

Jekyll & Hyde: opposites attract

OPAS brings show to Rudder Auditorium for an encore performance Thursday night

By MATTHEW PARKER

The Battalion

The battles of man against himself and good against evil are waged in *Jekyll and Hyde*, now playing at Texas A&M. The story entails the power struggle between two polar opposites, Dr. Henry Jekyll and Mr. Edward Hyde, and what happens when both men live inside the same body.

"Hyde is the easier character to play. He's the extremist - he's just evil," said Guy LeMonnier, the actor who plays Jekyll and Hyde, in an interview with Pat Curry from Online Athens.

"I wanted to take a look at Jekyll and reveal his sympathetic side," LeMonnier said. "He really does have a mission; there really is a goal and a frustration to the things he wants to accomplish."

Jekyll and Hyde is a musical with a score by Houston natives Frank Wildhorn and Steve Cuden. The two-and-a-half hour show will be performed at A&M's Rudder Auditorium tonight.

Their musical adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Jekyll and Hyde* has made Wildhorn and Cuden's production highly sought after by theater producers, some comparing their work to Andrew Lloyd Weber.

The Grammy-nominated score includes the songs "Someone Like You" and "This Is The Moment." The songs have been recorded in three languages and covered by Tracy Lawrence, Liza Manelli, Whitney Houston and the Moody Blues.

Wildhorn also composed *Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Civil War: Our Story in Song* and *Dracula*.

Wildhorn's fans followed him from Houston's Alley

Theater to New York's Plymouth Theater.

Jekyll and Hyde is the longest-running show in the history of the Plymouth Theater.

"Many people who were there for the original show in Houston are pretty interested in seeing it again," said Jeremy Byrd, a senior psychology major and MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS) chairman. "They would like to see how the show's been revamped."

"It is not a show that we would recommend for little kids to go see," said Byrd. "It's kinda dark and has a few murder scenes."

LeMonnier had to go through a complete transformation for the dual-character role.

"I had to change my diet around to be in the best shape possible," he said in the interview with Curry. "It's like running a marathon."

Other big names who have played the lead role on Broadway are David Hasselhoff from "Baywatch," Sebastian Bach from the band Skid Row and Jack Wagner from "Melrose Place." All received critical acclaim.

The big names were not big enough to keep the musical financially afloat. On Jan. 7, with Hasselhoff as Jekyll/Hyde, the show ended its four-year run on Broadway.

"Obviously, we'd all love to see it continue its life on Broadway," Wildhorn said in a letter to his fans. "All things come to an end, and sometimes a door closes so another one can open."

Wildhorn's letter to fans can be read at www.frankwildhorn.com.



PHOTO COURTESY MSC OPAS

More than 120 million tickets have been sold, and the show has been performed 1,543 times since the musical's birth in 1980.

Next year, *Jekyll and Hyde* will play in Tokyo, Milan and London.

Jekyll and Hyde is the story of a high-minded Victorian doctor whose experiments unleash his alter ego.

Student tickets are still available.

WHAT CHICKS WANT

Prof teaches instinctual behavior in poultry science class

By LANCE LUNSFORD

The Battalion

Students enrolled in Poultry Science 333 probably knew exactly what they were getting into when they signed up for the class.

However, they could probably not explain why the class is in the poultry science department.

Dr. John Manning, the class's professor, rolls students through a crash course in human nature as a result of evolution. Manning said his class is not for the weak-minded.

"It's a class on human nature," he said. "We want to teach people how to understand others and themselves. It's about cultivating your

inner space."

Manning's interest in the subject is supplemented by Mark Stewart, a doctoral student at A&M. Stewart said the duo realized a need for the class after an evolutionary psychology class in fall 1996.

The next semester, Manning began teaching the class with Stewart as a guest lecturer.

"We started with 62 students the first semester and went up to 155 the next semester," he said. "Each time, it's been at capacity."

Today the enrollment is more than 350.

The class teaches the historical development of the sexual and reproductive relationships between man and woman. The theories dominating

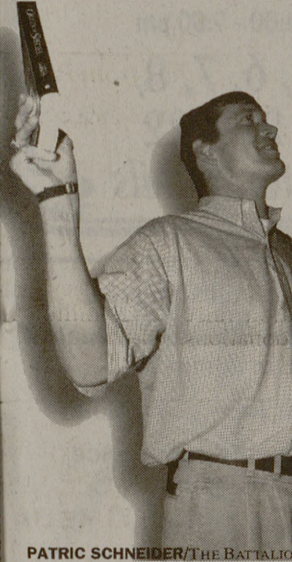
the class may be the reason the class is packed, making it impossible to enroll after junior registration.

One of those theories is innate instincts, the theory that decision-making skills are embedded in the subconscious, helping humans and animals survive and raise offspring.

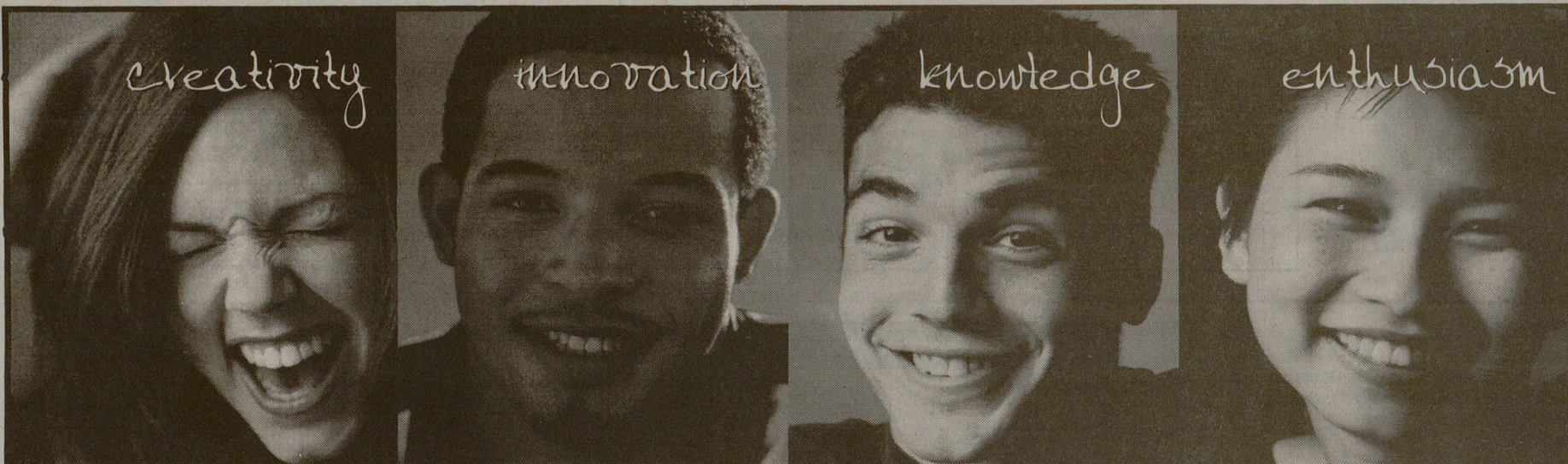
Waist-to-hip ratio is another theory studied in the class. This theory says the ratio of the measurement of the waist to the hip is something that people subconsciously consider when evaluating someone's attractiveness. This



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PATRIC SCHNEIDER/The Battalion



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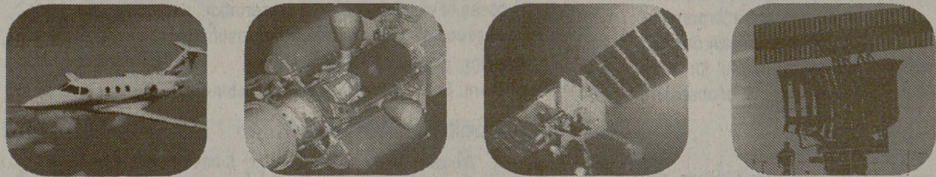
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Fri 1/26 Photo Scavenger Hunt
5pm @ Wolf Pen
Creek Amphitheater
Sat 1/27 BYX Play day 10am-3pm
@ Sam Rayburn Middle School
Mon 1/29 Open Meeting
7pm @ the Grove
Wed 1/31 Formal Meeting TBA

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