

Wednesday • November 19, 1997

## Etiquette Days enlightens students on social graces

By MARIUM MOHIUDDIN  
Staff writer

The candles are lit; the music is playing. The fragrance of perfume and cologne fill the air. The aroma of the meal filters through people's senses. Everyone is seated, and the shrimp cocktail is brought out. Sitting at the end of the table, a person struggles with the question 'to use my fingers or not to use my fingers?'

Formal dinners, interviews and cocktail parties are social aspects of business. However, the concepts of etiquette are unfamiliar to many people. When looking for a job, knowledge is important to sustain a position, but etiquette is necessary to obtain a position.

This idea is what motivated MSC Hospitality to host Etiquette Days today and Thursday.

Jasmine Wilder, co-program chair of Etiquette Days and a senior marketing

major, said the idea was first introduced by A&M Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Sutherland, who felt many students did not know the proper etiquette of business.

"I am taking the BBQ class, so I have learned about etiquette, but when I told others what I have learned they were surprised by what constitutes etiquette," Wilder said. "This is the second year of the event and is supposed to help students with what to do and what not to do for interviews. This information is useful for all students, and we hope to supply the basics of an interview."

Wilder said when the idea first came up, the organization did not know where to begin.

"We have been doing things by trial and error," she said. "There is a demand, but we did not know what to include. We are trying to incorporate different ideas, and we hope to add more events."

PLEASE SEE ETIQUETTE ON PAGE 4.

## Victoria's Deadly Secret

Stage Center production of 'Arsenic and Old Lace' brings macabre humor and universal appeal to Bryan-College Station audiences

By TRAVIS IRBY  
Staff writer

Two ladies decide to do their part to help humanity by killing some lonely men. This is not a twisted feminist fantasy — it is Stage Center Community Theater's production "Arsenic and Old Lace."

The play is directed by Michael Gonzales and runs Nov. 20-22, and Nov. 28-29 at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee on Nov. 23 at 3 p.m.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" was written by Joseph Kesselring in 1941 and remains one of the most-performed plays in the country.

It also was adapted into a 1944 movie directed by Frank Capra and starring Cary Grant.

The play revolves around the "Kevorkian-esque" antics of a couple of elderly sisters named Martha and Abby Brewster, who live in Brooklyn, New York in 1940. The sisters poison elderly gentlemen to end their loneliness. The well-intentioned siblings believe they are doing the men a favor.

Add to the mix a nephew who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt, a sinister nephew named Jonathan and a nice nephew named Mortimer, and zaniness ensues.

Leah Fletcher, the play's assistant director and producer, said she was surprised at the humor of the play.

"I wasn't real familiar with the play, so I did a lot of research on it," Fletcher said. "I found out it is one of the more commonly performed plays, and it is so because of its humor."

The play's humor relies on the unintentional actions of the characters.

Jason Hamilton plays Teddy, the eccentric nephew who thinks he is a dead president.

"He is a very funny character, but not because he tries to be," Hamilton said. "He is very dry and serious about being Teddy Roosevelt."

Teddy walks around in a military uniform resembling the type the Rough Riders wore.

Sally McKnight, a local first-grade teacher and president of Stage Center's Board of Governors, plays Martha Brew-



DEREK DEMERE/THE BATTALION

"Arsenic and Old Lace" is a comedic play dealing with two elderly sisters who commit murder. The play was made into a 1944 film starring Cary Grant and directed by Frank Capra.

ster, one of the murderous sisters.

"This is one of my favorite plays," McKnight said. "I pushed for us to do it this season because I wanted to audition for it."

Cathy McWhorter, an employee of the Texas A&M Foundation and Stage Center member for 15 years, plays Abby Brewster, the other sister.

"The show is so funny," McWhorter said.

**"I think everyone would enjoy it. You can take a date or your parents. Plus, it's a nice change of pace from a movie."**

Tiffany Belcher  
Senior marketing major

"It transcends generations due to its humor," Hamilton said the performance will appeal to all ages.

"Everyone will enjoy it, young or old,"

Hamilton said. "It is funny, but not dumbed down."

Tiffani Belcher, a senior marketing major, plays Mrs. Witherspoon in "Arsenic and Old Lace."

This is her first experience with Stage Center, but not with acting.

"I've been in theater in high school and college," Belcher said. "This is my first time with Stage Center, but want to perform here again."

Belcher said "Arsenic and Old Lace" has a universal appeal.

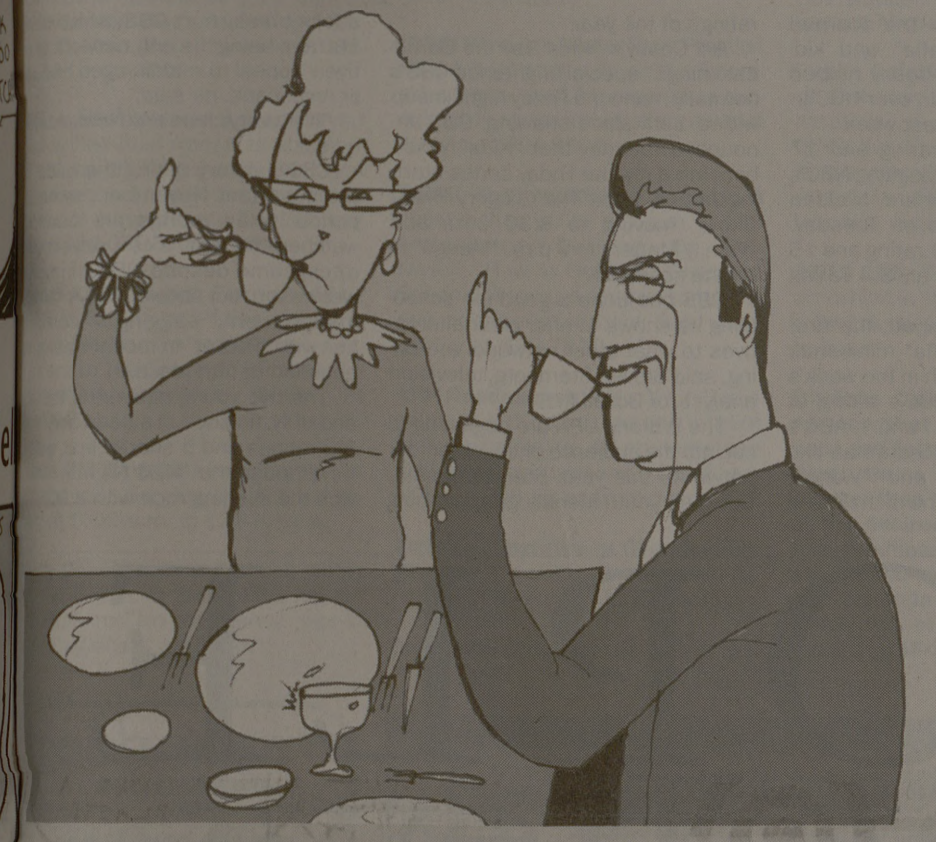
"I think everyone would enjoy it," Belcher said. "You can take a date or your parents. Plus, it's a nice change of pace from a movie."

Participation in Stage Center is strictly voluntary, so it is the thrill of the stage, not monetary compensation, that keeps the cast motivated.

Fletcher said the whole point of community theater is getting people involved. "You get your hands into a lot of things, you may do something different every play," Fletcher said.

Blair Reeves, who has performed for Stage Center in the past, is working off-stage for this play.

PLEASE SEE ARSENIC ON PAGE 4.



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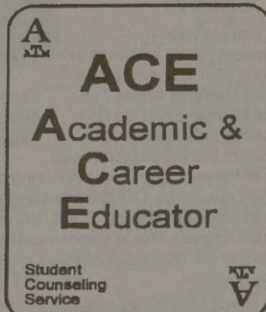
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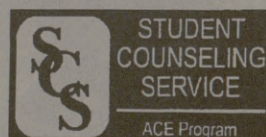
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