

Pick a card, any card . . .

Karen Timme, a junior speech communication major and Robert Russell, a senior engineering technology major, watch Merlin the Magician (Bill Palmer) do a card trick to promote the Renaissance Festival Tuesday by Rudder Tower.

Cubans seize ship carrying 'Cup' yacht

MIAMI (AP) — A Cuban gunboat seized a 160-foot supply ship carrying New Zealand's entry in the America's Cup race and detained eight United States citizens Tuesday, the Coast Guard said.

The Tampa Seahorse, a New Orleans-based ship, was sailing about 12 miles off the southeastern tip of Cuba when the gunboat approached and seized it, Coast Guard spokesman Dan Vogeley said.

The ship's agent later told the Coast Guard in Miami that the America's Cup entry, the New Zealand, was aboard the ship, which was en route from Long Beach, Calif. to New York City.

There were no reports of shots fired or use of force, and the ship and crew were taken without further incident to Cayo Mola, Cuba, Vogeley said.

The master of the ship disputed the Cuban navy's claim that the vessel was inside the island nation's territorial waters and placed an urgent call to the Coast Guard at about 3 p.m. EDT. Coast Guard officers advised the master to comply, Vogeley said.

The ship was escorted to the port for inspection purposes, Maggie Kerrigan, a spokeswoman at the New Zealand consulate in Los Angeles, said.

Kerrigan said New Zealand officials

have asked the State Department and Coast Guard to help gain the vessel's release.

"They are confident of no significant delay (in winning release of both vessels)," Kerrigan said.

"We understand this type of incident has, on occasion, occurred in the past with U.S. ships (sailing through) the passage between Cuba and the Dominican Republic," Kerrigan said.

The chairman of the New Zealand Challenge, Michael Fay, was not aboard the ship. Fay forced the San Diego Yacht Club into an early defense of the Cup this year after winning a court order that validated his challenge of the race rules.

The sloop Fay used in the race was twice as long as the traditional 12-meter yachts used in Cup competitions. The San Diego Yacht Club responded by building a dual-hulled catamaran to defend the Cup, and Dennis Conner skippered the Stars & Stripes to two easy victories over the Kiwis to sweep a best-of-three series.

Fay is planning to return to the New York court holding jurisdiction over America's Cup disputes to seek forfeiture of the Cup on grounds that the San Diego Yacht Club used an allegedly illegal defender.

'A Question of Identity' dead issue, director says

By Stephen Masters

Senior Staff Writer

and

By Richard Tijerina

Staff Writer

Problems surrounding the Aggie Players' production of "A Question of Identity," which resulted in the play's cancellation, have not been resolved, and director Charles Gordone said he considers the play a dead issue.

Conflicts arose between Gordone and the play's author, Pat Pfeiffer, over the way the play was written and produced. Gordone and Pfeiffer agreed beforehand to revise and rewrite several parts of the script together, but Gordone asked Pfeiffer not to attend the later rehearsals.

Pfeiffer disagreed with Gordone's changes and requested production of the play be stopped. The final decision to pull the play was made by Theater Arts Program Director Roger Schultz.

The play deals with a reporter's quest to find answers in the mysterious death of a slain civil rights leader in the 1960s.

Gordone said his main problems with the script were with the way blacks were depicted in the play and Pfeiffer's lack of knowledge about the time period.

"We couldn't have done it with the things that were in the play," he said. "I refused to do as a playwright, as a director and most primarily as a black man, because we've had enough of stereotypes."

"She didn't know anything about her subject. We chose the play because we thought it would be very stimulating for Texas A&M. It's a subject that touches all of us — the civil rights movement and race."

"We thought it was the kind of play that, if worked on, would be worthy to work on. We felt it had great possibilities. It espoused the understanding of people and questioned our own identities."

Pfeiffer, who is white, was un-

available for comment Tuesday.

Gordone said although Pfeiffer's intentions were good, she was not familiar enough with the time period to present an accurate description of the civil rights movement.

"I think that she had great intentions, but there was too much institutionalized racism in the play," Gordone said. "This is where we fell apart because she would not change it and it was getting down to the wire."

Gordone said there were no examples of prejudice in the play, only instances in which Pfeiffer did not accurately portray the way blacks were in the decade.

"It wasn't prejudice," he said, "it was just bad information in terms of where blacks were. It was bad information because blacks weren't like that. They didn't speak like that."

"In writing, I know what institutionalized racism is," he said. "I don't care what good intentions (there are). It's like (saying), 'Some of my best friends are black and I know

some black people, but I wouldn't have them for dinner. They can live their life and I can live mine.'"

Because of these indiscretions, Gordone said he had no choice but to rework some of the play's scenes.

Gordone felt revisions were needed because the original script was "raw" and not in any constructed format. Pfeiffer, an amateur playwright, won the 1988 Aggie Players' New Plays competition with her submission "A Question of Identity."

Gordone said he did not rewrite the play, but merely edited it and filled in certain scenes and phrases which needed to be defined.

"Her play was not damaged, it was enhanced," Gordone said. "I went ahead and fixed it the best I could. I did not change her play and I did not rewrite it. I merely filled in characterization, filled in certain things that needed to be explained, trying the best that I could to use her language."

"I'm certainly not in the business

of rewriting anybody's plays. I'm not going to have blacks who would come and see it, and even whites, (come see the play) passed off with blatant insult and racial innuendoes."

Gordone said Pfeiffer did not accept his recommendations for revisions in the script.

"She'd go back and rewrite it and rewrite it the same with worse lines," he said. "Finally, once we finished all that she considered my recommendations and we sat down and read it, they weren't dramatic and weren't keeping with the theme of her play."

Gordone won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for his play, "No Place To Be

Somebody," and is now a distinguished lecturer at A&M.

Gordone said he was looking forward to working with Pfeiffer because he thought it would be refreshing to work with a white playwright on a civil rights play.

"I thought it was great that there was somebody white who was taking a chance on writing a play concerning blacks," he said. "I thought she and I could very much get along because she is a product of the 60s and so am I. I was anticipating a good rapport. Playwrights and directors get into this all the time. It's not unusual."

Bank indicted for money-laundering

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A bank holding company with branches in 72 countries was indicted Tuesday in what federal agents described as the first drug-related money-laundering case involving a global banking institution.

William Von Raab, head of the U.S. Customs Service, called it the "first corporate raid," adding "we have given new meaning to the term 'hostile takeover.'"

"For some international banks, their

seize factor is higher than their interest rates," Von Raab said. "That's what we're talking about here, just pure greed."

In a two-year undercover sting dubbed "Operation C Chase," from the C in C-note or a \$100 bill, Customs agents were able to infiltrate powerful Colombian money-laundering syndicates and help launder an estimated \$32 million in drug proceeds, federal authorities said.

The money was intended principally

for Colombian drug traffickers, including the Medellin Cartel, Customs said.

Indictments unsealed Tuesday named nine banking officials along with a Luxembourg-based bank holding company, BCCI Holdings, as well as two subsidiaries, Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A., which has operations in the United States and England, and Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Limited, organized in the Cayman Islands and operating in France, the Republic of Panama, Colombia, the Bahamas and the United States.

In addition to the indictments, the government filed civil complaints seeking the forfeiture of the individuals' property and funds as allegedly representing drug profits, and it also seeks the forfeiture of BCCI assets.

A federal restraining order was issued against the bank, preventing all but routine business without clearance from U.S. Marshals, Von Raab said.

Altogether, 85 defendants were named in indictments returned in Tampa, New York, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Houston. Additionally, five other warrants were issued in Miami, Los Angeles, London and Paris, with two in London.

At least 40 people have been arrested around the world, including some people in the United States, England and Argentina, officials said.

Cenelia Ocampo Perez was the only one of four suspects arrested in Houston that was named in a seven-count indictment, Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd Foster said.

She was charged with one count of drug conspiracy and one count of money laundering, he said.

Other people who were named in the Houston indictment were Bibion Osorio, charged with drug conspiracy, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and four counts of money laundering;

Rafael Forero, charged with drug conspiracy, possession and two counts of laundering; and Victor Alzate, charged with drug conspiracy and two counts of laundering.

"The indictment alleges a broad-ranging drug conspiracy and it charges these people with money laundering, or laundering of the drug proceeds, which was generated through the sale and distribution of cocaine," Foster said.

He said undercover agents posed as launderers, accepting suitcases full of money, and that the agents acted as middle men with Colombian suppliers.

Houston officials joined in the two-year investigation last February, Foster said, and handled an average of \$1 million a month in drug money.

"It is the first time an entire international financial institution and its important members have been indicted," said Von Raab, who appeared at a news conference here with high-ranking customs representatives from England and France.

Drug agents from England and France participated in busting the ring.

"Colombian traffickers are really looking to Europe to improve their markets," Von Raab said, saying cocaine prices are double there. "But they can't without help from financial institutions."

"That's why this case is important."

The holding company, prosecutors said, is the world's seventh-largest privately held financial institution. Most large banks have publicly traded stock.

The trade journal American Banker said Bank of Credit and Commerce International ranks as No. 326 among the world's biggest banks, as measured by deposits, and No. 378 as measured by assets.

The bank said in a news release that its officials and lawyers had not seen the allegations and couldn't respond.

Deaver addresses perjury conviction at A&M lecture

By Sherri Roberts

Reporter

Though presidential image making was the planned focus of his lecture, Michael Deaver instead addressed the volatile subject, which most recently established his name in headlines.

"My crime was not that I returned to my former profession, but that I was a prime target," President Reagan's former deputy White House chief of staff told an audience in Rudder Theater last night.

After resigning from that post in 1985, Deaver established the lobbyist and public relations firm, Michael K. Deaver and Associates. Because of his connections with influential politicians, Deaver was criticized for selling his influence.

During investigations, Deaver testified to having no recollection of contacting Washington officials on behalf of his clients. Contradictory testimonies led to Deaver's perjury conviction in December.

"I don't think there's anything wrong with taking skills learned from working in government to work in the private sector," Deaver said. "Access means you understand how the system works and having the ability to cut through bureaucracy and get to the heart of the client's matter."

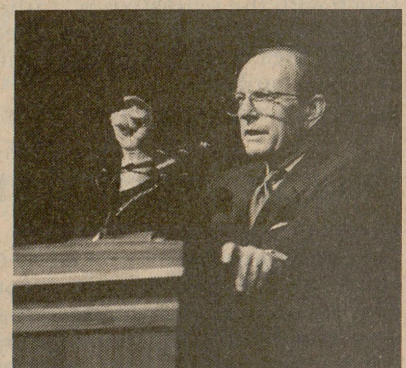
Deaver said it was not coincidental that the officials pressing for investigation were facing political pressure.

Deaver said the ethical standards of Congress were in need of an overhaul.

"If you're going to have ethical standards, let's not be hypocritical about it," he said. "If they had to go through the investigation I had, I don't know what would happen."

Deaver said congressmen were a minor form of royalty in Washington, citing their exemption from parking tickets as an example of their privileged status. Deaver said these exemptions were small-scale evidence of a larger-scale problem.

"Congress is not representative,"



Michael Deaver

he said. "The national legislature is not in touch with the problems of the average citizen."

Unlike the average citizen, Deaver said, members of the House of Representatives are allowed to make deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$10,000 in a personal bank without being reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

"We need a congress of professional teachers, professional entrepreneurs and professional computer scientists, not of professional politicians," he said.

As Reagan's deputy chief of staff, Deaver was referred to by many as his image-maker. Although he never saw this as being his role, Deaver said the candidate's image is important.

"The visual image people see is as important as the spoken word," he said. "We have the opportunity to see the whole person. We learn from their body language and gestures as much as we do from the spoken word."

Whatever his role, Deaver's 20-year friendship with the Reagan's was strained due to his conviction.

"It's changed," he said. "I'm a convicted felon, and he's the president of the United States. I wouldn't want to do anything that would hurt him politically, as much as that hurts."

Freshmen officials chosen in run-offs

By Kelly S. Brown

Staff Writer

Trenton Kelley was announced president of the class of '92 as candidates and supporters gathered around the Lawrence Sullivan Ross Statue Tuesday afternoon to hear results of the freshman run-off elections.

Shawn Roberts was elected vice president; Michael Pilgrim, secretary; C.R. Cook, treasurer and Rod Garrett, social secretary.

The five newly elected freshman officers, who are all members of the Corps of Cadets, will be joining Heather West in Student Government. West was elected historian after the preliminaries Oct. 5.

Perry Liston, a junior business major and election commissioner, said only half of the freshman who voted in the first election voted in the run-off.

"More emphasis should have been placed on the second election because it was the final vote for five offices," he said.

The run-offs drew 707 freshmen vot-

ers in the run-offs, while 1,491 had voted in the first election.

Kristin Hay, an election commissioner and student senator, said, "It's interesting to see who was ahead going into the run-offs and who actually won."

In the preliminary presidential race, Kim Nietenhoefer, a biomedical science major, had been ahead with 20 percent of the vote, while Kelley held 11 percent. In the run-offs Kelley won with 70 percent of the vote.

But theirs wasn't the only close race.

Not only was Lisa Mayer ahead in the preliminary race for social secretary with 44 percent of the vote, while Garrett had 26 percent of the vote, but in the run-offs the office was decided by two votes.

Garrett clinched the seat with 336 votes, while Lisa Mayer had 334 votes.

Hay said they made sure every ballot was counted and recounted because the vote was so close.

"We encourage students who did not win to seek chairman positions on class council this fall," Hay said.

Campaign materials must be down by Friday at 5 p.m.