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Stories by RUDY CORDOVA JR.
Photos by SÖNDRA N. ROBBINS

As Paula Abdul says, "Shut up and dance!" Bryan-College Station has the chance to experience the art of dance through the only non-profit dance company in the area, Danza. Danza was incorporated in 1988 as the Brazos Civic Dance Ensemble and since its initial season has brought a new idea to the community.

The company is committed to promoting the art of dance in the Brazos Valley through various forms of dance. Its repertoire includes modern dance, ballet, jazz and tap. Artistic director Tanya Picard brings to Danza the various styles she has worked with in the past.

"She (Tanya Picard) teaches students all forms of dance including jazz and tap," Kathy Paradise, treasurer of Danza, says.

"We have moved toward our goals faster than I thought possible. It takes a lot of work to get established," says Paradise, whose daytime job is theater manager for the

Texas A&M theater arts department.

As a community organization, Danza likes to stimulate interest in dance through performances and workshops. This summer they intend to hold workshops in area schools to encourage young people to pursue the arts.

Paradise wants to make the point clear that Danza is not a dance studio, but a dance company. She says that they encourage students to keep dancing at regular studios around town while they perform for Danza.

Danza presents two productions each year. They are sponsored by grants from the Arts Council of Brazos Valley, Texas Commission on the Arts, Star-Tel, and other public and private institutions. The Aggie Players are sponsoring their production of "Dracula" which opens tonight.

For more information on how to get involved or support Danza, call the Brazos Valley Arts Council at 268-ARTS.



Halloween is just around the corner and Danza is prepared to recreate one of the spookiest horror tales ever told. The Aggie Players continue their season with Danza's production of "Dracula" based on the gothic novel by Bram Stoker.

Danza promotes the art of dance through its commitment to the Brazos Valley. As the only non-profit dance company in Bryan-College Station, Danza presents two concerts a year using many forms of dance and music. These concerts strive to introduce multicultural audiences to various forms of dance.

Danza's production of "Dracula" begins in 1990. The anti-hero has become a creature of the '90s and has put together a traveling Vegas-style show with beautiful women and contemporary music instead of the traditional gothic graveyard. Count Dracula's memories take him back to Transylvania from long ago. The rest you have to see for yourself.

The cast of "Dracula" is filled with students from different majors at Texas A&M. Count Dracula is played by Robert Crumb, a biochemistry major. Other roles are filled by pre-med, kinesiology and psychology majors.

"Dracula" is directed by artistic director Tanya Picard, formerly of the Pasticcio Dance Ensemble in Minneapolis. Picard received her bachelor of arts degree from Grinnell College and masters from University of Minnesota. She has been with Danza for one year but has choreographed for "MAGINATION STATION" and St. Michael's Academy in Bryan.

"Dracula" will be presented in the Rudder Forum October 25 and 27 at 8:00 p.m. and October 26 at 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for general public and \$3 for students and senior citizens. For information and reservations call the MSC Box Office at 845-1234.

(Top) Mina Van Helsing (Stephanie Roberts) dances with Count Dracula (senior biochemistry major Robert Crumb) in Danza's production of "Dracula." (Left) Lucy (sophomore kinesiology major Kelli Buckley) tries to flee Dracula.

Ask Erika about updating your immunizations

By ERIKA GONZALEZ-LIMA

New 1990-91 students may be blocked from spring semester registration if they do not submit a complete immunization record to the A.P. Beutel Health Center. A complete record includes:

- Tetanus and diphtheria shots within the last ten years.
- Polio series (not required if 19 years or older).
- Measles (two doses, the most recent dose given after 1980), mumps and rubella. The MMR is recommended for anyone without a measles vaccine since 1980.

The Mantoux tuberculosis (TB) skin test is required for students from outside continental U.S., except Canadians.

Why does Texas A&M need a new immunization policy?

A&M was hit last spring with 12 cases of measles. What prevented A&M from suffering a greater toll of victims was an emergency mass-immunization campaign of more than 6,100 students in six weeks. In 1989, over 70 other universities, such as Texas Tech, were hit by measles outbreaks, some even suffered deaths.

Do other colleges have similar immunization policies?

Because of the alarming increase of measles among adults, the Texas Department of Health is now recommending re-vaccination for all stu-

dents entering institutions of higher education.

A 1986 survey of 601 colleges reported that 51% blocked first- and second-semester registration to non-compliers and 21% imposed sanctions, including fines, grade withholding, suspension, and letters to students and parents. Some colleges prohibited non-immunized students from using the health center and from living on-campus.

But aren't these diseases restricted to childhood?

Many college students think that "shots" or immunizations are just for kids. But these diseases have no age limits. The reduction of childhood cases has led to the misconception that vaccine-preventable diseases are not a problem for adults. The result is that now adolescents and adults are more at risk for contracting them.

For example, 91% of all tetanus cases and half of the rubella cases hit people over the age 20 and most of the deaths caused by measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus and diphtheria are among the adult cases.

Are there side effects to these immunizations?

Vaccines are among the most effective and safest medicines available. Their side effects are usually brief and mild, like low fever, sore arm, mild rash or malaise. However,

all health officials agree that the benefits of vaccination are far greater than any risks.

Are these diseases contagious?

With the exceptions of tetanus, these diseases are highly contagious. The high rate of contact among college students in classrooms, residence halls and university facilities increases the chances of transmission of unprotected students.

What are the dangers of not getting immunized?

Besides losing at least a week of classes, these preventable diseases may lead to complications in non-immunized adults that are more serious than in children.

Measles causes rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, watery eyes and sometimes ear infections. In rarely it may cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and death.

Mumps causes fever, headache and inflammation of the salivary glands. But it also may produce sterility in men, deafness, encephalitis and meningitis (inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal chord).

Rubella causes fever, rash and swelling of the glands of the neck. It may also produce miscarriage or stillbirth in pregnant women or malformations in the fetus, such as blindness, deafness and congenital heart lesions, kidney abnormalities and

brain defects.

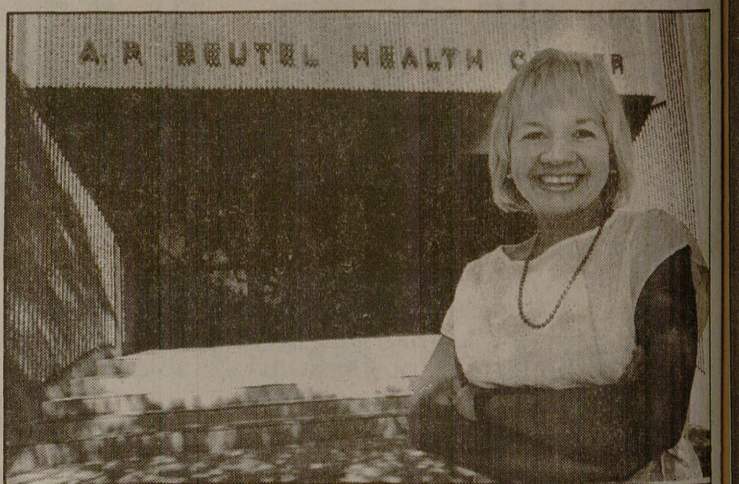
Only 50% of the non-immunized adults who contract tetanus or "lock-jaw" survive it, even with the best medical care. Early signs of this disease are stiffness in the face and neck, progressing to the jaw, back and abdomen.

Diphtheria in its early stages may be mistaken for a simple sore throat. Later a gray coating forms in the throat and across the larynx, which may cause death by suffocation. Death may also occur from health failure caused by the toxins or poisons produced in the bacteria.

Where can I obtain my immunizations and how much do they cost?

Health centers in Bryan-College Station offer different immunizations for different prices.

- A.P. Beutel Health Center (open Monday through Friday, to 4 p.m.) gives shots for tetanus (\$3), diphtheria (\$2), MMR (\$26) and TB tests (\$3).
- Care Plus (Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.) gives shots for tetanus (\$11), DPT (\$26), MMR (\$37), polio (\$19) and TB tests (\$9). They offer a 10 percent discount to students.
- Scott & White (by appointment) gives shots for tetanus (\$19.25), diphtheria (\$15), MMR (\$37), polio (\$28) and TB tests (\$15).



Erika Gonzalez-Lima

- Texas Department of Health (Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) gives shots for tetanus (\$5), diphtheria (\$5), MMR (\$5), polio (\$5) and TB tests (\$5). Their prices are offered only to student dependents.
- AM/PM Clinic (Monday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.) gives shots for tetanus (\$17), diphtheria (\$4), polio (\$24) and TB tests (\$11).

Do I need to keep a shot record?

Yes, every adult should keep his/her own immunization record. It can help you insure that you have the required protection and will prevent you from getting needless re-vaccination. Remember, your health is your responsibility.

Erika Gonzalez-Lima, Ph.D., is the Health Education Coordinator at the Texas A&M A.P. Beutel Health Center and a health columnist for Lifestyles.

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