

The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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Spike Lee to visit Aggieland

By ANAS BEN-MUSA

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Film director Spike Lee has verbally agreed to be the guest of honor at Texas A&M's first Texas Film Festival next spring. The festival is sponsored by the Memorial Student Center's Aggie Cinema.

"We will feature over 20 programs in the festival," said Paul Alvaradi-Dykstra, chair of Aggie Cinema. "It will consist mainly of screenings of new films that have not been released by American independent and minority filmmakers."

The main program of the festival, which runs Feb. 25-28, will feature a retrospective of Lee's films.

"It's a real coup for us to get Spike Lee right now because he has gotten such notoriety over his film about Malcolm X," said Penny Ditton, adviser to Aggie Cinema.

Alvaradi-Dykstra said this is the first time a major film festival has been organized predominantly by students.

On opening night, organizers plan to have Lee show and lecture on his latest film "X" — Lee's epic film about the life and times of the controversial Muslim leader, Malcolm X.

"The reason we approached Spike Lee to be guest of honor at the festival is that he led the way for both independent and minority filmmakers in America," Alvaradi-Dykstra said. "He has broken a lot of barriers with the films

he has made.

"Now with Malcolm X, it represents a very significant breakthrough and very important achievement for a black independent filmmaker to make an epic Hollywood production."

Lee's lecture and involvement in the festival is modeled after the Virginia Film Festival, which is held at the University of Virginia, Alvaradi-Dykstra.

"One of the best things about the Virginia Film Festival is that you have a chance to interact with the film directors, personally," Alvaradi-Dykstra said.

Aggie Cinema is hoping that the directors of the films submitted to the Texas Film Festival will come and speak about their cre-

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Lee

U.S. troops take capital in Somalia

Navy frogmen lead advance party

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOGADISHU, Somalia — American troops began arriving in Somalia's capital before dawn Wednesday, swiftly moving to seize the airport in an armed mission of mercy to feed starving millions.

Under a nearly full moon, the first group of six to eight Navy frogmen came out of the sea on the beach outside the broken, shattered city ruled by the gun and reeking of decomposed bodies.

"Get your hands up!" one of the men shouted at an AP reporter. Then the group slipped off into the sand dunes. A second group come ashore, changed into camouflage battle fatigues and headed across the dunes toward the long single airstrip.

Later, three rubber boats came ashore, and about two dozen troops poured off and walked up through the dunes into the glare of television lights.

Between 50 and 75 reporters and photographers hurled questions at the troops, their faces smeared with black and green camouflage cream, as they walked toward the tarmac and tried to ignore the following mob.

Not a shot was fired. Although they had expected no major confrontations with Mogadishu's thousands of armed young militiamen, the 1,800 Marines involved in the operation were taking no chances in a full-scale land and sea operation.

Their orders were to defend themselves in this chaotic land, and commanders made it clear they would shoot first if threatened and ask questions later.

The Marines didn't know whether they ultimately would be fighting or feeding Somalis. And they didn't know how long they would stay, a concern shared by President-elect Clinton.

Eleven U.S. ships cruised offshore in the Indian Ocean; three amphibious ships carrying the Marines, the aircraft carrier USS Ranger, a cruiser, two tankers, and four floating warehouses.

After night fell, the lights of two ships twinkled on the horizon above a halo of light from foreign television crews filming at the airport, said Grant, the CARE spokesman.

"This whole thing is grand theater," he said, noting that the rest of the city was blacked out.

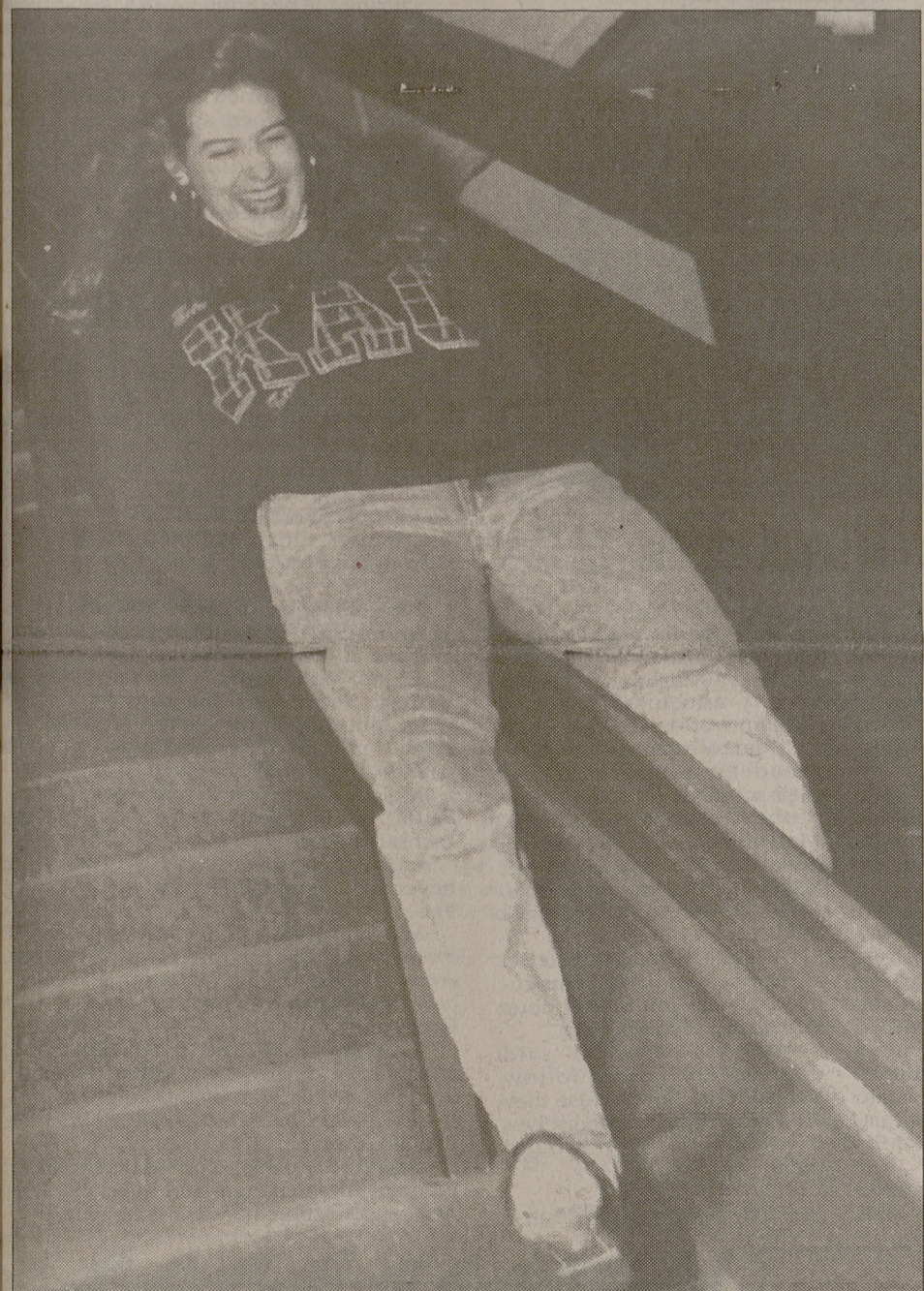
The commander of the Marine strike force said he had no instructions to disarm the Somali factions unless they posed a danger. Col. Greg Newbold described his mission as having "a human face on it."

"Somebody dialed 911 and we came," Newbold said aboard the USS Tripoli.

His troops are the advance party for an eventual deployment of 28,000 U.S. troops, who will be joined by soldiers from France, Turkey and Canada, among other nations.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Pete Williams said the U.S. forces would drop leaflets and broadcast messages in the capital to explain their mission.

TO THE BATMOBILE!



Kim Ayers, a senior elementary education major from Navasota, fakes a break from studying for a logic exam to slide down the banister in the Rudder Theater Complex.

Muffin man closes stand in Blocker

By TANYA SASSER

Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

If you walk into the Blocker Building one morning looking to buy a cup of coffee and a pastry, you're going to be out of luck.

Despite the efforts of Texas A&M University students, faculty and staff, Rick Carabetta, proprietor of a concession stand in the Blocker Building, will no longer be selling fresh coffee, donuts and muffins because he said he is "tired of fighting the administration."

Although the University is not forcing him to close up shop, they are making it virtually impossible for him to continue, Carabetta said.

In order to continue selling his products throughout an entire semester, he would have to be sponsored by four student groups whose members would have to take turns working at the concession stand, he said. Currently, only the Business Student Council sponsors him.

"I would have to find volunteers to work at the table, and they would have to get health cards," he said. "Basically, it would be a complicated zoo."

In a letter to The Battalion, Carabetta said he thinks Coca-Cola has a monopoly on this campus.

"The local Coca-Cola dealer wrote a letter of complaint to the University because they have an exclusive concessions contract on this campus," the letter stated. "I was a fly in the ointment."

Robert Smith, vice president for finance and administration, said he is not aware of a letter from the local Coca-Cola dealer to the University.

"We're in the process right now of trying to determine what the facts are," he said. "We are studying the allegations made in the individual's (Carabetta's) letter to Dr. Mobley. We are trying to determine what the issues are, and it is premature to do so."

Dennis Busch, administrator of concessions policy, said Carabetta went before the concessions committee over a year ago and asked to be exempted from the existing policy which states that a concession must be sponsored by a University-affiliated group and cannot operate for more than five days in a 30-day period.

"We were able to grant him exemption from the policy," he said. "This was based on his willingness to abide by guidelines and on positive feedback from faculty and students."

The concessions committee began questioning their previous decision when they received complaints from the local Coca-Cola dealer, Busch said.

"The committee began looking into it, and we

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In Advance

Northside to host yell practice

By CHERYL HELLER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

A "beat the hell outta finals" northside yell practice will be held between Haas and McFadden Halls tonight at 10:30.

The first yell practice to encourage students to do well on final exams was held last spring when a Haas resident came up with the idea and organized the practice, said Haas Hall Resident Director Melissa Moore.

"I think a yell practice for finals is a good idea," Moore said. "It's a good way to relieve stress."

Bart Mitchell, social chair for Walton Hall, said he thinks the yell practice is a good idea because it gets students pumped up for final exams.

"It's good bull," he said. "It gives students a study break and gets them outside for a little while."

This year's yell practice will be led by yell leaders Ronnie McDonald, Steve Scanlon and Mark Rollins.

Rollins said he is very excited about the practice.

"I hope it'll encourage everyone to beat the hell outta finals, and it's a good way to wrap up a great year," he said.

Finals Schedule

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

Reading day, no classes

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

classes meeting MW 5:45 p.m. - 7 p.m. or later; final exam is 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
classes meeting MWF 8 a.m.; final is 10 a.m. - noon
classes meeting TR 9:35 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.; final is 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
classes meeting TR 11:10 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.; final is 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 14

classes meeting MWF 9:10 a.m. - 10 a.m.; final is 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
classes meeting MWF 12:40 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.; final is 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
classes meeting TR 8 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.; final is 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
classes meeting MW 4:10 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.; final is 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 15

classes meeting MWF 10:20 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.; final is 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
classes meeting 3 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.; final is 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
classes meeting TR 3:55 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.; final is 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
classes meeting MWF 1:50 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.; final is 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

classes meeting TR 12:45 p.m. - 2 p.m.; final is 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
classes meeting MWF 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.; final is 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
classes meeting TR 2:20 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.; final is 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
classes meeting TR 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. or later; final is 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Committee fights for recognition

Legislative Study Group represents A&M interests as student lobbyists

By JULI PHILLIPS

Reporter of THE BATTALION

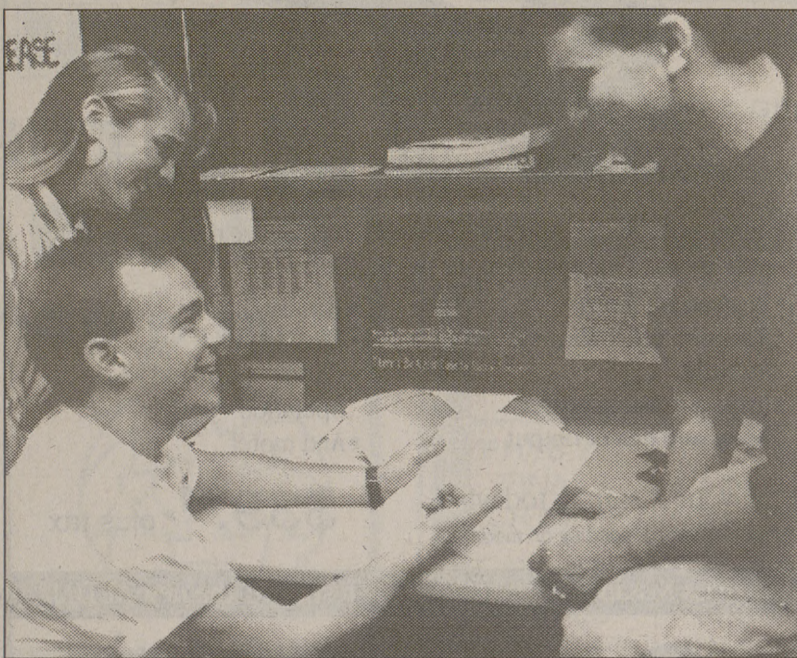
Behind the seemingly endless maze of cubicles in the Student Government office, a small, unsung group of students is doing powerful things.

The Legislative Study Group, part of the executive branch of the Student Government, is the student lobbying group of Texas A&M University.

Todd Sluder, the chairman of the committee, says a lot of people do not realize what LSG is or what it is doing.

"When I tell people I am part of LSG, people say, 'What's that?'" Sluder said. "No one really realizes what we deal with."

"According to Student Government archives, the Legislative Study Group has had a long history of lobbying for the University."



Heather Cameron, Todd Sluder (center) and Russell Langley

JULI PHILLIPS/The Battalion