

## Orientation Leaders acquaint incoming fish with campus

By Kelly Sweeney

The sun casts a glare upon a map causing the onlooker to squint as she and her parents attempt to locate themselves. With a frustrated sigh, she shoves the map into their all-knowing father's hands, only to find that he too is suspended like a "fish out of water."

Sound familiar? The old map game is something that almost every new Aggie experiences, along with a feeling of being overwhelmed by all that accompanies enrolling at a large university. But thanks to the help of the Aggie Orientation Leader Program, the "fish out of water" are ushered in to the mainstream to comprise one of the largest schools of fish in the nation.

Although it works through the Department of Student Affairs, the Aggie Orientation Leader Program, which occurs during summer conference, is completely volunteer and student run, said Orientation Leader executive and senior Mike Belki.

But why do 200 plus students choose to tromp around in the summer heat without pay? Graduate student Wendy Wills, who has been an Orientation Leader, O.L., for the past four years said it has been one of the best experiences of her life.

"It's not only something to do in the summer, but it's a way to help students and parents in their transition to A&M," Wills said.

Chosen for their motivation and enthusiasm about helping the incoming students, O.L.'s are selected in the spring and required to attend several training sessions to prepare them for the activities and programs involved with summer registration and enrollment.

Aside from just assisting incoming freshmen, transfer and prospective students with the summer conference process, the Aggie Orientation Leader Program flows a little further to introduce new students to a positive touch of life at A&M.

"Our job is to make new students feel comfortable," said Belki.



(From left to right) Renne Baggett, from Arlington, and her sister Michelle Baggett socialize with executive committee members Mike Belki and Jonathan Clark Tuesday evening in front of the Academic Building.

"Some students come to summer conference unsure of whether they want to be an Ag when they leave."

In order to ensure each O.L. is fully aware of his or her position, the program is fueled by a motto that is unmatched by any other: "Our mission is to connect new students to Texas A&M by personally supporting, serving and using all available resources to help ease the transition for them and their families."

By using the motto as a close guide, the O.L.'s are better able to facilitate and comfort the students and parents during the hectic days of summer conference, while targeting areas of special need through a variety of programs.

One of the three special program areas offered focuses on a group referred to as provofish. These are students who are attending A&M for the summer in an effort to gain admittance based on their summer grades.

"One-third of the O.L.'s work with the provofish," said O.L. executive member and junior,

Jonathan Clark. "The O.L.'s are paired off and assigned a group of students whom they support and encourage throughout the summer."

Campus tours is another of the main areas of the program that works to acquaint new students and parents with the campus and try to ease some anxieties they may have about its size. In order to better accommodate any questions, the tour guides walk backward throughout the tour, relying on their group to notify them of upcoming "mobile" objects which often creep into the tour path. Bus tours are also provided in addition to the walking tours for those interested in the perimeter and west areas of the campus.

Summer invitationals is a final area of special interest. This branch works with the University Honors Program and gives O.L.'s a chance to interact with high school students who are undecided about their college plans. During the first evening of the

invitationals, the O.L.'s are involved in various activities including fajitas, a movie, a skit and recreation at Aerofit. The main purpose of summer invitationals is to not only give the prospective students a chance to ask any questions they may have about the university but to also relay upon them a positive impression of A&M.

In addition to the three special interest areas are other various activities which include peer advisor sessions, ice cream socials, Aggie energizers and mixers. These functions give new students a chance to talk to some O.L.'s, let loose and get involved in a little of the spirit of Aggieland.

But, the maroon and white does not only flow through the students but through the parents as well. While their future engineer or horse breeder is getting a look at Aggie life, parents can also attend several programs intended to lend some insight about the "other" education at A&M and allow them to ask any questions of concern.

## Crystal's City Slickers puts laughs on the lone prairie

By Julia Spencer

If Billy Crystal's hilarious new comedy *City Slickers*, a veritable guys' schmoozefest, is any indication of the nature of the burgeoning men's movement, we're in for a lot of baseball talk - and a rollicking good time. The movie is a comedy stampede, which hurtles along at top speed, slowing down only occasionally so the guys can discuss baseball, sex, morality, childhood memories and the meaning of life.

Crystal plays Mitch Robbins, a burned-out ad salesman at a New York radio station, whose 39th birthday has sent him into a tailspin. He has lost his smile and his lust for life, and in an amusing monologue on career day at his son's school, wonders why he has chosen such an uninspiring and unimpressive line of work.

When best friends Ed and Phil (Bruno Kirby and Daniel Stern) suggest at his birthday party that they go on an "adventure vacation" in the form of a two-week cattle drive from New Mexico to Colorado, it sounds like a good way to escape the rat race temporarily and get his priorities straight, while living out his cowboy fantasies. Although an action-packed prologue set in Pamplona has established Mitch's touch and go relationship with horn-wielding pot roast, anything sounds better than going to Florida to visit his wife's relatives.

So when his wife (Patricia Wettig) lets him off the hook, the three hit the trail, unaware of the scope of the adventure that lies ahead. Joining them at the ranch as fellow cowboys-in-training are brothers Barry and Ira, the Ben-and-Jerry-like ice cream kings, father and son dentists, and an

attractive young woman (Helen Slater). Curly, their knife-wielding trail boss (western veteran Jack Palance), is a leathery old curmudgeon who, as Mitch remarks, looks like a "saddlebag with eyes." Two uncharacteristically loutish cowboys are also along for the ride to supervise the greenhorns.

Much comedy is wrung out of the inexperience of the cityfolk and Mitch's fear of Curly, who, unlike the theater audience, doesn't take too kindly to his smart remarks. But after Mitch spends a day alone with him, rounding up some strays and helping birth an adorable calf he names Norman, they rejoin the group on much better terms. Unfortunately, the orphaned calf is a harbinger of things to come; a disastrous chain of events soon orphans the vacationers, and they are left to herd the cattle alone. This of course becomes a perfect opportunity for the three compadres to prove themselves and chase away the mid-life demons of failure and inadequacy that have been dogging them.

The second half of the movie suffers somewhat from predictability, and Norman threatens to steal the movie right out from under the star, but Crystal rises to the challenge, and manages to be just as adorable. The extremely witty script, written by Splash team Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, gives Crystal and his talented co-stars plenty of opportunities for cracking wise, and the terrific action and stunts (Crystal did his own) are exciting enough to keep your pulse racing. All in all, *City Slickers* has a very warm heart guaranteed to leave you with a big grin and a warm glow long after you leave the theater.

## KERRVILLE FOLK FESTIVAL

Camp getaway provides much more than music

By Rob Newberry

The Kerrville Folk Festival wraps up its 20th Anniversary year with a weekend full of the best "un-classified" music around. Sure, it's a folk fest, but Kerrville's three weeks of outdoor music includes lots more than folk - my one day there exposed me to some of the best country and modern rock around.

I visited the fest on its opening Saturday to catch two favorite acts who've played here in College Station before, Trout Fishing in America and Poi Dog Pondering. Trout Fishing's set was a collection of fan-faves, but they closed with a cover of Buddy Holly's "Not Fade Away" that made me crazy (Lubbock's pretty close to home). Poi Dog clumsily tripped through several songs off their upcoming record, but they managed to play "Thanksgiving," so I was satisfied.

The rest of the night was filled with more treats. Country duo Bill and Bonnie Hearne strolled through a set, and the Chenille Sisters gave audiences some side-splitting laughs during their hu-

morous set. Uncle Walt's Band reunited Walter Hyatt and Champ Hood for a trip through their country slash rock slash jazz oldies.

The folk fest takes place on a private ranch about ten miles south of Kerrville itself. In the heart of the Texas hill country, you can be sure that music wasn't the only thing there.

Rounding the last hill before I got to the ranch, I was stunned. Rows and rows of tents were lined up like crowded apartments in a big city. Inside the ranch, booths with everything from Guatemalan-made attire to regional art to body massages were lined up around the fences. All sorts of people in their grubby camp clothes meandered around the park. Even the performers themselves were hanging out; I bumped into a few of the guys from Poi Dog on my way in, and caught Ezra Idlet of Trout Fishing standing around outside the record booth.

But music is still the most important thing at the festival, and even though the outdoor concerts only last for six hours each day,



Ezra Idlet of Trout Fishing in America mingles with fans outside the record booth at the 20th Anniversary of the Kerrville Folk Festival.

there's lots more music to be found. In fact, the best part of Kerrville isn't really the shows at all, but the campfires.

Each night, campers and performers head back their campsites, light a big fire, and sit around strumming all sorts of music until almost sunrise. We stopped at several of the gatherings while we were there: we caught some of the members of Poi Dog playing some cover songs with their fans and another guy playing a washtub bass, and we found the members of the Hearnes' band plucking through some gospel tunes.

We tried out several of the camp-

fires; lots of them were just groups of friends playing old Grateful Dead songs. But we finally found a group of performers that captivated us for over an hour. We stumbled onto them as folk traveler Chris Chandler was ripping through his song "Republican Woodstock", a take-off on the old Crosby, Stills and Nash song that pokes fun at the Persian Gulf War - lyrics like, "I know that Vietnam vets have flashbacks of the enemy running at them through the jungle. Will Gulf War vets have flashbacks of Iraqi troops coming out and surrendering?" (Actually, we had run into Chandler earlier that day - he was selling beer in a booth as a

volunteer helper for the fest).

Also around the campfire were the members of Trout Fishing, and three or four other solo acoustic guitarists. They would all jam through somebody's song, passing the lead to whoever wanted it. Some of the songs were sad, deep, profound; others had me rolling in laughter. I'm still trying to find out the name of that girl who played "Middle-Age Rock'n'Rollers Are So Damn Cute."

Kerrville is so groovy, so cool, so hip, I could hardly stand it. People of all ages, tons of hippies young and old, all semi-roughing it for a few days just to enjoy some

great tunes.

If you can make it this weekend, you're in for a treat. Butch Hancock (another Lubbockite) and Peter Rowan are on the bill for Friday, and Jimmie Dale Gilmore plays on Saturday. Sunday night promises an all-star memorial show to wrap the whole thing up.

But if you do go, go prepared. My only complaint was that I wasn't ready to have that much fun - I got there late; I forgot some camping gear. I didn't bring enough beer. Make sure you take care of all the little things. But leave it to the folk fest to take care of the tunes.