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 Opera & Performing Arts Society

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WHAT'S UP

Wednesday

ATM Womens Rugby: Come join! No experience needed. Practices are from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the pitch on the corner of Texas Avenue and University Drive. Call Nikki at 694-0084 for information.

Aggie Habitat for Humanity: A meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 229 MSC. Call Rosalyn at 268-1067 for details.

Aggies For Life: There will be a speaker from the Hope Crisis Pregnancy Center at 5:45 p.m. in Rudder 401.

Reformed University Fellowship: There will be a large group Bible study in MSC 292B from 8:30 to 9:45 p.m. For details call Jud at 695-0675.

TAMU Snow Ski Club: A meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder 410. Call Chuck at 694-2726 for details.

Catholic Students Association: "Hot Topics" discussion session from 6 to 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center Library, followed by Newman Mass at 7:15 and a Bible

MONTH

Continued from Page 1

the biracial democracy, which was briefly brought to power in Texas by black political activism in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

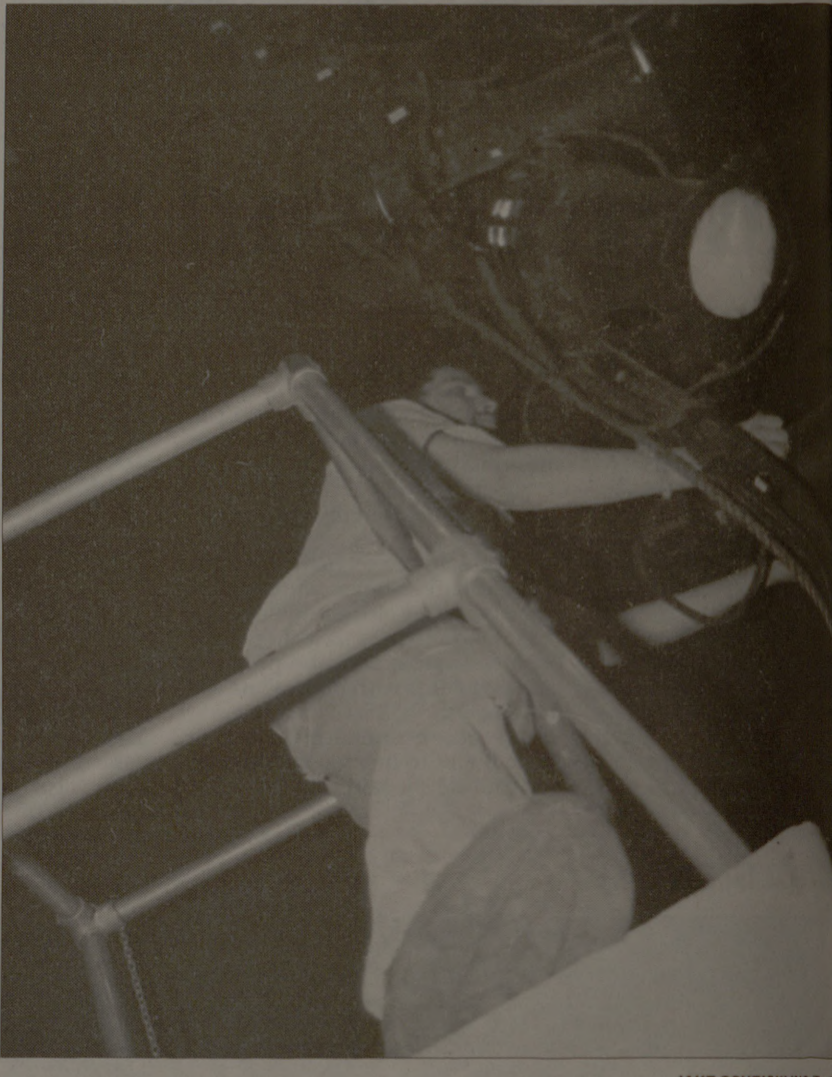
Gaines was removed from the Senate after a questionable conviction for bigamy. The Texas Supreme Court reversed the charges, but a special committee of the Senate ruled him ineligible for re-election because of his criminal past.

In a state widely discontent with the end of slavery, such events were a regular occurrence. The "carpetbagger" myth tarnished the reputations of the black lawmakers of the day.

Bivin Howell, director of marketing for the Black Awareness Committee and a senior business analysis major, said Gaines made an impact in education that crosses racial lines.

"Gaines' contributions are important to all people," Howell said. "He was an important

Lights, camera, action



Dave Fulton, an assistant electrician for *A Chorus Line*, adjusts the lights for Tuesday night's show.

Clinton pummels public education

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton Tuesday decried high school seniors' poor performance on an international math and science test as a larger failure by the generation of adults responsible for educating them. "There is no excuse for this," he said.

In a speech before the National Council of Jewish Women, Clinton said America's showing among the lowest of 21 nations on the Third International Mathematics and Science Study is "a leading indicator" of the real problems with public education, and Congress must act quickly to correct them.

"I am hoping and praying that we can put aside partisan politics when it comes to education," Clinton said. "It is so important to our future."

Clinton rejected arguments that some students did not perform well because they come from poor families or are troubled by social problems. He said the "sophisticated conversations" about water quality that he had with inner-city kids during a recent visit to a Baltimore marine life program proved that is not true.

"But it is true that too many people are not learning," Clinton said. "There is something wrong with the system, and it is our generation's responsibility to fix it. You cannot blame the schoolchildren. There is no excuse for this."

Education Secretary Richard Riley also decried the test results, which showed that even top high school seniors taking the toughest math and science courses performed far worse than similar students in most other countries.

Test your knowledge

American high-schoolers' math and science scores are well below those of their counterparts in Western countries. Some blame teaching methods. A few sample questions:

Mechanical

2. The figure shows a common plastic bottle filled with water (1L) with three holes in it, so that the water runs out of the holes. Explain what is wrong with the figure:

U.S. average: 41%
 International average: 70%

Heat

1. A jar of oxygen and a jar of hydrogen gas are at the same temperature. Which of the following has the same value for the molecules of both gases:
 a. The average velocity
 b. The average momentum
 c. The average force
 d. The average kinetic energy
 U.S. average: 49%
 International average: 41%

Math

3. Stu wants to wrap some ribbon around a box as shown below and have 25 centimeters left to tie a bow. How long a piece does he need?

a. 46 cm
 b. 52 cm
 c. 65 cm
 d. 71 cm
 e. 77 cm

U.S. average: 32%
 International average: 45%

Answers:
 1. d. 2. The pressure will increase with depth due to water above, so the water jets will have other paths. 3. e

Source: Third International Mathematics and Science Study, 1994-95

"This is unacceptable," Riley said.

Not only did typical American seniors do poorly, but those who took physics and advanced math courses such as calculus and analytical geometry also performed at or near the bottom when compared with students in other countries who took similar courses.

"Our best students in mathematics and science are simply not 'world class,'" said William H. Schmidt, a Michigan State University professor and national research coordinator for the federally supported project. "Even the very small percentage of students taking Advanced Placement courses are not among the world's best."

Riley and others blamed a dearth of qualified teachers and easy graduation requirements. About half of physics teachers lack a major or minor in that subject. Likewise, about half of college-bound seniors have not taken four years of science.

Baptist church excommunicated

DALLAS (AP) — The Baptist General Convention of Texas on Tuesday expelled an Austin church that actively supports practicing homosexuals and has a gay deacon.

The convention's 180-member executive board, assembled in a auditorium, supported a motion to disassociate itself from the United Baptist Church.

The motion asks the church to remove any claim of affiliation with the convention from its literature and Internet site. The convention will no longer accept money donated from the church for mission programs.

Tuesday's vote was sparked when top group officials learned last month that the University Baptist Web site mentions its affiliation with the convention.

"We cannot approve of churches endorsing homosexual practices as biblically legitimate," said Ft. Worth pastor Charles Davenport, head of the committee that drafted the motion.

The church has had a tenuous relationship with the convention since it ordained an openly gay deacon, Hans Venable, in 1994. The church also sponsors and invites homosexuals to participate in Open Circle ministry for gays and lesbians.

Executive board members insisted their vote was not a condemnation of the church's acceptance of homosexuals into its ministry and congregation.

"We commend the church for their ministry, and we feel that churches should minister (to homosexuals)," Davenport said. "But ministering to is different than an affirmation of, and we interpret (the church's activities) to be an affirmation of."

University Baptist Pastor Larry Bethune said he doesn't understand the distinction.

"I don't feel very commended as a church for our ministry to gays and lesbians today," Bethune said after the vote. "The convention has another way of showing it."

In his speech to the assembled board, Bethune said the convention made only perfunctory efforts to contact him and discuss the disapproval. He and others in the audience questioned the wisdom of expelling a church because it has unorthodox views.

"Asserting pressure on the autonomy of a local church by threatening disconnection is not Baptist," Bethune said.

The moderate-controlled Texas convention and more conservative Southern Baptist Convention have long butted heads over the latter convention's tendency toward expelling churches.

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