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# ULTIMATE FRISBEE

## Fast-paced sport gaining momentum in Aggieland

By Claudia Zavaleta  
The Battalion

When you think of Frisbee, memories of calm, relaxing afternoons at the beach or park may come to mind. But the TAMU Ultimate Frisbee Team doesn't agree — they like their Frisbee-throwing fast and furious.

The game is called Ultimate, a fast-paced hybrid of Frisbee, football, basketball and soccer. It was created in the '70s by high school students in New Jersey; it then spread to the West Coast and eventually took root in the South.

John Kirk, captain of the TAMU Ultimate team said the game is becoming more popular here and all over the world because everyone can play.

"In most sports you have to have a certain build," Kirk said. "In Ultimate, you just have to be able to throw a disc and run. It opens the game to everyone."

The game is played with seven players on each team. They set up offenses, defenses and scoring like in football; they pass and block like in basketball and run the field like in soccer.

But ask any Ultimate player, and he or she will tell you the most important rule is "The Spirit of the Game." This means, unlike its parent sports, Ultimate is played with no referees or line judges, forcing the players to call their own fouls.

Even the Ultimate Players Association, formed in 1979 to promote the sport, said the game is characterized by "its high regard for mutual respect among players and an absence of referees."

"With 'The Spirit of the Game,'" Kirk said, "your word is the rule. It is an important concept and it's there even in the national level. It's one of the things that makes Ultimate stand out."

But the absence of referees has not kept Ultimate from becoming a well-organized collegiate sport, Kirk said.

"When you get to high level tournaments," he said, "people get very competitive and sometimes irate, but you will never see a fight

on the field. If you are defending someone and they make a good catch against you, you congratulate them anyway."

Chad Cunningham, a senior business analysis major from Bay City, is relatively new to the sport. He said it's the camaraderie that makes the sport less intimidating.

"It's not so intensely competitive that people will get turned off by it," Cunningham said. "This is the best sport to get together and make friends."

Like Cunningham, most of the 20 TAMU team members are newcomers and are still learning. Made up of both men and women, college and non-college students, the team hopes to recruit more experienced students than before.

Louie Liendo, a sophomore wildlife and fisheries sciences major from Brownsville, said older graduates act as coaches to the younger team members.

"We get experience scrimmaging against the old guys," Liendo said. "They have great endurance and they usually kick our butts."

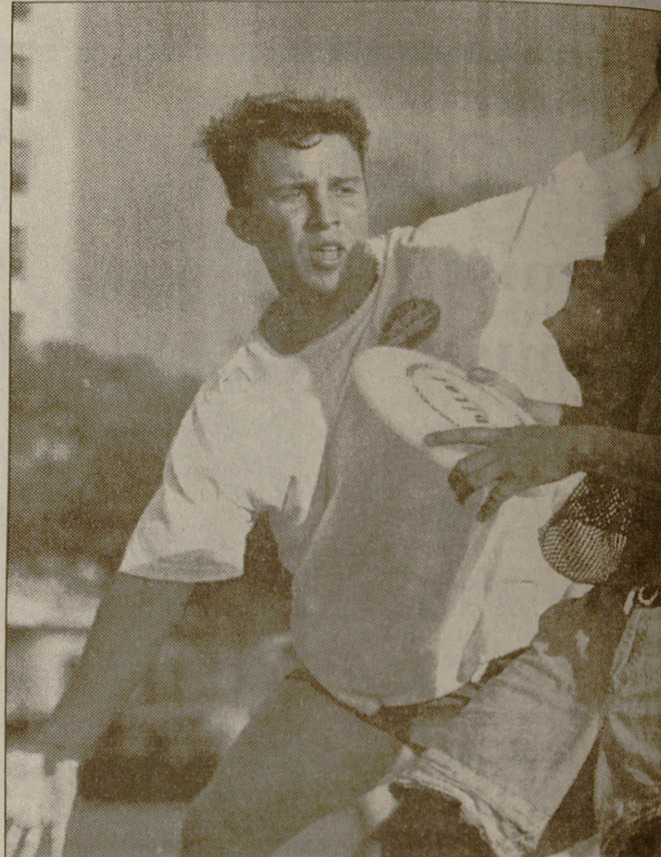
Matt Beringer, Class of '86, has played Ultimate at A&M since 1984. He said A&M has had an Ultimate club for a decade. They have always competed in open tournaments, he said, and this year the team finally has enough college students to compete in the UPA collegiate tournament.

"Right now, we've had a lot of people staying around to play," Beringer said, "at least enough to have a collegiate team again."

Tom Blinn, also an A&M graduate, said he wants to see more Ultimate played at the high school level. This would mean a more experienced collegiate team, he said.

"It's generally true that open teams are better teams because they have older, more experienced players," Blinn said. "One of the things that makes this sport different is that when people start playing for other A&M teams, they already know how to play the game. In Ultimate, just as a college player is getting good, they graduate and go play for other teams."

The people that play Ultimate,



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

A member of the TAMU Ultimate Frisbee Team attempts to block a pass from another team member during practice on Simpson Field. The team is hosting the Savage 7 tournament this Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. on the drill field.

Blinn said, have retained the same laid-back attitude. But he said the play has become more competitive since he started playing nine years ago.

"Personally, I think this is both good and bad," Blinn said. "I have always wanted it to be competitive, but it should still be played with good spirit and respect for the other team."

Something that has remained a constant over the years is the Savage 7 tournament. For 11 years, A&M has hosted this one-day tournament, which prohibits any player substitutions or breaks. The same seven players must play throughout the entire game, giving the tournament its name.

The Savage 7 will be played Saturday, April 9 starting at 10 a.m. on Simpson Drill Field. The team will be selling discs to raise money for their trip to the UPA regional

tournament in Alabama.

Seeding for the regional tournament held at A&M last Saturday was determined by the sectional.

Kirk said this is the first sectional has been needed to determine teams from Texas. Ultimate teams from UT, Rice, Trinity and University of North Texas competed in this year's sectionals.

"Before, UT was the school that had a collegiate team," he said. "We've never had any other young players to compete with."

Liendo said the overall winner of Saturday's tournament was determined by the small number of teams competing in this section, all teams advanced to regional.

"We didn't win," Liendo said, "but we did a lot better than we did at any other tournament this semester."

## 'The Paper' delivers a full set of emotions



Marisa Tomei and Michael Keaton star as Marty and Henry Hackett in Ron Howard's comedy-drama "The Paper."

By Margaret Claughton  
The Battalion

"The Paper" Starring Michael Keaton, Robert Duvall, Glenn Close and Marisa Tomei Directed by Ron Howard Rated R Playing at Hollywood USA

After viewing "The Paper," I left the theater with my head spinning, my heart pounding and a nice case of the warm fuzzies. Whether it plays on your heartstrings or makes you mad as hell, this film taps almost every one of your emotions.

The all-star cast is definitely the key to this film, the latest of Ron Howard's successes. Michael Keaton, Glenn Close, Randy Quaid, Marisa Tomei and Robert Duvall take

their characters to heart and each role with personal sincerity.

Michael Keaton plays Henry, an extremely driven journalist, a not-so-notable New York newspaper. Marisa Tomei plays Keaton's wife Martha, an expectant mother on maternity leave who hasn't lost her taste for the business. Her anxiety about losing her journalistic touch and her frustration with her husband make her character believable and easy to relate to.

Keaton's character is also touching as he struggles between his passion for his work and his love for his wife. His incessant drive to tell the story and his high-paced life kept my pulse racing throughout the film.

Glenn Close also contributed my high blood pressure. Her character, Alicia, is a talented, yet anal, middle-aged editor. Throughout the film, she struggles with her journalistic morality while trying to justify the fact that, at 40-something, she hasn't quite taken the world by storm. Close plays this part so well, I felt I could identify with her, though I've never been in her position.

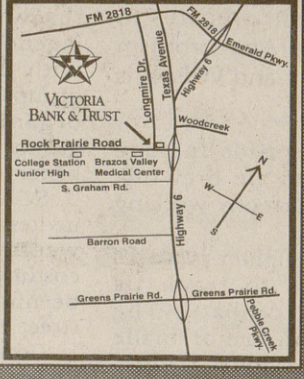
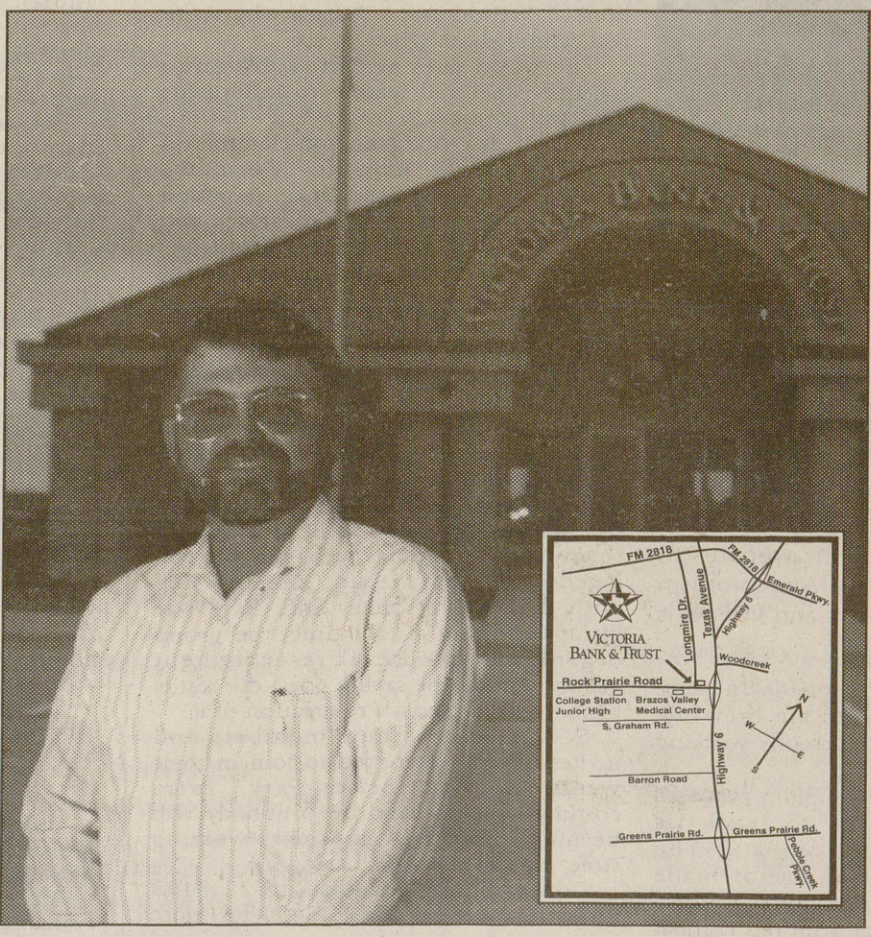
Quaid is also a credit to the film. He plays his classic degenerate, tough-guy part as Keaton's assistant editor and cohort. Most of the comedic moments in this film are solely due to Quaid, whose facial expressions and ad-lib comments are perfectly timed.

Duvall adds his authentic charm playing the aging editor in chief Barney. Barney is paying the price for choosing his career over his family as a young journalist. His regrets, coupled with his health problems, really tugged at my emotional sleeve.

The film has the "a day-in-the-life" type plot. The audience is invited to watch as each of the characters fights his or her personal battle.

The film is a very active 24 hours for the individuals involved. Keaton and Close butt heads over the morality of journalism, Tomei fights with herself, and Duvall battles with his long-lost daughter; all while a major story is breaking. This film is one of the most interesting, most well-rounded I've seen. It touches on the more crass moments in adult life without being abrasive and without forgetting the perks of living. It's a refreshing reminder that life is an all-sided adventure with really high highs and really low lows, but it all evens out in the end.

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