



## Texas Music Festival

Renowned musicians will perform at A&M

By MARGARET CLAUGHTON  
*The Battalion*

The sounds of Mozart, Beethoven and Strauss will soon fill the air as distinguished artists from around the world perform at Texas A&M during the Texas Music Festival Chamber Concerts.

"The essence of chamber music is its individuality and intimacy," said the Coordinator of the Music Festival Werner Rose. "The interaction of the players makes the music more personal."

The concerts are scheduled for June 7, 14, 21, 28 and July 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Performers such as Ray Still, world

renowned oboist of the Chicago Symphony; Parisian Harpsichordist, Brigitte Haudebourg and award winning cellist, Takayori Atsumi, will perform challenging masterpieces by celebrated composers in the traditional chamber music fashion.

"We hope people will experience the pleasure of chamber music during these concerts and enjoy the different messages it sends," Rose said.

The chamber music concerts began in the Houston area as the Lyric Art Festival program organized in conjunction with the Houston Museum of Fine Art. The program expanded to Bryan/College Station in 1988 when the Texas A&M College of Liberal Arts affiliated with the Festival to present five weekly summer concerts. In 1990, the Lyric

Art Festival became the professional Chamber Music Series of the Texas Music Festival, a program providing pre-professional training on the University of Houston campus to gifted young orchestral musicians and pianists. Members of the Festival staff include guest artists, conductors, and members of the Houston Symphony, all of whom perform in the Chamber music programs.

The Brazos Valley Medical Center has provided a grant annually to sponsor the concerts in Bryan/College Station since 1990. Additional financial support from the Arts Council of Brazos Valley, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the University Honors Program has helped provide this chamber music performance to families and young people throughout Bryan/College Station.



Still



Harth



Haudebourg



Velazco



Lack

The Texas Music Festival Chamber Concerts will host in the next five weeks such prominent artists as Ray Still, oboe; Sidney Harth, violin; Brigitte Haudebourg, harpsichord; Jorge Velazco, conductor and Fredell Lack, violin. —Check Around Town, page 5, for first concert.

## Volunteer program helps new international students adjust to a new world, new life

By JENNIFER SALCE  
*The Battalion*

For international students, coming to Texas A&M not only means dealing with registration and other common student problems, but living in a different culture, a different country.

"It is a shock to come to a new country when you don't know anything," said Tushar Desai, a former student from India.

"You have to learn to adjust to simple things like the money system here. It is a total new world and new culture. Everything is different."

With the help of volunteers, the Texas A&M International Student Orientation program helps newly-arrived international students deal with their transition.

"The volunteer program is a reassuring point of contact to newly arrived internationals," said Julie Cain, the staff assistant of the International Student Services. "It is

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— Julie Cain, staff assistant for International Student Services

a way for them to come into contact with other nationals who can share experiences such as adapting to new cultures, campus life and other local activities."

Desai said he likes to volunteer because he enjoys interacting with foreigners. Desai attended the Fall 1990 orientation and has been a volunteer since the Spring of 1991.

This summer, Desai was involved with the campus tours and the welcome party. He said he thinks the orientation and check in assistance is very useful for the new students.

The students are informed on issues that range from banking, buying cars, shopping and the slang here in the United States, Desai said.

"In India, we use cash to buy everything," Desai said. "So, it was difficult learning about checking."

Claudio Sousa, a graduate student from Brazil, said he volunteers because he wants to give the new international students the help and attention that he was given when he came to Texas A&M in 1992.

"It is scary in the beginning,"

Sousa said. "There are many language and cultural barriers. But as time goes on barriers are broken."

Sousa said, although they may not realize it now, the orientation is very important for the students. He said they are given a great amount of information and by the middle of the day it is easy to be lost and confused.

Keeping your own culture is important, Sousa said. He also said it is equally important to create and become a part of the American culture.

"The orientation is a way for

the students to begin to understand the differences between what you were and you are going to be," Sousa said.

Desai said that the international students should try to have an open mind.

"Things are very different here than in other countries," Desai said.

"The people here are friendly. They say 'howdy' to strangers. So, just return the gesture."

Sousa encourages the new students not to miss the international week activities. He said that the new students should participate

in everything available to them. "You learn to realize that your not so different from other people," Sousa said. "Keep knocking the doors and you will find the answer to your questions."

The summer international student orientation provided services to approximately 95 international students, Cain said. She said the volunteers helped the students with their immigration check in and their registration.

Approximately 20 volunteers were available for the students to give campus tours, take them shopping and answer questions about life at Texas A&M.

International Student Orientation Week concluded on May 21 with a welcome party organized by the volunteers.

"Students are encouraged to continue getting involved with international associations," Cain said. "The volunteer program is just a start for the internationals to make friends and feel comfortable here."



Sylvester Stallone stars in the new action thriller, "Cliffhanger."

## Little humor, dialogue hinder Stallone's ascent

By JOHN A. BAYLESS  
*The Battalion*

"Cliffhanger" Starring Sylvester Stallone, Michael Rooker, Janine Turner and John Lithgow Directed by Renny Harlin Rated R Playing at Cinema III

Sylvester Stallone's "Cliffhanger," has everything a die-hard action fan could want — bullets, blood, and two hours of testosterone-induced hysteria.

If you're a Sylvester Stallone fan, and liked his "Rambo" movies, this is more of the same.

Although the movie did have a few low points, it is worth seeing, if only for the scenery and stunts.

The movie was partial-

ly shot on location in the Italian Alps, and the scenery is spectacular. The special effects were done with the aid of a new IBM computer system, which merged shots of the Alps and studio footage. It's easy to forget Stallone isn't really dangling over bottomless chasms or scaling vertical rock faces.

Renny Harlin, the director of "Die Hard 2," provides "Cliffhanger" with the same fast and furious action which made "Die Hard 2" a mega-hit. Unfortunately, the movie lacks the element which made both "Die Hard" movies great — the humorous dialogue of Bruce Willis. Dialogue in "Cliffhanger" is sparse

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## Coont's new novel is good, but not perfect 'Red Horseman' falters from lack of detail

By JOHN BAYLESS  
*The Battalion*

"The Red Horseman" By Stephen Coonts Previous works: "Flight of the Intruder," "Under Siege" and "The Minotaur" Pocket Books, \$23.00

"The Red Horseman," Stephen Coonts' latest espionage thriller, contains almost all the elements that made his four previous works of fiction bestsellers. But something's missing.

Coonts weaves a tense tale of suspense which places his hero Jake Grafton in the midst of a plot involving the CIA, Saddam Hussein and the remnants of the Soviet military elite.

Grafton, in charge of a mission to monitor the destruction of Soviet missiles, uncovers a web of intrigue which reaches far outside the bounds of the former Soviet Union. Grafton and his sidekick Toad Tarkington must act to keep the warheads off the

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Stephen Coonts wavers in his latest novel, "The Red Horseman."

## Long creates vivid character Great ending saves 'Made in America'

By JACQUELINE AYOTTE  
*The Battalion*

"Made in America" Starring Whoopi Goldberg, Ted Danson, Will Smith and Nia Long Directed by Richard Benjamin Rated PG-13 Playing at Cinema III

I hated the painfully stupid beginning of "Made in America." But I forced myself not to abandon my popcorn, and stuck around. And I'm glad I did because by the end of the movie I wanted to hug the screen.

"Made in America" is not about black vs. white. It's about love, family, and sperm. Yes sperm. Sometimes it's the simple things in life that can make people so miraculously color blind.

Sarah Mathews (Whoopi Goldberg) is an independent and free-spirited African bookstore owner who has to explain to her daughter, Zora (Nia Long) that she was conceived by artificial in-



(L-R) Ted Danson, Nia Long, Whoopi Goldberg and Will Smith (aka Fresh Prince) star in "Made in America."

semination. This is where the sperm comes in — Hal Jackson (Ted Danson), a crazy "white" used-car salesman.

Danson is adorable and being a "Cheers" fan, it was difficult to listen to Danson try to talk with a Southern accent while wearing a tacky cowboy outfit. I started to miss Sam Malone, but after a while, a deep admiration for Hal's character grew.

When the Hal and Sarah first meet, it's pure

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## No sugar and spice for McKone's debut

By JACQUELINE AYOTTE  
*The Battalion*

"Vivienne McKone" Vivienne McKone Rhythm and Blues PolyGram Label

Vivienne McKone's voice is soft and sexy. But, on the whole, I'm afraid there's only one way to describe her first album, "Vivienne McKone" — oatmeal without sugar.

Produced by Stewart Levine (Simply Red), the

album is good, but there's something missing.

The songs don't sound a bit overdone. They come from Vivienne's heart; however, it seems like every song sounds exactly like the first.

The first song, "Sing," is a subtle upbeat jazzy tune that makes you really listen to her delicate voice. The only problem is the background music. Though strong in the beginning with that good

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Soft and sexy voiced Vivienne McKone debuts her new self titled album.