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Movie advertisement for 'Junior' featuring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Danny DeVito, and Emma Thompson. Includes text: 'Nothing is inconceivable.', 'AN IVAN REITMAN FILM JUNIOR', and 'DUE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU.'

Century Tree provides proposal place for A&M students

By Haley Stavinoha THE BATTALION

With its big arms reaching out to hold anyone who decides to take a seat for a proposal of a life-long commitment, it's probably known as the most popular tree on campus.

The live oak tree between the Academic Building and Bolton Hall is known as the Century Tree, but not too many people know its true age.

Photographs in the A&M Archives show that live oak trees were introduced to the Texas A&M campus between 1900 and 1910.

In fact, it has been referred to as the Century Tree before A&M's Centennial in 1976.

A fairly new tradition has come about that takes place only at the century tree.

Many male A&M students who have a ring burning a hole in their pocket bring their girlfriends to this famous spot.

Johnathon Stark, a sophomore accounting major, and Kristi Thomas, a junior political science major, just moved here from Odessa and said they wanted to be a part of A&M.

But with a heavy workload, Stark decided the best tradition to participate in was proposing to Thomas, his girlfriend of three years.

The perfect place was under the Century Tree.

"I felt it would be a great way for both of us to become part of an A&M tradition together," Stark said.

He also said the experience went deeper than the tradition, because the tree was so overwhelming.

Thomas, not expecting to be engaged until Christmas, said that Stark told her they were going to meet a friend on campus.

"As he sat me under the tree, he read a poem he had written," Thomas said. "He popped the question."

Stark said the limbs seem to surround the mo-



Robyn Calloway/The Battalion

The Century Tree is located behind the Academic Building and Bolton Hall.

ment with beauty, energy and a special feeling. Jennifer Sikes, a junior psychology major, said she knew what was going to happen when her boyfriend Dan Cox, a junior finance and German major, started leading her in the direction of the tree.

"I heard that getting engaged under the tree means the marriage is supposed to last as long as the tree," Sikes said.

Cox said A&M students proposing under the tree has always been understood to be special.

Brian DiPaolo, a junior computer engineering major and a member of Traditions Council, said the Century Tree tradition is not as well known as other Aggie traditions, but it is more known by women on campus.

DiPaolo said he has learned another myth about the tree.

"It is a bad omen to walk under the tree when you are going to propose to someone special at some time soon," DiPaolo said.

'Generations' keeps on trekking

By Mark Smith THE BATTALION

'Star Trek Generations' Starring: Patrick Stewart, Malcolm McDowell and William Shatner Directed by Rick Berman Rated: PG Playing at Shulman VI eeee (out of five)

If a high action Star Trek adventure is what you want, 'Star Trek Generations' moves along at warp 9.

The film begins with the christening of the Enterprise B. Captain Kirk (William Shatner), Scotty (James Doohan) and Chekov (Walter Koenig) are along for the maiden voyage as a public relations move for Star Fleet. All the Enterprise B is supposed to do is go for a quick spin around the solar system, but fate intervenes.

The new ship receives a distress call from several transport ships. The Enterprise is the only ship within range and after a second of indecision Captain Harriman (Alan Ruck), the Enterprise's new captain, orders the crew to respond to the call.

Of course, Kirk is chomping at the bit to get back into the action, much like the previous movies in the series.

Kirk can't sit still and Scotty can't help but tease him by saying, "Captain, is there something wrong with your chair?"

Doohan and Koenig make only a brief appearance, but play their parts admirably.

Time jumps forward 78 years to the Enterprise D, with Captain Picard (Patrick Stewart) and the rest of the Next Generation crew.

While investigating an attack on a solar observatory, Geordi La Forge (LeVar Burton) and Data (Brent Spiner) uncover a weapon that can destroy stars. The creator, Dr. Soran (Malcolm McDowell), escapes with the plans for the weapon and a kidnapped La Forge in a Klingon starship.

The Enterprise gives chase and finds Soran planning to destroy a star to alter the course of a time-altering distortion shaped like a ribbon. The ribbon is a gateway to a Utopian alter dimen-



William Shatner (Captain Kirk) and Patrick Stewart (Captain Picard) star in 'Star Trek Generations.'

sion called the Nexus where Soran wants to turn.

McDowell turns in a good performance though you walk away wishing the adversarial nature between Soran and Picard would have been developed more.

The main plot, stopping Soran, is probably the weak link in the story. Picard and Kirk team up to stop the "mad scientist." But, the scenes of Kirk come off as cheesy. Fans have already seen Kirk dying to get back into the action. In 'Generations,' they'll see it again.

The sub-plots are the most intriguing part of the movie. Picard has to deal with the absence of a family in his life and being the last of his kind.

Brent Spiner puts in a performance as a character that many Next Generation fans have wanted to see since the beginning of the television series. Data's sub-storyline almost makes the movie.

And the Enterprise D has a cataclysmic collision with the Klingons.

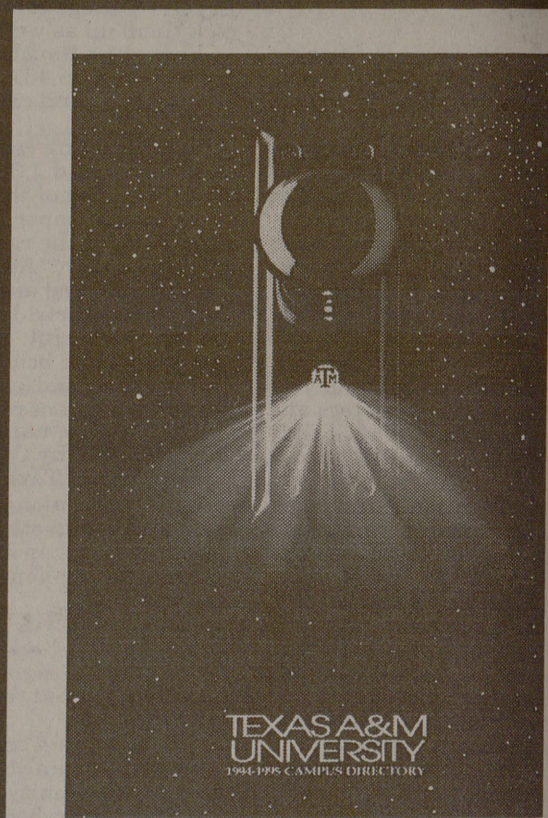
Of course, it was probably necessary to provide the connection between the old generation and the new. However, the Next Generation is so popular and with a motion picture budget, they are going to wow audiences and boldly go where no one has gone before for many years to come.

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