

HAIL TO THE CHIEF



New national FFA officers Raquel Lacey, Liam Brody, Andrew McCrea and Curtis Childers celebrate their recent election. A&M student Childers (below) was elected national president.

A&M student elected to FFA presidency

By Lesa Ann King
THE BATTALION

The Southwest Conference Champion Fighting Texas Aggie Football team may be competing for the national championship title in football, but Texas A&M has already earned one national title this year in the area of agricultural leadership. On November 12, at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo., Curtis Childers, a sophomore agricultural development major at Texas A&M, was elected to serve as president of the National FFA Organization. Formerly Future Farmers of America, the FFA is a national organization of 417,462 students aged 14 to 21. FFA members develop their leadership skills and prepare for careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. Many agricultural students at Texas A&M University are familiar with FFA because of their involvement with the organization in high school. Some FFA members choose to stay active in the organization after high school graduation so they can run for state and national of-

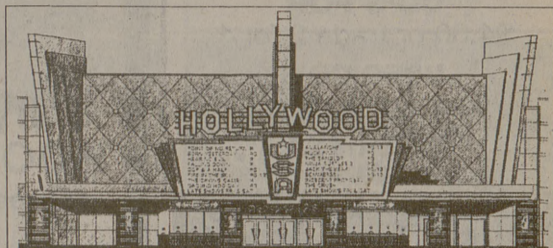
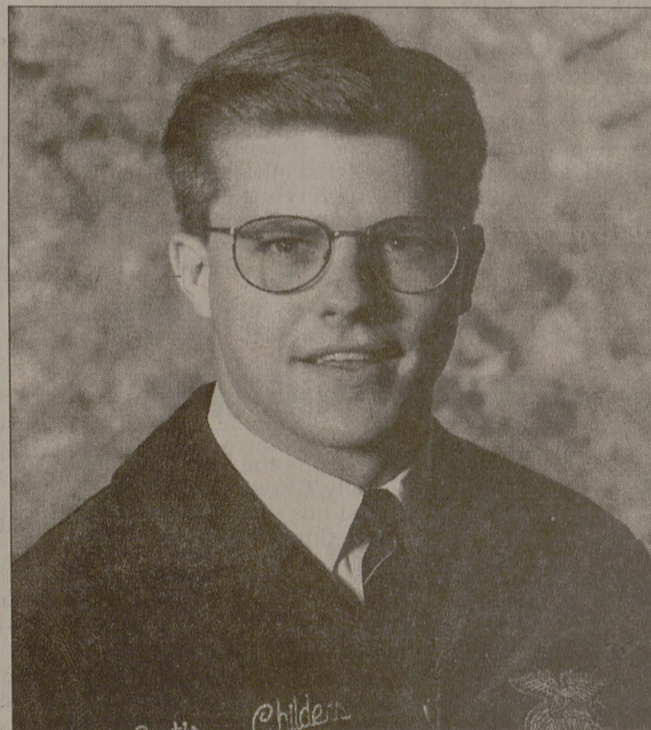
fices or apply for scholarships and other national awards. 20-year-old Childers' continued involvement in the FFA gave him the opportunity to compete for 1993-94 national FFA president.

He said, "The FFA is the best well-rounded educational tool that high schools have to offer. Students learn practical skills, applied sciences and how to grow personally. FFA has become the role model of how classes should be taught in high schools."

As national president, Childers will take a one-year leave of absence from Texas A&M and travel over 200,000 miles to promote and enhance agricultural education and the FFA. During his year he will also meet with national and international leaders of government, education, business and agriculture. Childers' travels will also include a two-week trip to Japan to participate in an international experience program designed to strengthen agricultural relations overseas.

Most importantly, Childers and his fellow officers will travel the 50 states speak-

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Students give rave reviews to new theater

By Margaret Cloughton

THE BATTALION

Cinemark's latest 16-screen theater complex, Hollywood USA, opened its doors Dec. 3, offering its glamour and glitz to the Bryan-College Station community. Construction on the complex began last June. Randy Hester, director of corporate development for Cinemark USA, said he expected Bryan-College Station to be a good market.

But what do local Texas A&M students think about this glittery green and purple multiplex? And what is their opinion of the quality inside?

Many students are impressed with the originality of the complex and how it differs from other theaters in the area.

"The whole thing is different from anything here," said Todd Johnson, a senior psychology major at A&M. "But College Station needs that."

The outside appearance of the complex has received a mixed response. With its purple, green and yellow paint job, students say this theater is hard to miss.



"It looks bright and happy to me,"

— Gretchen Oakley, a senior elementary education major.

Sophomore Liz Ramirez said the complex reminded her of a building out of Gotham City.

"It's almost Batman-like," she said. Ed Culver, a freshman at A&M and his friend Colin Speight agree they think the complex is a little on the gaudy side, but said they like the theater as a whole.

Other students think the bright colors are part of the building's charm.

"It looks bright and happy to me," said Gretchen Oakley, a senior elementary education major. "It attracts you, kind of draws you in."

The inside of Hollywood USA seems to impress many students with its size, decor and quality.

"I like its spaciousness, openness," Culver said. "It's very well organized. Great security precautions."

And extras such as cupholders and comfortable chairs have been well received by student patrons. Senior Amy McLin said she was impressed with the number of snack bars located right outside each theater.

"You can just get up and get something fast without missing much of the movie," she said.

The auditoriums in Hollywood USA have stereo sound including either Lucasfilm's THX sound or DTS digital system, which seem to add a lot to the movie presentations. Speight said the sound system is the best he has ever heard.

Culver said, "The sound quality is great; really solid speakers."

Students have been equally impressed with the number of movies offered by Hollywood USA. Some said they could actually stay in the theater all day.

Matinees are also a big attraction.

"We are lovin' this matinee thing," Oakley said. "Some days there isn't a whole lot to do here in College Station. The other theaters don't offer matinees."

So far, Cinemark seems to have another success on their hands. Not surprising since they are the sixth largest exhibitor in the U.S. with over 1,073 screens in operation.

Most students seem glad Cinemark chose College Station as the site of the new Hollywood USA. Some say this multiplex was just what the local theater scene needed.



"The whole thing is different from anything here."

— Todd Johnson, a senior psychology major.

Tribe Called Quest... The vibe goes back to basics

By Rob Clark

THE BATTALION

"I would die for hip hop." That was the unconditional love and respect for rap that rapper Q-Tip from A Tribe Called Quest spoke of Sunday night at Rockefeller's West in Houston.

Q-Tip's partner-in-rhyme, Phife Dawg, shares this die-hard attitude for rap.

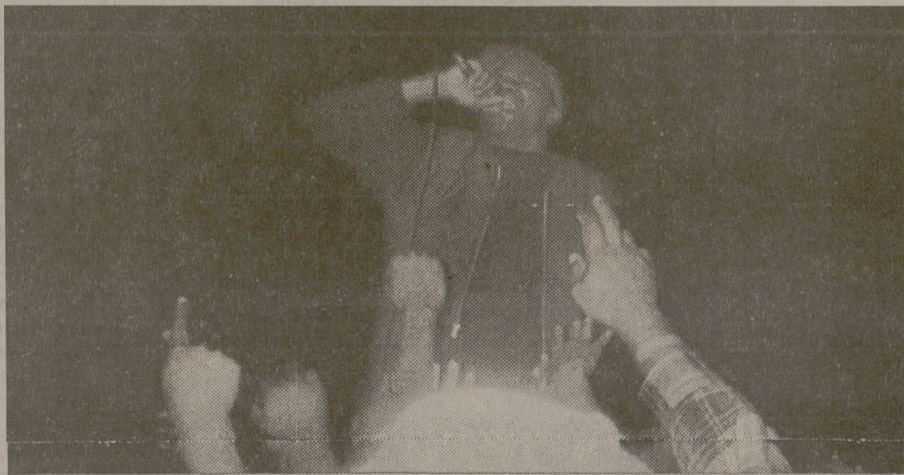
"We eat, drink, sleep and wake up hip hop," he said. "Plus, we live in the atmosphere where it all started, New

York City, and everybody's a hip hop head."

Since their debut in 1990 with "People's Instinctive Travels and the Paths of Rhythm," Quest's unique style of creative sampling and lyrics has caused many to label the group as "alternative rap." Phife said categorizing the group can be frustrating.

"Critics always want to label something," he said. "Rather than saying, 'Yo, this is good music,' they want to limit everything. I really wish people would stop tryin' to be the Siskel and

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Rob Clark/THE BATTALION

Rapper Q-Tip from A Tribe Called Quest at Sunday's performance in Houston.

De La Soul expands its mindstate

By Rob Clark

THE BATTALION

From the D.A.I.S.Y. Age to the Buhloone Mindstate, De La Soul has put a creative twist on rap unlike any other. But what it comes down to is simply understanding where De La Soul is coming from.

De La's first album, "3 Feet High and Rising," introduced the world to the D.A.I.S.Y. Age, which stood for "Da Inner Sound Y'all." But elements of peace in this theme prompted many to classify De La members Posdnuos, Trugoy and Maseo as hippies.

"For what people thought the D.A.I.S.Y. Age meant, as far as hippies, that was never there," Posdnuos said. "That wasn't the situation at all."

With that, De La decided to, in essence, kill the D.A.I.S.Y. Age with

their second album, "De La Soul is Dead."

"We would've killed any image put upon us," Posdnuos said. "It wasn't so much that we hated the labeling of the word hippie, but just being labeled period."

But Posdnuos said the original vibe of the D.A.I.S.Y. Age will always be a part of the group.

"What we meant it to be — everything comes from within our hearts," he said. "We do that for every album."

Trugoy said the success of De La's first album, "3 Feet High and Rising," and its big single, "Me, Myself and I" was a bit overwhelming.

"When 'Me, Myself and I' got released it just skyrocketed, and then it was like, 'You guys gotta go overseas, you guys gotta go to the Grammys, you guys gotta go to the American Music Awards,'" he said.

"It just came so fast, it was like — sh-t!"

But it was a welcome burden for the group.

"It was something we enjoyed and something we were very grateful for and we just stayed humble and took it in stride," Trugoy said.

The group's latest album, "Buhloone Mindstate," also has people wondering — what does the title mean?

"Buhloone Mindstate is basically expanding our minds like a balloon," Posdnuos said. "Where a balloon expands, we're just saying our minds are expanding to different levels as far as understanding, thinking and just doing something different than what's normally done."

The album's key phrase, "It might blow up but it won't go pop," furthers the expanding balloon theory.

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De La Soul