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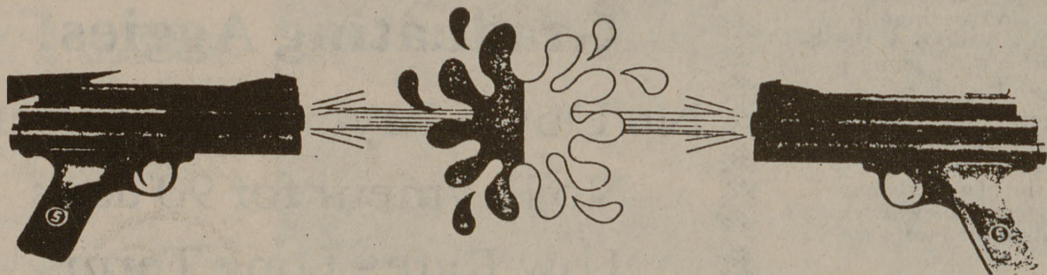
DAYS OF HEAVEN

Richard Gere, Sam Shepard and Brooke Adams star in this tragic story of a handsome drifter, the lover who poses as his sister, and a wealthy wheat farmer. Cinematographer Nestor Almendro won an Oscar for the exquisite images of a triangle unfolding in the Texas panhandle at the turn of the century. (1978)

The distinction of Days of Heaven lies partly in its careful separation of its sense of beauty from the human misery and tension depicted. The pervasive suggestion is that human existence could correspond to the natural and aesthetic beauty were it not for the oppressive systems of organization that men have developed.

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Aggie pistol team aims to kill Dangerfield image

By Homer Jacobs  
Reporter

The Texas A&M pistol team probably should have a picture of Rodney Dangerfield plastered to the swiveling targets that occupy the pistol range in the basement of the Military Sciences Building.

Team captain Peter Schaller feels these Aggies get no respect.

The pistol team, which placed fifth in standard pistol competition at the Intercollegiate Pistol Championships in Colorado Springs April 5-6, continues to be one of the best-kept secrets on the A&M campus.

A sectional tournament, which A&M hosted this year, is held annually to determine the qualifier for the national championships.

In the past six years, the Aggie pistol team has qualified for the prestigious event five times.

"A&M is consistently in the Top 10 nationally in pistol events," Head Coach Curtis Burns said.

Schaller said the team competes in about 10 dual matches a year along with such schools as Texas, Texas Tech, Sam Houston State, and Texas-Arlington.

The team is made up of 18 men and women who have the dedication and desire to become competent shooters, Burns said.

He also said when tryouts for the team take place at the beginning of the semester, he reserves spots on the team for women.

Jenny Salazar is a good example that pistol shooting at A&M is trying to shed its macho Miami Vice image for a more Angelic approach (as in Charlie).

Salazar was the only woman to compete in the championships sponsored by the National Rifle Association, and according to her coach, she has the potential to be an Olympic shooter someday.

Salazar said the sport is not too physically demanding, so other women should not be discouraged from trying out.

"Girls are supposedly better at shooting sports," she said.

Salazar is a junior with two more years of shooting eligibility remaining.

At this year's national competition, junior Terry Edelman placed seventh in the free pistol category for A&M's highest individual finish.

Coach Burns usually tries to divide his team into three parts: male and female civilians, and Corps of Cadets members. Three women are currently on the team.

Schaller said the team likes to select freshmen and sophomores so they have more time to develop their skills.



Photo by Greg Bell

Jenny Salazar, of the A&M pistol team, takes careful aim during shooting practice in the basement of the Military Sciences Building.

"It takes about a year to get up to a competitive level," he said. Burns said he rarely finds a shooter with competitive skills.

"I have to develop them," he said. The team only practices one or two nights a week, Schaller said.

Shooting competition consists of firing three different guns at two different distances. Free and standard pistol targets are 50 feet from the shooter, while air pistol competition is confined to 10 meters.

The pistols used by the team are not cheap, as a typical free pistol costs about \$600, Schaller said.

Because the team's budget is limited, most expenses are paid for by a team member's own pocket. Schaller said the team needs funds to buy guns and better targets.

Coach Burns said he hopes plans for a new pistol range approved by the University so the team can gain more respect from Aggie and other schools around the area.

Debate grows over Celts' status in history

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Celtics may be the best team in NBA history. Unfortunately for fans fond of rankings and disdainful of unsettled debates, there's probably no way to tell.

Changing conditions in different eras make it tough to say which of the best is better than the rest.

"They should be considered among the greatest NBA clubs," Portland Coach Jack Ramsay said Tuesday of the Celtics. "I think it's very difficult to determine what team is best. Different levels of competition enter into the picture."

Los Angeles Lakers General Manager Jerry West, "I really don't compare ex-players and prior teams. It has no validity at all."

Former NBA great Wilt Chamberlain said tougher competition when the league had fewer teams and numerous critical injuries this season strengthen arguments against claims that this year's Celtics are the best team ever.

"It's nice that people want to compare, but I think you can't compare," Chamberlain said.

Boston's 67-15 record this season was the fourth best in NBA history.

West played for the Lakers in 1971-72 when they were 69-13, the NBA's best mark. Ramsay was general manager of the Philadelphia 76ers in 1966-67, when they were 68-13, the second top record. Chamberlain played for both clubs.

"The league is totally different now than when we were playing," said Chamberlain, whose 14-year career ended in 1972-73. "You have 23 teams compared to 1966-67 when you had 10. The concentration (of talent) was a great deal stronger."

"When I was playing in the Eastern Division (in 1959-60) with Syracuse, New York, Boston and Philadelphia, which was a very strong division, we had to play each other 13 times a year," he added. "Who are the Celtics playing now? The Lakers once or twice?"

He said, however, he considered Boston "by far the best team in the country this year."

The Celtics' path also was smoothed out by a rash of injuries that struck many teams, particularly their Atlantic Division foes.

Philadelphia lost guard Arnie Toney for most of the season. Washington spent a good portion of the season without center Jeff Ruland. New Jersey went through the latter part of the season with center Darryl Dawkins on the sidelines, and New York was hampered by injuries to Bernard King, Bill Cartwright, Patrick Ewing, Cummings and others.

Ramsay said Boston's front line of Robert Parish, Larry Bird and Kevin McHale, with Bill Walton in reserve, is outstanding, but may not be the best in league history.

"That Philadelphia team (in 1967) was extremely strong (nationally)," he said. "Chamberlain, Jackson, Chet Walker, Billy Cunningham, a very formidable line, and I don't know that Boston front line can match that."

Individual skill, though, isn't everything.

"All great teams have more talent," West said. "I think that's the least factor sometimes. The Celtics are unselfish. They have direction and leadership in the direction (K.C. Jones)."

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