

# Aggielife

## Teaching only part of award winning professor's involvement



Eddy Wylie / THE BATTALION  
Dr. Rick Rigsby

By Amy Collier  
THE BATTALION

Enthusiasm and dedication to teaching have paid off for Dr. Rick Rigsby. Rigsby, an assistant professor of speech communication, recently received the Texas A&M University Faculty Diversity Award, given to faculty members who promote diversity in their classes and in their lives.

But his successes haven't stopped there. Rigsby has also received the Outstanding New Teacher Award from the Southern States Communication Association. This is given to a new speech communication professor out of 13 southern states who has exhibited outstanding teaching.

"1995 has been absolutely amazing," Rigsby said. "I'm just very thankful. I was quite humbled and quite pleased."

"I don't think people teach to get awards. I teach to really communicate my passion for the subject to the students. I love to be honored for something I love to do."

Dr. Martin Medhurst, professor and associate head of the Department of Speech Communication, nominated Rigsby for both awards.

"I guess the one word that best describes him is motivator," Medhurst said. "He has an amazing ability to take students who are merely filling a seat and turn them into involved, active, creative learners."

Dr. Emily Santiago, assistant director of the Department of Multi-

cultural Services, was on the committee that chose Rigsby as the winner of the Faculty Diversity Award, and said he was one of five faculty members nominated.

"The committee felt that in his case, he was the one that deserved the award," she said. "He is able to develop his ideas into some of the classes he teaches. The impact he makes on his students is greater."

Rigsby came to A&M in August 1992 after being a television news reporter and teaching at California State University at Fresno.

**"I fully intend to live every aspect of my life with passion."**  
— Dr. Rick Rigsby  
Assist. professor, speech communication

"I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching here," Rigsby said. "I think the students are among the best in the country. This isn't just school for them."

During his career as a television reporter, Rigsby received several awards, including Outstanding Media Person of the Year in Northern California in 1985 and the Associated Press Award for Outstanding Reporting.

Rigsby's involvement at A&M does not stop at just teaching. Presently, Rigsby is a faculty adviser for the student Speech Communication Association and to a

new Christian fraternity, Gamma Phi Delta. He also helps R.C. Slocum and the football team with their recruiting efforts.

"I've just been very fortunate to be involved in a variety of campus programs that allow me to see what outstanding students we have here at Texas A&M," Rigsby said.

"I have gained a genuine appreciation of how so many of our students have an opportunity to graduate well-rounded. There are so many wonderful opportunities for students to get involved."

Rigsby is also active in the Bryan-College Station community and through the state.

He is a minister who preaches occasionally at Aldersgate United Methodist Church and also travels through Texas preaching at churches and sport camps.

Rigsby said his technique of teaching consists of developing respect for all of his students, learning as much about the subjects he teaches as possible and teaching with a passion.

"I love teaching," Rigsby said. "I fully intend to live every aspect of my life with passion. I think the people that have been so kind to give me these awards sense from my students and my colleagues that I have a zest for teaching."

Robyn Johnson, a junior speech communication major, met Rigsby last semester when she took one of his classes.

"He's wonderful," Johnson said. "When you take his class, it changes not only the way you think, but the way you live. He just makes you take a different approach to things. He really cares and loves his students."

Johnson said Rigsby is not only caring, but is also a very funny person.

"He's always quoting movies and doing Eddie Murphy," she said.

Rigsby made such an impact on Johnson and her class that they nominated him as a namesake for Fish Camp 1995.

When Rigsby found out that he had been chosen as a namesake, he said he was shocked and thrilled.

"It's indescribable and beyond words," he said. "I don't think my faculty members have ever seen me speechless in the nearly three years I've been here. It was a very emotional moment for me."

Smith Dorman, a senior construction science major, is the co-chairman of Camp Rigsby and said Rigsby was chosen because of his good working relationship with students.

"He's just a really exciting teacher," Dorman said. "I get really excited when I'm around him. He's just really enthusiastic and it kind of rubs off on people around him."

Dorman said he is happy that Rigsby will go to the camp and talk to the freshmen.

"I'm just worried that he'll get up and talk to the freshmen and they will expect their professors to be as awesome as him," he said.

## Football: Diaries soundtrack disappointing despite well-known artists

**Amber Clark**  
THE BATTALION

Various Artists  
*The Basketball Diaries* Soundtrack  
Land Records  
(out of five)

The biggest problem with *The Basketball Diaries* Soundtrack is that the producers chose to go on the Seattle bandwagon for a movie that shot in New York City. Two cities on opposite sides of the continent, each with distinct musical

cultures, and the producers choose the more distant of the two. Go figure.

The album opens with "Catholic Boy," performed by Jim Carroll and Pearl Jam. The film is based on Carroll's personal experiences, which apparently gives him the right to replace Eddie Vedder's lead vocal.

But Carroll is no Vedder. His performance is less than enjoyable as he speaks about how he has grown from a boy to a man. The music is not typical Pearl Jam, and the song comes across to the listener as a drippy, whining expression of Catholic life.

Carroll, who has released several spoken-word poetry albums, performs several narrative "songs" on the soundtrack. Actually, the pieces are minute-long narratives about dying friends and getting high, played to music to provide some spark.

Most of the songs are lame attempts at alternative sounds. The Posies' "Coming Right Along" and Green Apple Quick Step's "Dizzy" completely miss the musical mark. Both sound like they belong in a mid-'80s John Hughes film about gym class and hormones.

By far, the most heinous performance is a song by the Jim Carroll Band. As if Carroll appearing solo isn't bad enough, he has to drag in a band of his own. In "People Who Died," Carroll recites a list of dead

individuals and proceeds to scream "These are people who died, died / These are people who died." So much for originality.

Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers performs "I've Been Down," which, despite the title, is a bouncy rendition. The song has a slight Chili Peppers feel, but for the most part it strays from original works into the soundtrack's pool of pseudo alternative music.

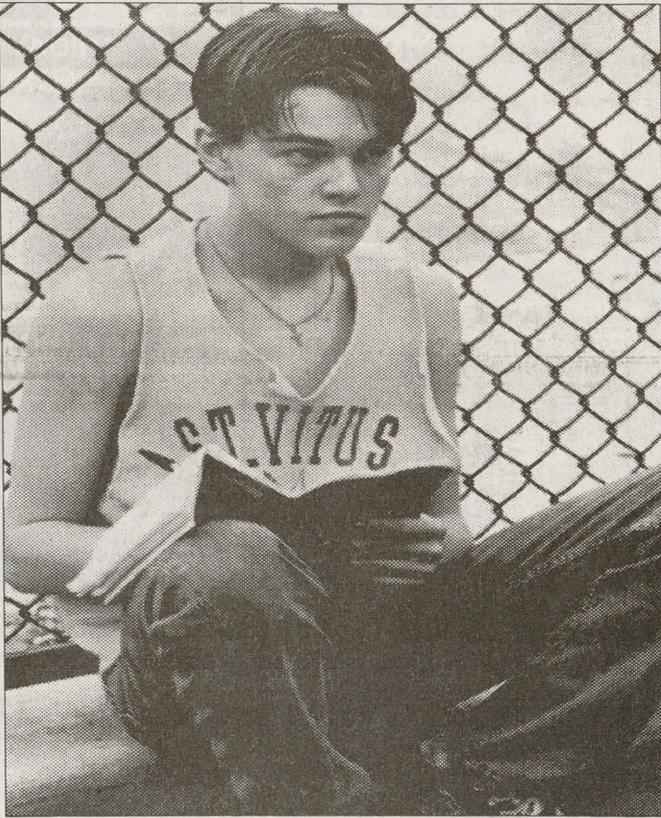
Soundgarden's "Blind Dogs" is the only piece that has an alternative Seattle feel, probably because the band is an original member of the Seattle sound. Chris Cornell's smooth yet brash lyrics and voice seem to belong in a film about the rough life of a heroin addict.

A classic performance by The Doors also gives the soundtrack some credence. Not much on the album can compare to the brooding emotion in "Riders on the Storm."

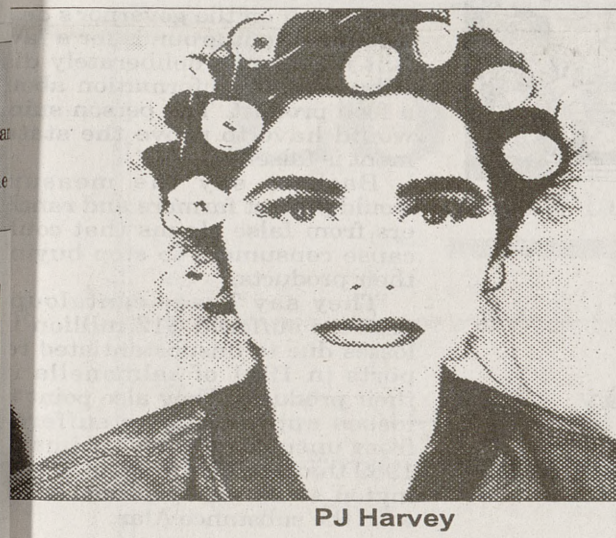
PJ Harvey's newest release "Down by the Water" is the highlight of the album. Harvey's spooky vocals reflect the dark, underground world of drugs and death found in the film.

One song in particular seems totally out of place on the soundtrack. It is exciting and loud, but The Cult's "Star" simply doesn't fit into the roller coaster of alternative sound. The Cult's music seems to defy the alternative definition the producers have tried to establish. But it is a blessing in disguise, as the performance gives the album a bit of a kick.

Overall, the album left much to be desired. Considering the lineup of well-known artists such as Pearl Jam and The Cult, it seems the music could have included more quality material.




The Basketball Diaries movie stars Leonardo DiCaprio



PJ Harvey

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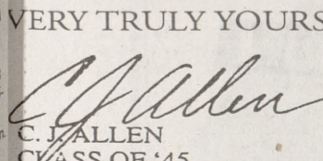


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