

## A new method of MADNESS

Freudian Slip goes into tonight's performance with added members and a new approach

By Brad Russell  
THE BATTALION

It is called, "The Nightmare." Members of Freudian Slip, A&M's improvisational comedy team, bring an audience member up on stage and ask a few personal questions. The troupe then uses the information to create what might be the person's worst nightmare.

Diana Hodges, a senior journalism major and member of the troupe, said making the skit work requires focus and what she calls a "group mind."

Eric Pagac, a junior industrial engineering major and a member of Freudian Slip, said the secret of the group's success is the near-ability to read each other's thoughts.

"We have been around each other so much, it's like we can read each other's minds," Pagac said.

The 12-member group that formed in the Spring of 1993 as an offshoot of the Aggie Players, went to Chicago over the summer to learn from Del Close, a comedy instructor. Close has trained Julia Louise Dreyfus, Mike Meyers, John Candy, Gilda Radner and scores of other comedians.

The group learned how to do long-form improv, which contrasts with the group's previous short-skits style.

Although the group only received a single-day's training, Pagac said he learned more in that one day of training than he has in several years of performing improv.

Jimmy Leary, a senior industrial distribution major and member of the group, said that since the troupe started performing long form improv, crowd response has changed.

"It's past the point of people just laughing," Leary said. "Now when we do something, people scream.

You feel like you're at a football game. People go nuts."

After they learned the new comedy form, the group held its first off-campus performance at The Dixie Theater and had a large turnout.

Hodges said her favorite stage moment came during the group's first off-campus show.

"Everything just came together," she said. "Everyone was so focused, and the audience just loved it."

At the end of the show, the troupe received its first standing ovation and performed its first encore.

Ovations are not the audience's only form of feedback at Freudian Slip's performances.

Since the show involves audience participation, the comedians never know what to expect. Although audiences may expect members of the troupe to be caught off guard by some of the input, Hodges said improvisational comedy is no place for the easily-embarrassed.

"Part of the challenge is turning something crude into something totally different from what the audience expects," she said.

Leary said the troupe's experience helps them with what could otherwise be awkward situations.

"It can be a little flustering," Leary said, "but we tend to have a good way to play it off."

In addition to tak-

ing acting classes to prepare for improv situations, Pagac said the group has been reading *Truth in Comedy* to further its education.

"*Truth in Comedy* is often regarded as the bible of improv comedy," Pagac said.

As for the future of the group, several members will be graduating in May, but Pagac said he is hopeful that they will only be separated briefly.

"We would like to reorganize later as a professional improvisational comedy group and locate in Chicago or New York," Pagac said. "That would be the ultimate for us."



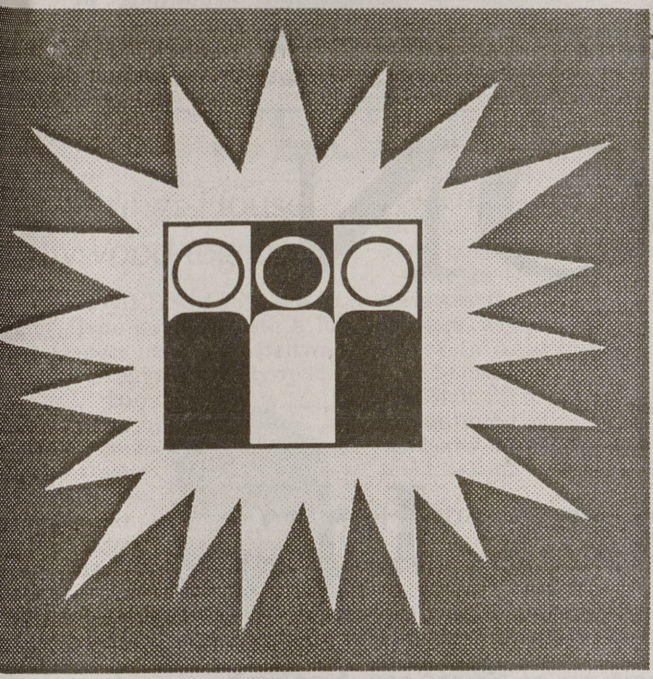
Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Members of Freudian Slip perform as the opening act for comedienne Margaret Cho last Friday. The group originally performed under the name "A&M Evening at the Improv."







Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Freudian Slip will have their first full show of the semester tonight.



# Computing EXPO '95

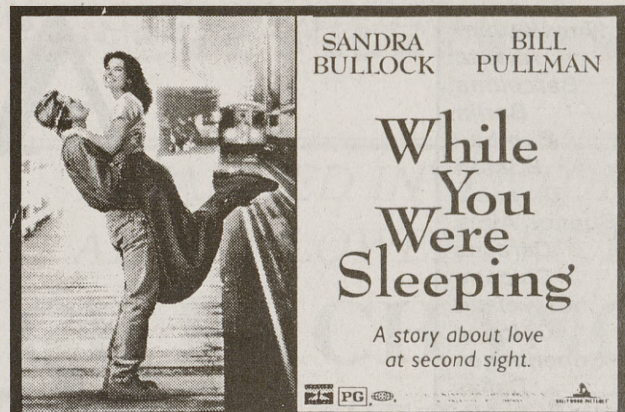
Get Connected to the World!

-  **Who?** Faculty, Staff & Students
-  **What?** A Hands-On Demonstration of Texas A&M University Computing Resources
-  **When?** September 12-13, 1995  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
-  **Where?** Rudder Tower Exhibit Hall

For more information, please call 845-8300.

Sponsored by  Computing and Information Services

MSC FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS...



SAT. @ 7 & 9:30

Admission \$2.75 w/L.D. \$3 w/out L.D.  
Persons with disabilities please call 845-8478 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification 3 working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability.  
Aggie Cinema Hotline: 847-8478 Rudder Box Office: 845-1234  
All films are presented in the Rudder Theater Complex  
e-mail: films.sept@msc.tamu.edu.

## ATTENTION JEWISH STUDENTS:

Texas A&M Hillel is here for you

...with a full range of religious, social, cultural, and educational programs

Scavenger Hunt \* FREE Pizza included  
Sunday, September 10 6:00 P.M.

Shabbat Services  
every Friday at 8:00 P.M.



Call 696-7313 for details

800 George Bush Dr. across from campus

1917 78 1995