

OUR HOPE, OUR FUTURE

Sports program offers guidance, social development to local kids

By MARGARET CLAUGHTON

The Battalion

R.C. Slocum football camp, Lady Aggies basketball camp, golf camp, baseball camp, tennis camp - of all the summer programs Texas A&M offers, one is geared for a different group of kids. The National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) provides a free summer sports camp for underprivileged youths 10 to 16 years of age.

The NYSP works with institutions, such as Texas A&M, to provide kids from low income areas the opportunity to visit major university campuses. With the help of the Texas A&M Department of Health and Kinesiology, the local NYSP camp works with youths from Calvert and Hearne as well as Bryan-College Station.

"Some of these kids have never come on campus before this program," said Dr. Frank Ashley, project administrator for the NYSP. "By bringing them to the university, we want to show them 'Hey, four to six years from now you can come here and get an education.'"

To be eligible for the NYSP camp, youths must meet the Federal poverty guidelines. Through school counselors, low income youths are identified and sent

"We learn to get along with people better here and outside the camp."

- Derrick Brooks, Calvert High student

The program provides instruction and skills development in sports such as basketball, football, soccer, golf and swimming. Each camper can choose to participate in three activities. Trained coaches and student athletes supervise the sports instruction.

Personal and social development is also a part of the camp schedule. Each day, campers attend 45 minute enrichment sessions addressing topics such as alcohol and drug prevention, nutrition, job responsibilities, sex education, and AIDS awareness.

"We can cover the topics that the schools can't," Ashley said.

"Kids coming from economically disadvantaged environments are more likely to encounter problems in these areas," said Ashley. "We're really hitting the high risk kids."

Campers attend the NYSP program from 1-5 p.m. everyday for five weeks.

"The session is longer than most summer camps," said Rose Schmitz, education director for

the NYSP. "This makes it easier for counselors to get closer to the kids and make a real difference."

Counselors involve the kids in simulated job interviews and gameshow scenarios to maintain the youths' interests. Older youths perform educational skits for younger groups in the camp.

"They kids are more receptive to their peers," Rose said.

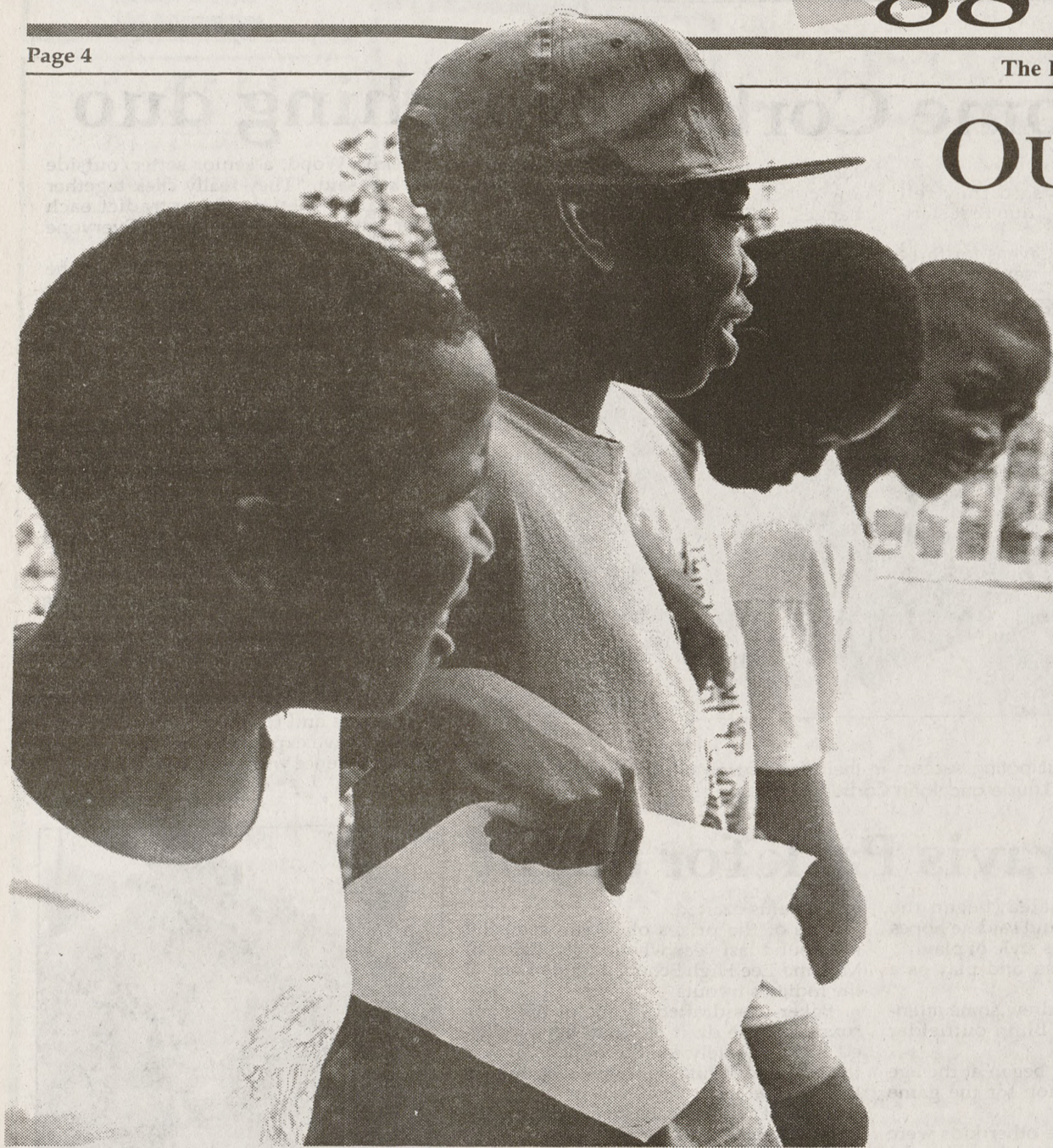
Derrick Brooks, a 15-year-old Calvert high student attending NYSP for the second year, said, though football is his favorite sport, the enrichment sessions are fun as well.

"We learn to get along with people better here and outside the camp," Brooks said.

Guest speakers are another part of the enrichment sessions. Fourteen-year-old Brandi Shaw, second year camper with NYSP, said the most influential part of her camp experience was a visit from some female prisoners.

"A lot of people talk about drugs and stuff," Shaw said. "But it makes you realize it can really happen. It changed a lot of peoples minds."

Support for the NYSP stems from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the NCAA. With the help of federal funding and the cooperation of several major universities, the NYSP has grown from two institutions in its first year to 175 today.



RICHARD DIXON/The Battalion

Christopher Thompson (front), Torrance Johnson, Kenneth Drones and Marco Joshua wait outside Medical Sciences Saturday for a free physical. The youths are participating in the National Youth Sports Program.

New folk artist John Gorka will perform Saturday

By MARGARET CLAUGHTON

The Battalion

Get ready folks!

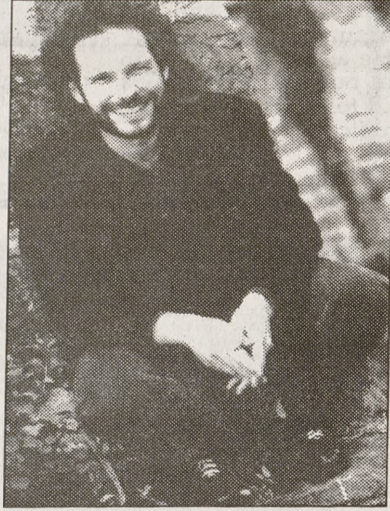
Folksinger-songwriter John Gorka will perform Saturday, June 19 at the Stafford Opera House.

"His music is a little bit of blues mixed with a little bit of folk," said Kyle May, employee of the Stafford.

Gorka uses his acoustic guitar and deep baritone voice to sing songs of both a serious and funny nature. His lyrics address topics ranging from the thoughtful and heart wrenching, as in his song "Semper Fi," a tale of a soldier's prospects on coming home from war, to the light hearted and humorous, as in his song "Prom night in Pig town."

The Fort Worth-Star Telegram calls Gorka's songs "razor sharp edge."

Gorka said his music was influenced by artists such as Jim Croce, James Taylor and Judy Collins.



Folksinger John Gorka performs Saturday night at Stafford.

Rolling Stone titled Gorka "the preeminent male singer-songwriter of the New Folk Movement."

He won the 1984 New Folk Award at the Kerrville Folk Festival.

His latest work, "Temporary Road," was released last summer.

"Gorka's music is the kind you can sit down and listen to," May said, "I think the college crowd will really enjoy it."

The Stafford Opera House will open its doors at 8:00 p.m.

A&M media law professor finishes writing novel

Inspired by Grisham's 'The Firm,' professor creates media story called 'The Tape'

By JENNIFER SALCE

The Battalion

Teaching media law isn't the only thing on the mind of journalism professor Don E. Tomlinson.

After a year of juggling his career, personal life, and other responsibilities, Tomlinson has just finished writing a novel.

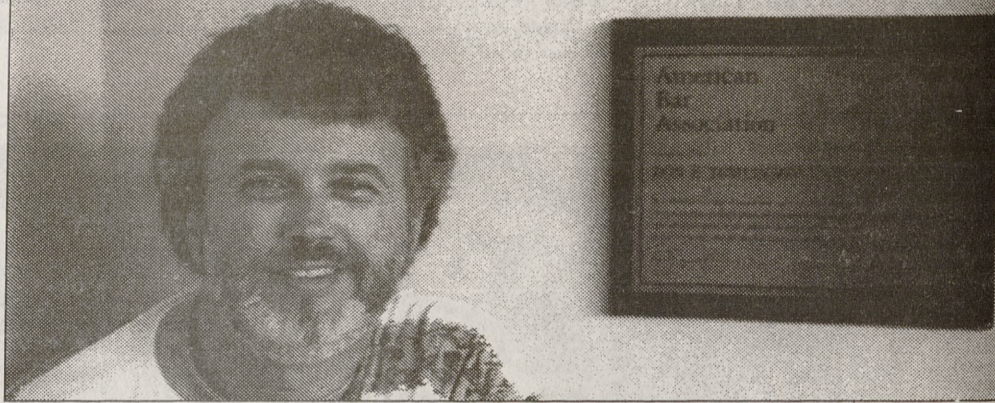
Tomlinson said the novel entails many aspects of journalism such as media law, media ethics and television journalism. It also touches on politics, government and relationships.

"The Tape" is about ethical and personal decisions that have to be made when a little girl unknowingly videotapes a couple plotting to frame a congressman.

He said writers pull from their life experiences to develop the characters and the plot.

"I incorporated my life experiences outside my profession and all the professional things that I know and love," said Tomlinson.

His inspiration came from John Grisham's novel, "The Firm." Tomlinson read the novel



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Texas A&M media law professor Don Tomlinson recently finished writing a novel about little girl that unknowingly videotapes a couple plotting to frame a congressman.

last July.

"For the first time after reading a novel, I said to myself there is nothing in here that I could not have done," said Tomlinson.

Although he admits he may not be as good a writer as Grisham, Tomlinson said he viewed himself as having some similarities to him.

He said the writing and the ideas came easy to him. The novel is about all the things that he is comfortable writing about.

Tomlinson said writing the novel took a tremendous amount of time out of his life. In addition to teaching media law, Tomlinson is a mediator and a legal consultant.

"I wear a lot of hats," said Tomlinson. "But writing the book was a labor of love."

Tomlinson is searching for a literary agent. If encouraged by a literary agent, he said he would like to write another novel in the future. He said he is going to be patient and persevere.

"If you can't be patient and you aren't willing to persevere, your chances of success are slim to none," he said.

Tomlinson said he considers his novel a great accomplishment.

"I saw the project through and I am proud of it," he said.

Reviews

CHOMPING, STOMPING! Spielberg scores again

By JOHN BAYLESS

The Battalion

Film



"Jurassic Park" Starring Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum and Richard Attenborough Directed by Steven Spielberg Rated PG-13 Schulmann 6

I stood in line for more than an hour to see "Jurassic Park," wondering if any movie, especially one with this much hype, was worth the wait. Well, it was worth waiting for and it would be worth waiting for again. AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN.

Dinosaurs in "Jurassic Park" live and breathe - they run and move with smooth reptilian sinuosity and are true to the "new" vision of dinosaurs as quick, active creatures. They aren't the

See Jurassic/Page 5

Texas Music Festival, second concert Delightfully splendid

By BARBARA GASTEL

Special to The Battalion

Concert

Texas Music Festival Sidney Harth, violin; David Tomatz, cello; Timothy Hester, piano and Erik Ralske, French horn Classical Performed at Rudder Theater

Composer Robert Schumann was right about Felix Mendelssohn's "Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 49".

Praising the trio, first performed in 1840, Schumann predicted it "will still delight our grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

Such delight was apparent Monday evening, when the trio brought the second concert in this year's Texas Music Festival series at Texas A&M University to a

lively close.

Abounding with memorable melodies and rhythms, this well-known trio was performed by violinist Sidney Harth, cellist David Tomatz and pianist Timothy Hester. The three musicians' individual playing as well as their interaction made for an engaging

See Concert/Page 5



Mary Macmanus/The Battalion

Monday night, violinist Sidney Harth played an engaging performance at Rudder Theater.

Young's new 'Unplugged' album A timeless sensation

By JACQUELINE AYOTTE

The Battalion

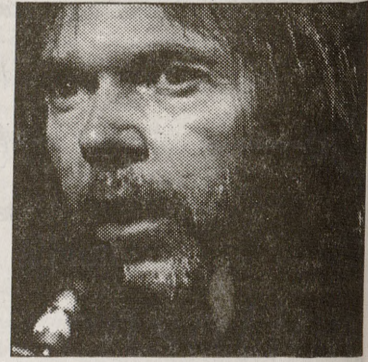
Music

"Neil Young Unplugged" Neil Young Rock Reprise Records Album courtesy of Marooned Records

The only thing I missed while listening to "Neil Young Unplugged" was a cold beer from a local bar. Nothing else could top off the timeless sensation this mixture of songs from 1967 to 1993 creates in the mind of the listener.

Young has done it again. But this time it's even better.

The "Unplugged" version of his song, "The Needle and the Damage Done" is a bit slower than the original, but the fact that it's done live gives a breath of life to his long-lived classic. The gui-



'Neil Young's Unplugged' is a lively return to the past.

trarily begs you, to preserve the moment.

Another famous tune by Young, "Helpless," cries out to you in that familiar way. With the intensity of his harmonica, the

See Young/Page 5