

# AGGIE life

THURSDAY  
April 11, 1996

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Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

Lennie, played by Frankie Anello, strokes the hair of Curly's wife, played by Jennifer Kinard, in John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men."

## A classic tale brought to life 'Of Mice and Men' depicts fraternal love

By James Francis  
THE BATTALION

**J**ohn Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" is a classic tale of companionship between two farm hands during the Great Depression.

Texas A&M University's Theater Arts program is presenting a stage adaptation of the drama that began last weekend and will continue on April 11-13 and 18-20 in Rudder Forum.

Brian Troyan, a sophomore psychology and English major, portrays George, a simple man with the dream of attaining a ranch house and enjoying life with his friend Lenny.

George, who is sometimes a brother, father and mother to Lenny, takes responsibility for his friend, and the bond between them is apparent.

"It's a story between two friends who

don't have anyone else in the world," Troyan said.

Troyan said the prestige behind the story offers him a chance to expand his acting experience.

Troyan also said the tale is in some ways a bleak tragedy that can fall upon anyone.

He said he believes that the moment the audience gets immersed in the story and forgets the people are acting, the performers have accomplished their goal.

To see the ultimate goal of the play follow through is the director's job, and this play is directed by Robert Wenck.

**"I want them to be moved by him (Lenny), to realize that he is an innocent being who had no intentions of doing any harm."**

—FRANKIE ANELLO  
Lenny, "Of Mice and Men"

The tragic tone of the stage production originates from the character of Lenny, portrayed by Frankie Anello, a junior speech communications major.

Anello described Lenny as a child in a man's body who is much more than just a retarded or completely moronic individual.

Anello first performed a scene from the production in an acting class.

When auditions rolled around, he thought he could play the part well. Now, he said, he hopes the audience will enjoy the performance.

"I want them to be moved by him (Lenny), to realize that he is an innocent being who had no intentions of doing any harm," Anello said.

While one character is just as important as the other, the bond Lenny and George share is central to the storyline.

"It's just the old adage of brotherhood and love men share in their own ways," Anello said.

Wenck, who has been an Aggie Player and faculty member since 1954, said he finds directing an easy thing to do.

He said each production has its own interesting points.

Wenck said people should realize the sound, costume and lighting have all been created by student designers.

He also said people should not ignore the work of the actors.

"The actors are doing a fine job with it," he said. "The supporting cast is equally proficient, and it lets the audience become lost in the story instead of watching people struggle to portray characters."

Wenck said his responsibility is to convey the mood, emotion and ideas of the characters to the audience and show the brotherhood between people who care about each other, no matter what handicaps they may have.

"It's a classic American play that speaks to the human condition," he said.

### entertainment GLANCE

#### Lee stresses the value of careers in media

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Filmmaker Spike Lee's message to a group of black college students: Be like Spike and consider a career in the media.

"That's where the battle is being fought, that is how you control people's minds," Lee told students Tuesday at predominantly black Fisk University.

"As we move toward the millennium, the year 2000, the most powerful nations are not those that have nuclear bombs, but those that control the media," Lee said.

Lee is in Nashville this week to shoot scenes for a movie, "Get on the Bus," about a cross-country journey by 20 black men to the Million Man March. It is set for release Oct. 16 — the one-year anniversary of the march on Washington.



Lee

#### Brando apologizes for anti-Semitic comments

LOS ANGELES (CA) — Marlon Brando apologized for anti-Semitic comments about Jews in Hollywood and plans to make a public statement at the Museum of Tolerance, a rabbi said.

Brando called the center and "expressed his remorse," Rabbi Marvin Hier said Tuesday. Brando will "make a public statement regarding this matter" Friday at the Simon Wiesenthal Center's museum, Hier said.

The 72-year-old Brando was harshly criticized by Jewish groups after remarks last week in an interview on CNN's Larry King Live.

"Hollywood is run by Jews. It is owned by Jews and they should have a greater sensitivity about the issue of people who are suffering," Brando said.

"He told me he was an early supporter of Israel," said Hier. "I told him, 'Marlon, I never thought you were an anti-Semite, but the words you used on Larry King was music to the ears of racists and bigots all over the world.'"

The reclusive star of *The Godfather* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* mentioned on the show the various stereotypes that he said were depicted in films.

"We've seen the nigger, and the greasball. We've seen the chink. We've seen the slit-eyed dangerous Jap. We have seen the wily Filipino. We've seen everything. But we never saw the kike because they knew perfectly well that that's where you draw the wagons around," Brando said.

#### Belmondo lashes out at movie distributors

PARIS (AP) — Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo has lashed out at French movie distributors' deference to Hollywood's domination of the film industry.

The 63-year-old actor, whose performance in Jean-Luc Godard's 1959 film *Breathless* brought him international fame, is angry that his latest movie, *Desire*, is being shown in only 20 theaters across France.

"The big French movie distributors are the Trojan horse of the American cinema," Belmondo told the Paris daily *Le Figaro*. "I do not condemn the American cinema, I am against all forms of censorship. But I would like the public to be able to judge by itself."

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