

## ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

### Dole laughs off presidential loss

NEW YORK (AP) — If Bob Dole is traumatized by losing the presidency, he's sure doing a good job of hiding it.

The failed Republican presidential candidate poked fun at himself on the opening segment of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, just like he did on CBS's *Late Show with David Letterman*.

In the opening skit of Saturday's show, Dole was introduced by SNL producer Lorne Michaels to cast member Norm MacDonald, who impersonated Dole throughout the campaign. The men wore identical suits and ties.

"Bob Dole knows how much it meant to you to play him on the show and Bob Dole feels your pain," Dole said to MacDonald, parodying his own habit of referring to himself in the third person.

But, he told MacDonald later in the show, "unless there's a recount, you're out of work."

### Stockholm festival picks its winners

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Lili Taylor won the best actress prize at the international Stockholm film festival for her starring role in *I Shot Andy Warhol*.

Veteran Hollywood star Rod Steiger and *Fargo* actress Frances McDormand were among American celebrities attending the festival that wound up Sunday.

More than 100 films were screened at the festival including classics like Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane*, *Fargo*, made by McDormand's husband Joel Coen and his brother Ethan, was the festival's opening movie.

Best script honors went to the French movie *Un hero tres discret* (*A Discrete Hero*). No award for best male actor was presented.

### MacLaine makes endearing sequel

NEW YORK (AP) — Intellectually, Shirley MacLaine, who won an Academy Award for her portrayal of Aurora Greenway in *Terms of Endearment*, had reservations about making a sequel. Emotionally, there was no doubt.

"I worry that so many people have seen *Terms* 10 times, and maybe the receptivity to this family is different now," MacLaine, 62, says in the Nov. 22 issue of *Entertainment Weekly*.

Trusting her instincts, she went ahead with *The Evening Star*, anyway.

"I make movies because I want to. I missed Aurora."

In the original, MacLaine played the cold mother of Debra Winger's character, who manages to build a warm relationship with her before dying of cancer.

*The Evening Star*, scheduled to open later this year, focuses on Aurora and her grandchildren.

### Crucible author proud of film script

NEW YORK (AP) — Making a film version of *The Crucible* gave playwright Arthur Miller a chance to bond with his son Robert.

The younger Miller produced the movie based on Arthur Miller's famed 1953 play about the Salem witch trials, going to bat with studios to ensure his 81-year-old father would be allowed to write the screenplay.

"Arthur hadn't really had any experience of me as an adult," Robert Miller says in the *The New York Times Magazine*. "Our relationship was more or less the way it had been since I was 21. We needed something to glue it together. This film was the completion."

The movie stars Daniel Day-Lewis and is scheduled to open soon. The elder Miller was pleased with the outcome.

"I was afraid that when I saw it on the screen, I'd want to flee the theater," Arthur Miller says in the *Sunday magazine*. "That's been the way I felt with other films of my plays. This is the only time when what I imagined while writing actually showed up on screen."

# PIPE DREAMS

A Corps of Cadets freshman bagpiped his way to Scotland and into the A&M eye.

By KIMBER HUFF  
THE BATTALION

In the distance on the Texas A&M campus, the distinctive sound of a bagpipe rings out. What is it? A runaway Scot from the Texas Renaissance Festival? A promotion for *Braveheart 2: The Sequel*?

It is Corps of Cadets freshman Mike Rountree, a construction science major from Unit H-1.

Rountree said he usually plays his bagpipe after Midnight Yell, and he also plays for formations or when the Corps marches to Duncan Dining Hall.

"He has played as the outfit marched to chow," senior H-1 commander Colin Woodall, an agricultural systems major, said. "A lot of times, he gets out on the Quad and entertains everybody."

Rountree also plays by request. "A lot of times, I'm doing stuff for my juniors and seniors, so their girls can hear," Rountree said.

Rountree seems to be making a name for himself, Otty Medina, a freshman biomedical science major who is also in Unit H-1, said.

"It's funny because when we whip out on the Quad, and upperclassmen ask us what unit we're in, and we say H-1, they say, 'Oh, the one with the bagpipe,'" Medina said.

"The whole Corps has realized that he belongs to H-1," Woodall said. "It has brought a lot of attention to him and us."

Rountree has been playing the bagpipe for about seven years. He started playing as a member of a program in St. Thomas High School in Houston. About 80 students learned to play the bagpipes, and Rountree was one of 20 who was a member of the "A Band" — the school's traveling competition band.

Rountree said he has traveled abroad and throughout the United States with the band.

"I've been to Scotland twice to compete in the World Championships," Rountree said. "We won in 1995."

In addition, the band produced an album, *The World Champion St. Thomas Bagpipe and Drum Band*. The album included the band's competition music and some American and Irish songs.

Rountree said he is able to play many styles of music on the bagpipe.

"My favorites around here are 'Dixie' and 'Amazing Grace,' but I can play a lot of stuff," Rountree said. "Mostly Scottish tunes, but also some Irish tunes and some American stuff. There is even some orchestra music that we've converted."

The bagpipe's origins have been traced to ancient Mesopotamia, and the Celts were responsible for spreading the instrument's popularity. There are at least seven different types of bagpipes, but the basic bagpipe consists of three drones, which are hollow wooden pipes with an upright reed. One drone is a bass and the other two are tenors.

"They make continuous harmony," Rountree said. "They're why the bagpipe has that hum."

The actual bag is always filled with air so there is a constant pressure on the reeds of the bagpipe, which causes a continuous sound. The melody is played on pipes attached to the bag, and is composed of nine notes.

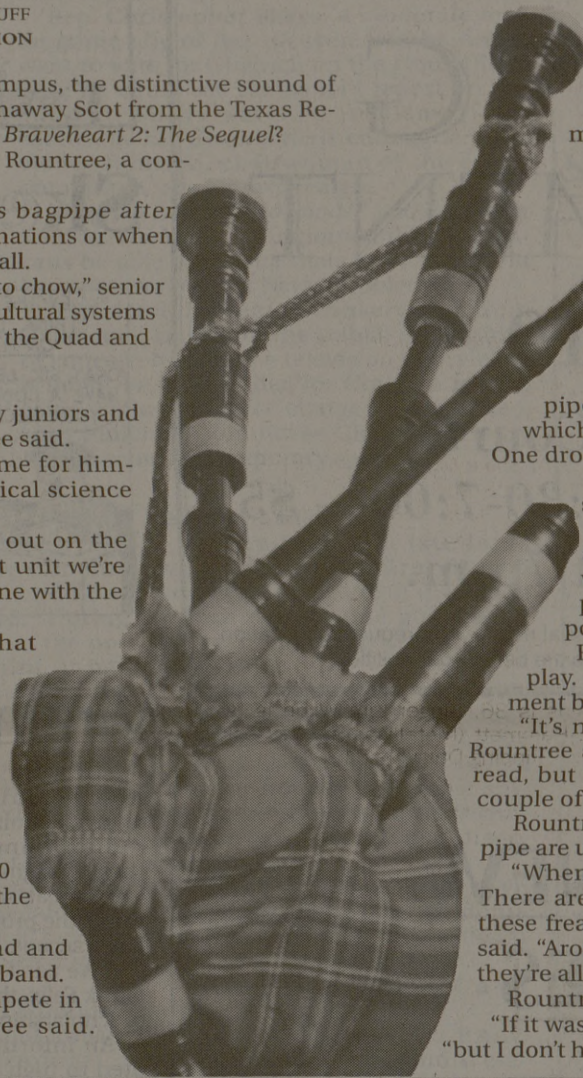
Rountree said bagpipes are physically demanding to play. People usually begin playing on a practice instrument before playing a bagpipe.

"It's not as complicated as an orchestral instrument," Rountree said. "It has one octave, and the music is easy to read, but it's physically hard to play. It takes most people a couple of years to get onto the bagpipe."

Rountree said people who first see him playing the bagpipe are usually surprised.

"When I was with the band, the reaction was, 'Whoah. There are all these guys running around in kilts playing these freaky little instruments. What's going on?'" Rountree said. "Around here, they've never seen anything like this, so they're all like, 'Whoah. Play it again.'"

Rountree said he hopes to be able to play more. "If it was up to me, I'd be playing a lot more," Rountree said, "but I don't have the time as a fish."



## Study seminar makes time for free weekends

By KIMBER HUFF  
THE BATTALION

Dr. Walter Bradley, a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, found that his students complained about having too much homework and too little time to socialize.

To address the problem, Bradley created a seminar which teaches students how to maintain a high grade-point ratio and have the weekends free.

The seminar, entitled "Time Management and Study Strategies for College Students," began when Bradley began asking mechanical engineering students what could be done to improve the department.

"The most common answer I got was 'give less work,'" Bradley said. "I felt the bigger problem was the inefficient and ineffective way most students go about doing that work."

Bradley began planning a program that would teach students to get their work done in a reasonable amount of time.

The first seminar was given in January 1990 to a group

**"It's hard to be excellent in performance when you're ambiguous in direction."**

of mechanical engineering students. For the next three years, the seminar was held on campus with 160 to 170 mechanical engineering students attending each year.

Other organizations soon began asking Bradley to give his presentation to their members.

"During that time period, I began to get a lot of invitations," Bradley said.

Bradley said he wanted to expand the program, but he

knew he couldn't plan for multiple programs alone.

"I don't have time to do more than just show up and teach," Bradley said.

Bradley's son, Steven Bradley, and son-in-law, David Perry, expressed an interest in helping organize off-campus programs and programs at other schools.

"It's kind of fun to do this as kind of a family project with them," Bradley said.

In 1994, Bradley began giving the six-hour-long seminar off campus so more people could attend each semester. Two sections have also been offered in the fall, and one section in the spring.

Bradley said it is extremely important to have a clear vision of where you want to go in the future.

"Without a clear vision, I'm probably not going to perform to anything like my maximum potential," Bradley said.

"As a college freshman, I knew I was going to have to work my way through college and go to graduate school," Bradley said.

Bradley said he got information about graduate school and discovered that he needed to maintain a 3.6 grade-point ratio to get a fellowship to graduate school.

"Then I made a C on my first calculus test," Bradley said.

Bradley didn't let this discourage him.

"I knew what I needed to make," Bradley said. "I knew where I wanted to go."

Bradley said he was determined to make a 100 on the final to bring his grade up.

"I started studying three weeks before the final," Bradley said.

"I probably studied 50 hours for that final."

Bradley said the studying paid off when he made a 100 on the final, and an A in the class. His GPR stayed above 3.6.

"It's hard to be excellent in performance when you're ambiguous in direction," Bradley said.

Besides determining goals for the future, Bradley said the program tries to help students improve their time management, reading and memory skills.

"I was surprised that most of the students have effective

reading rates of 100 words per minute," Bradley said.

Bradley said this is approximately a third-grade reading level. A more realistic level for college students is about 500 words per minute.

"Reading slowly actually penalizes your comprehension," Bradley said.

Another practice that can prove to hurt students is what

**"I feel very confident that students applying these skills can make a 3.5 without studying on weekends."**

Bradley calls "deferred learning," or putting off studying until exam time.

"You have to apply your own pressure to work hard," Bradley said.

Bradley said going to class is also a key to improving grades and having more free time. He recommends going to class and sitting in the front of the room.

"You have to work hard during class," Bradley said.

Bradley recommends treating school like an 8-to-5 job or a 42 hour work week.

If students are spending 14 hours in class per week, Bradley said, then they can study 28 hours outside of class and still have every week night and the entire weekend off.

"I feel very confident that students applying these skills can make a 3.5 without studying on weekends," Bradley said. "Applying them isn't hard, it's just doing things in a different way."

Students interested in attending the spring seminar can call (409) 764-2019 for more information.