

Poet offers hope for future at inauguration

By TANYA WILLIAMS

The Battalion

President Bill Clinton took a back seat for a moment at his inauguration yesterday to let world-renowned poet Maya Angelou recite a poem that spoke of hope and development for the "new day" being ushered in by the Clinton administration.

Angelou began with the words, "A rock, a river, a tree," and used these simple and ancient elements of the earth to reflect the growing possibilities of the growing country.

She said the rock offers a back for America to stand on, but not behind.

"Come, you may stand on my back and face your distant destiny, seek no haven in my shadow," Angelou said. "I will give you no hiding place down here."

"You — created only a little lower than angels — have crouched too long in the bruising dark, have lain too long face down in ignorance, your mouths spilling words armed for slaughter," she said. "The rock cries out to us



Angelou

today, 'You may stand on me, but do not hide your face.'"

The untitled poem reflects Angelou's request for America to face its past, both good and bad, and to look toward its future and correct the ills it has done.

Angelou pleaded with the nation to curb its

"You may have the grace to look up and out and into your sister's eyes, and into your brother's face, your country, and say simply, very simply, with hope, 'Good morning.'"

— Maya Angelou

"slaughtering words" and move toward a brighter future.

Next she spoke of a "singing river" that pleads for the world to stop its nuclear arms struggle that has "left currents of debris upon (its) breast," and instead calls the world to its riverside, if the world will "study war no more."

In order to reach a state of peace, the river calls on all people regardless of culture, ethnicity, sexual preference, religion and profession to work together and plant themselves beside

the river of hope.

"Come clad in peace, and I will sing the songs the creator gave to me when I and the tree and the rock were one," Angelou said.

Finally, Angelou called for listeners to stand along that river and lift their heads to a new day.

"I the rock, I the river, I the tree, I am yours," she said. "Your passages have been paved, lift up your faces."

After facing the history filled with "wrenching pain," Angelou asks for all to lift up their eyes to the breaking of the new day and "give birth again to the dream."

Angelou ended with an idea that may sum up the entire Clinton campaign and administration.

"You may have the grace to look up and out and into your sister's eyes, and into your brother's face, your country, and say simply, very simply, with hope, 'Good morning.'"

The poem shone a very bright and hopeful light on the new administration taking office and gave Americans something else for which to strive.

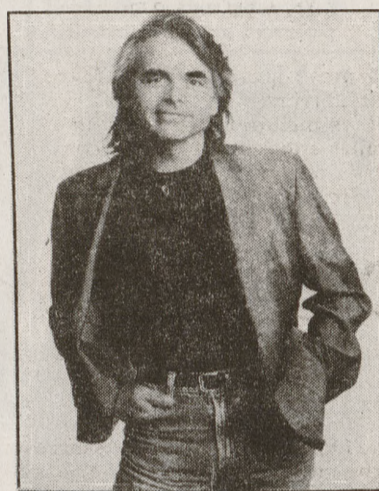
Angelou, hailed as one of the world's best known poets and writers, visited A&M last year. She was requested by President Clinton to speak at the inauguration ceremonies and recited her poem immediately after Clinton's fifteen-minute speech.

Hal Ketchum's new album sure to be a solid favorite

By LESA ANN KING

The Battalion

Hal Ketchum
"Sure Love"
Curb Records



If you are planning to attend the Alan Jackson concert at G. Rollie White Coliseum this Sunday, be sure not to overlook the talented opening act of Hal Ketchum and his band The Alibis.

Ketchum entered the country music scene in April of 1991 with his now gold-certified album "Past the Point of Rescue." This debut album contained four top ten singles including "Small Town Saturday Night," "I Know Where Love Lives," "Five O'Clock World" and the title cut.

Ketchum's latest album release "Sure Love" is sure to secure his place among the lasting newcomers in country music. The title cut has already made it into the top ten on the charts and the video is receiving a great deal of airplay on The Nashville Network and Country Music Television.

"Sure Love" is clear, consistent and easy to listen to. Ketchum's album does not contain any hillbilly rock or flashy songs, as do many follow-ups to successful debut albums.

Ketchum instead places emphasis on the depth of the lyrics and the feelings behind the lyric.

Ketchum wrote or co-wrote six songs on his new album including the moving "You Lovin' Me," which includes background vocals by Trisha Yearwood and the successful upbeat title cut about looking for new love.

Three songs written by Ketchum look at the world through the eyes of a child. One

Hal Ketchum opens for Alan Jackson Sunday at Texas A&M.

is "Mama Knows the Highway," a light-hearted song about a female truck driver, and in "Someplace Far Away" he tells the story of the conflicting dreams of a young boy's innocent and happy view of living in his father's car as his family travels the country looking for work.

Pat Algar, who wrote "Small Town Saturday Night," and co-writer Austin Cunningham contribute an easy-flowing romantic song called "Softer Than a Whisper."

"Trail of Tears" by Randy Handley is a sympathetic song that bemoans the systematic theft of Indian land.

"Sure Love" contains a certain romance and emotion that carries through all the songs on the album. In other words, it is a sure bet you will hear many more top ten singles on your radio from this naturalized Texan and former woodworker from Gruene, Texas.



Film directors will present, discuss works at A&M festival

By ANAS BEN-MUSA

The Battalion

Spike Lee and other film directors will come to Texas A&M to present screenings and discussions of their films at the Texas Film Festival from Feb. 24 to 28.

Lee will show his film "Malcolm X" in the Auditor Theater on the first day of the festival, which is sponsored by Aggie Cinema.

Paul Alvarado-Dykstra, chair of Aggie Cinema, said, "There will be a short period after the screening of 'Malcolm X' for questions from the audience to direct towards making the film, his experiences as a filmmaker and anything else."

"We plan to follow a similar

format for all the other directors that will be guests at the festival," he said.

Independent filmmaker Joel Hirshman will show his film "Hold Me,



Thrill Me, Kiss Me," which features Sean Young and Diane Ladd.

"He made his film on a shoestring budget and a very tight schedule," Alvarado said. "The film is about a man who is forced at gunpoint to get married to a crazed heiress (played by Sean Young), but accidentally shoots her and decides to hide in a trailer park."

Director Peter Sellers will show

his movie "The Cabinet of Dr. Ramirez," featuring Mikhail Baryshnikov, Joan Cusack and Peter Gallagher, during the festival, Alvarado said.

An update of the classic black and white film, "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," Alvarado said. "But this time it takes into account elements such as corporate oppression, the homeless, and urban decay."

"The Cabinet of Dr. Ramirez" is a silent film in color, Alvarado said. "There is only one print of this film currently in existence," Al-

varado said. "So this film will never be released and it is only being shown in a handful of places around the world."

Alvarado said he also hopes to bring filmmakers from Texas to the festival.

Penny Dittor, Aggie Cinema's advisor, said the committee is trying to keep costs of the festival to a minimum but hopes to offer a variety of choices for the students.

Aggie Cinema will continue its programming schedule this semester with its Alternative, Epic, and Blockbuster Film series. "Bob Roberts," "The Last of the Mohicans," "Unforgiven," "A Few Good Men," and "Aladdin" are some of the films that will be shown during the semester.

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