

Sights ---

And Sounds

By STEFAN OFFENBACH

This week looks to be great for the music fans; football fans may suffer. As balm for their wounds, to take their minds off the sadness of the sports page, try entertainment.

Continuing events: The Playhouse has Marc Blitzstein's translation of "The Threepenny Opera," a musical of the characters in the Berlin underworld. The Hamlet is continuing with "The Death of Bessie Smith" and "One Finger Exercises."

"Images from the Stone," an unusual lithography exhibit, is at the Contemporary Arts Museum.

Wednesday, October 24: the Alley will open its production of Jean Anouilh's "Becket." It won the Tony Award from the New York Drama Critics in 1960; it should be tremendous.

Thursday, October 25: the River Oaks starts "No Place Like Homicide," another British farce. "Oscar Wilde," starring Robert Morley, will open at the Rivoli.

Friday, October 26: the Contemporary Arts Museum will present Jean Renoir's "Rules of the Game," at 7:30 and 9:30 in the Prudential Auditorium. It is a love story, as are most French films these days, telling of adultery in the upper-class Parisians; it was banned in France for a time.

Saturday, October 27: Rice vs. Texas, (you-know-where and when.) The Houston Friends of Music will present the Vegh Quartet, Cullen Auditorium at 8:15. This string quartet is world-famous and is an extremely well-balanced ensemble.

Edna Sanders will present the National Ballet of Canada at the Music Hall at 8:15. Although not as finely honed as the British Royal Ballet, this troupe is athletic and exuberant and puts on a good show.

Monday and Tuesday: the Houston Symphony will have Sidney Harth starring in that epic production, Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D Major. To back him up, Barbirolli will have Weber's Overture to "Der Freischutz" and Nielsen's Symphony Number 5.