

Volunteers help transfer students adjust to changes

By MELISSA HOLUBEC

The Battalion

Walking through a tour of the Texas A&M campus at orientation can be a moving experience. Excitement, anxiety, and a sense of accomplishment blend, creating an emotion which may bring back memories of the first day of kindergarten. The transition will create changes for both students and parents, exactly as the one so many years before did.

"Things will never be the same again," said director of student affairs Ron Sasse, addressing parents attending orientation sessions in Rudder Theater on Monday. "Both students and parents change."

Still, some students are comforted from the beginning by the attitudes of other students here at A&M who help make the whole ordeal a little less overwhelming.

Student orientation leaders volunteer their time to provide campus tours and informational seminars for incoming freshmen and transfer students.

"Everyone makes it much easier," said Nicole Hand, a sophomore transfer student from Houston, as she waited to tour the A&M campus on Monday. "They're nice and friendly, and I am excited."

Orientation leaders put on a series of skits at new student conferences on Monday, pretending to phone home and tell their parents about college life.

In the first call, the student tells his mother about his roommate, who has three nose-rings and a pet snake, and the professor who illustrated the principle of gravity by hitting him with an eraser.

The second call occurs just after mid-term when the parents have received their son's grades and he insists that his professors gave C's to all their students. In addition, his parents inform him of their plans to visit him that weekend.

The third and final call home takes place the week of finals. The student is stressed over the three exams he took that day and is eager to return home.

Even when parents have some idea of what to expect, letting their children go can at times be difficult and emotional.

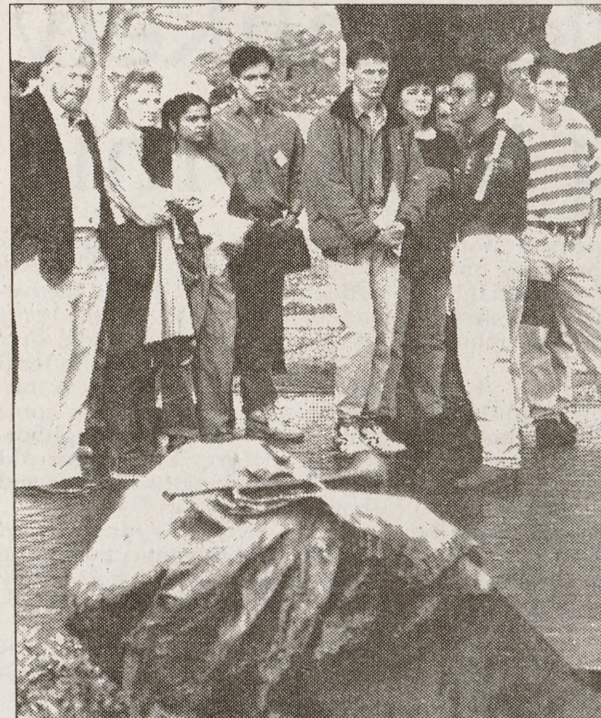
"It's the pits," said Hand's mother, Diane, with a tear beginning to form in the corner of her eye. She smiled and hugged her daughter. "It's a growing experience in a whole new world," she said.

The Department of Student Affairs distributes pamphlets to parents which offer advice on adjusting and describe some of the changes that many students encounter.

The Texas A&M University Parent Handbook 1992 describes "The Ten Phases in Preparing for and Adjusting to College." In the first phase, students look to the future with mixed feelings described as "Early Summer Anticipation." "Midsummer Anxiety" sets in when "individuals realize they will soon leave home, family, friends and those feelings of security." Phase three is marked by the student's entry into the college experience with a new roommate, red tape, classes, and a new social world.

Phase Four is called "The Honeymoon." This is when students meet lots of new people and don't have any tests for three weeks. The next phase, "The End of the Honeymoon," is marked by too-much-to-do-in-not-enough-time, homesickness, and generally feeling overwhelmed. Phase Six describes the "I think I could do better somewhere else" mentality.

Phase Seven occurs when students go home and realize life goes on there without them. Well into the first semester, students enter the "Primitive Coping Behavior" phase when they have learned to use the library and hold a reasonably intelligent conversation. "Realization," the ninth phase, hits around fi-



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

J. P. Patel (facing left), a junior microbiology major from Houston, explains the tradition of Silver Taps at the monument by the Academic Building to a group of transfer students Monday morning.

nals when students realize that future success depends on academic success. Finally, sometime dur-

ing the second semester students are able to put it all together and see college as a total experience.

"Parenting a College Freshman: From A Student's Perspective" advises parents to write letters even when students don't write back, to visit but not necessarily surprise students at school, not to worry excessively about panic phone calls or letters and to ask questions — but not too many. The section encourages parents to trust their son or daughter and encourages students to solve their own problems.

Pamphlets distributed at orientation and throughout the semester address topics such as academic success, roommate relations, dealing with campus diversity, changing family relationships and expectations, and self-esteem.

Volunteers help the orientation process by offering information and help on a personal level as well as through the tours and seminars.

Susan Emmons, a junior political science major, said the help and support orientation leaders offered her when she was a freshman encouraged her to volunteer.

"They answered every question I could think of," she said. "They gave all of us the numbers of at least two of the orientation leaders. It helped because I knew there was someone here to call if I needed help."

Sasse said that the Department of Student Affairs has learned more about the student's side of adjusting by talking to students and through letters they have written. Many students feel that the transition is a normal and necessary aspect of college life despite its difficulty, he said.

"It's a transition from outer control to inner control," Sasse explained to the auditorium of parents. "Students and parents have to find a way to celebrate it."

'Alive' explores extremes of adversity

By JENNY MAGEE

The Battalion

"Alive" Starring Ethan Hawke and Vincent Spano Directed by Frank Marshall Rated R Playing at Post Oak 3

After viewing the previews for "Alive", the story of a group of airline passengers who fight for survival after their plane crashes, I walked into the theater expecting a scenario somewhat like this... Welcome aboard flight 117, destination survival. And for your dining pleasure tonight we will be serving fillet of the first class passengers who sat on the left side of the plane. Luckily, "Alive" does focus on more than just hunger pangs.

All right, call me crude, call me tasteless, but try to imagine a situation so desperate that the only way to survive is to eat the flesh of a dead human being. After the queasy churning feeling in your stomach subsides, evaluate the reaction. To my surprise, this was "Alive's" lifeline for me.

The fact that the movie made me to think seriously about cannibalism was an accomplishment; primarily because this was not exactly a matter that I wanted to think seriously about. I enjoyed the fact that this movie made me consider what I would have done.

"Alive" is not just another sugar-coated story of catastrophe cast out into a sea of overdramatization; it is a true story about a real plane crash that occurred in 1972. It is the story of real people. It is the story of impossible survival. But most of all, it is the story of real heroism. I consider it a movie worth seeing.

A rugby team from Uruguay has chartered a plane to land their strong youthful bodies safely in Chile. But due to a thick fog, the



ANAS BEN-MUSA/The Battalion

plane crashes into the side of a mountain, ravaging the rear of the airplane and tossing the passengers out into the merciless winter of the Andes. Under the pressure of extreme cold, horrible injuries, fading hopes of rescue, and starvation, the passengers must bind together to put mind over matter in the truest sense of the phrase.

Ethan Hawke plays one of the stranded passengers, and his performance struck my attention. He was able to capture the role of a hero without donning a red cape and leaping over buildings in a single bound. He simply applied a subtle streak of courageousness that was appropriate for the job.

One of the main things this movie taught me is that in desperate situations people are forced to do things in the name of survival that are unthinkable under normal circumstances.

I was also impressed with "Alive" because it dealt with the idea of cannibalism on an ethical and religious level. Nestled in the wreckage of the plane, the passengers try to justify

their only choice for survival, debating theories such as, "If the soul leaves the body at death, isn't the body just a carcass of the already departed human being?"

I got the impression from the previews of "Alive" that the movie was geared for this big dominating footage of eating human flesh. Granted, I would have liked to have been spared viewing the process, but to my approval the matter was handled tastefully.

Accidents such as this one are always filed under the "this could never happen to me" folder of the brain. But when they do I think it is miraculous to see how people fight to sustain life. For me, "Alive" was not a movie about eating dead people, which was my initial fear; it was a movie about going to the ultimate extremes to live.

There is one question that remains unmistakably alive upon my reflection of this movie. Why does it take half the movie for these freezing people to start a fire?

Van Damme's acting goes nowhere in new film with toned-down action

By ANAS BEN-MUSA

The Battalion

"Nowhere to Run" Starring Jean-Claude Van Damme, Rosanna Arquette, Kieran Culkin, Ted Levine Directed by Robert Harmon Rated R Playing at Cinema III

Once again, Jean-Claude "Muscles from Brussels" Van Damme flies across the screen showing off more than his pectorals in his latest venture, "Nowhere to Run."

Unfortunately, I also had nowhere to run from this mediocre film. Van Damme tried to tone down the violence in "Nowhere to Run" and display more of his acting abilities.

However, I think no one told Van Damme exactly what acting is.

The talent he displays most is his derriere. He hardly says anything throughout the film. When he does say anything it is usually a cheap copy of Eastwood- or Schwarzenegger-style one-liners. He hardly shows any emotion even during the few scenes in which he is fighting.

Van Damme has yet to create his own sense of acting style or technique. He keeps resorting to a

poor imitation of Schwarzenegger.

It is a tragedy to see Van Damme try his best to act and fall several steps short, but with the help of supporting actors "Nowhere to Run" did not fall into the dumbest film hall of fame.

Rosanna Arquette plays Clyde, the widow protecting her house and land from real estate developers trying to forcefully persuade her to sell.

Arquette creates a realistic character who is desperately trying to keep her family together.

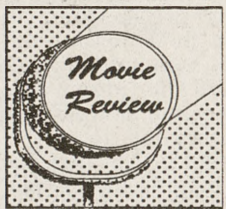
Clydie's son Mookie, played by Kieran Culkin, is a fun-loving boy who yearns for a father figure. Enter Van Damme as Sam Gillen, an escaped convict who is wrongly accused of murder during a bank heist.

After escaping from prison, Sam wanders in on the family and appropriately assumes the position of protector/watchdog.

The rest of the story goes on in the same unoriginal fashion as other countless action flicks — man meets woman, man protects woman, woman is grateful, man sleeps with woman, man stops or kills bad guys, end of story.

If you're interested in another action-packed movie from Wham-Bam Van Damme, then skip "Nowhere to Run." There are very few fighting scenes.

However, it's worth a peek during a matinee run for those who like to see cute children in humorous scenes. When it came to the acting, the children did a better job than Van Damme.



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Sore Throat/Strep Throat

Individuals at least 13 years old needed to participate in a sore throat (strep throat, tonsillitis) research study involving an investigational oral antibiotic in capsule form. \$100 incentive paid to those chosen to participate upon completion of the study.

URINARY TRACT INFECTION

Do you experience painful, burning, stinging, frequent or difficult urination? Females age 18 and older with uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infections needed for an investigational research study using medications in powder and tablet form. Six weeks, 5 visits. \$100 for those who complete the study.

CHILDREN'S SKIN INFECTION STUDY

Children, age six months to 12 years, wanted to participate in a research study for bacterial skin infections such as: infected wounds, bug bites, earlobes, burns, boils, hair follicles, ingrown toenails, impetigo and others. Investigational oral antibiotic in liquid form. \$150 incentive for those chosen who complete the study.

Asthma Study

Individuals, age 12-65, with mild to moderate asthma to participate in a clinical research study for 6 weeks with an investigational medication in inhaler form. Individuals must be using inhaled steroids and bronchodilators daily to qualify. Up to \$300 paid to those participating in the study.

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