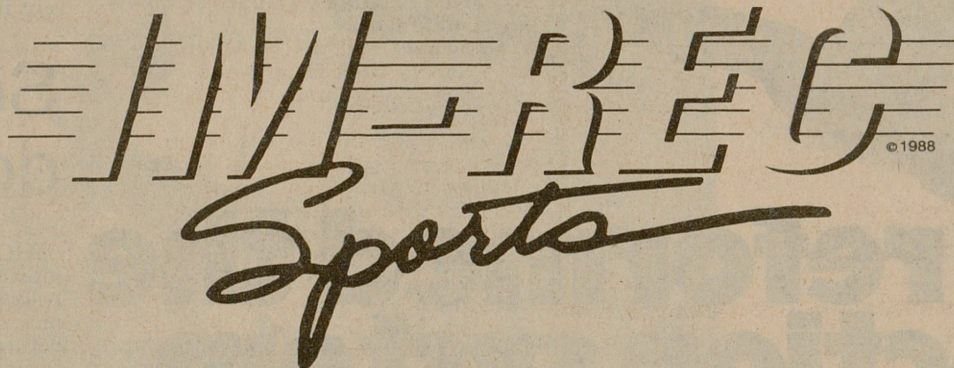


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**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** IM-Rec Sports Office, 159 Read Bldg.

**SPORT OR ACTIVITY:** Volleyball  
**DIVISION(S):** CO-Rec B  
**SIGN-UP DATE(S):** Entries Close Tuesday, October 11  
**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** IM-Rec Sports Office, 159 Read Bldg.

**SPORT OR ACTIVITY:** Flickerball  
**DIVISION(S):** Co-Rec B  
**SIGN-UP DATE(S):** Entries Close Monday, October 10  
Entries Close Tuesday, October 18  
**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** IM-Rec Sports Office, 159 Read Bldg.

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