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**Spring Break Itinerary:**

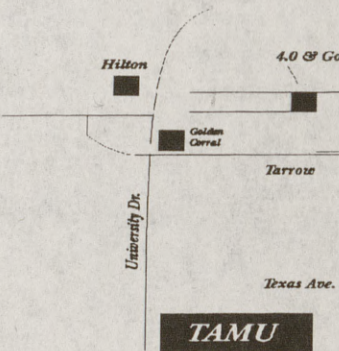
The week of March 16-19

Acct 327	Part I Mon Mar 17 7pm-9pm	Part II Tue Mar 18 7pm-9pm	Part III Wed Mar 19 7pm-9pm	Part IV Thu Mar 20 7pm-9pm
Bana 305	Part I Mon Mar 17 7pm-9pm	Part II Tue Mar 18 7pm-9pm	Part III Wed Mar 19 7pm-9pm	Part IV Thu Mar 20 7pm-9pm
Biol 114	Part I Mon Mar 17 8pm-11pm	Part II Tue Mar 18 8pm-11pm	Part III Wed Mar 19 8pm-11pm	
Math 142	Part I Sun Mar 16 11pm-1am	Part II Mon Mar 17 11pm-1am	Part III Tue Mar 18 11pm-1am	Part IV Wed Mar 19 11pm-1am
Math 151	Part I Sun Mar 16 7pm-9pm	Part II Mon Mar 17 5pm-7pm	Part III Tue Mar 18 5pm-7pm	Part IV Wed Mar 19 5pm-7pm
Math 152	Part I Sun Mar 16 9pm-11pm	Part II Mon Mar 17 9pm-11pm	Part III Tue Mar 18 9pm-11pm	Part IV Wed Mar 19 9pm-11pm
Econ 202 Allen	Part I Wed Mar 19 6pm-9pm	Part II Thu Mar 20 6pm-9pm		
Econ 203 Edwardson Brown	Part I Mon Mar 17 6pm-9pm	Part II Tue Mar 18 6pm-9pm		

Tickets Go on sale Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets go on sale at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 16. All voyages begin at 4.0 & Go, next to Sidepockets and Blockbuster.

Last Monday's answer: The stimulator tip is used to clean teeth. It is the pointy rubber thing at the end of your toothbrush.



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Look for our ads on Mondays and Thursdays

**THE BATTALION  
AGGIELIFE**

Monday • March 17, 1997

**Razor-sharp cast makes  
Blade a cut above the rest**

**Sling Blade**

Starring Billy Bob Thornton, Lucas Black and Dwight Yoakam  
Directed by Billy Bob Thornton  
Rated R  
Playing at Hollywood 16

★★★★ (out of five)

By MICHAEL SCHAUB  
THE BATTALION

Forget Hollywood's self-congratulatory prattle about "the year of the independents."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at least acknowledged the presence of independent films this year, but when it comes to recognizing quality non-studio filmmaking — well, the Academy would rather sit contentedly through harmless Hallmark fare like *Jerry Maguire*.

Billy Bob Thornton's brilliant drama *Sling Blade* will never be a hit the size of *Jerry Maguire*, although it is the most stunning, beautifully executed film of the year.

*Sling Blade*, which is playing finally in College Station after weeks of national release, tells the story of Karl Childers (Thornton), who has spent most of his life in a mental hospital after killing his mother and her lover with a scythe.

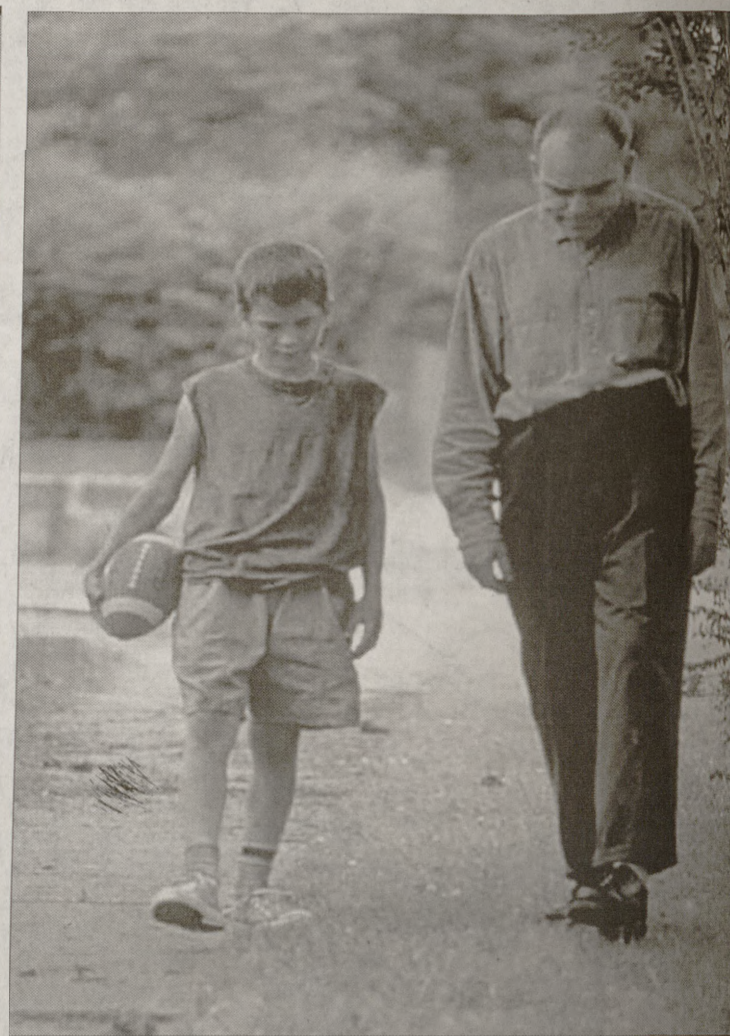
Childers is released 20 years after his committal when psychiatrists determine he is sane. He returns to his hometown of Millsburg, Ark., where he finds work as a mechanic and befriends a young boy, Frank Wheatley (newcomer Lucas Black) and the boy's mother Linda (Natalie Canerday).

Frank and Linda live in fear of Linda's abusive boyfriend Doyle Hargraves (Dwight Yoakam), a domineering drunkard who hates Frank and Linda's homosexual friend Vaughan (John Ritter).

The film follows Karl's growing relationship with Frank, whose father committed suicide years back.

*Sling Blade* is notable for a number of reasons, the first and most obvious is the brilliant performances. Thornton, who received a Best Actor nomination, is spellbinding as Karl. Country musician Dwight Yoakam is brilliant as the evil Doyle, and John Ritter gives perhaps the most accomplished performance of his career as Vaughan.

The standout performance belongs to Lucas Black, whose amazing treatment of Frank Wheatley



*Sling Blade* follows the friendship of Frank (Lucas Black) and Karl (Billy Bob Thornton), a one-time mental patient who killed his mother and her lover

brings to mind Leonardo DiCaprio's performance in *This Boy's Life*.

There is not a bad performance in the film. The actors speak with convincing Arkansas accents, not the burlesque corn-pone voices heard in such sanitized Hollywood crap as last year's *A Time to Kill*.

Thornton proves himself a brilliant screenwriter. The dialogue in the film is powerful and understated with a powerful Southern flavor — Thornton thanks novelist Erskine Caldwell in the credits, and her influence is obvious.

The film was shot in Arkansas, and Thornton makes powerful use of the setting. The Southeastern landscape and characters are similar to John Sayles' use of South Texas as the setting for last year's *Lone Star* (another brilliant film almost completely ignored by the Academy).

*Sling Blade* is better than great. It is flawless, and will likely be re-

membered as one of the best films of the '90s.

But even the most magnificent films are occasionally missing something, and *Sling Blade* is no exception.

The film is missing Academy Award nominations for Yoakam and Black. It is missing the Best Picture nomination apparently reserved for Tom Cruise's feel-good flick *Jerry Maguire* and the 14-hour-long epic *The English Patient*. A film this brave should be recognized by more than just a couple of token nominations.

But it is not missing originality, simplicity or virtuosity. *Sling Blade* is a masterpiece, one of the most beautiful American films in recent history, which makes Hollywood's indifference toward it, and films like it, well, pretty unsurprising, actually.

Oscar nominations do not buy movie moguls Porsches. Show them the money.

**GANGS**

Continued from Page 3

"Children are extremely important in this endeavor," Jackson said. "We're challenging kids to conform to non-violent resolutions to disputes."

There are also programs available through churches such as Bryan's First Baptist Church, which sponsors free activities for low-income youth in the area, Jackson said.

"It's really about teamwork," he said. "We need to strengthen kids' resolves."

Nevertheless, violence among youth has not disappeared completely in Bryan-College Station.

The presence of Texas A&M in the community helps the area by bringing culture and diversity to Bryan-College Station, Stein said.

"In the inner cities, there's more high pressure, and that's going to create more violence than in smaller cities like this," he said. "But any violence at all is too much."

Youth violence in the area may have decreased, Jackson said, but that does not mean citizens should not be

concerned about the future.

"We have a much younger age of youth toying with the notion of joining gangs," Jackson said. "Youth gangs are starting in elementary grades now. They're not nearly as violent, but the ideology is being laid."

The Bryan City Council is investigating solutions to youth violence in its governance agenda, Jackson said.

"Youth violence has the potential to flare its ugly head at any time," Jackson said. "The worst thing you can do is to put your head in the sand and say 'It's not happening here.'"

**Program for the Week of March 17, 1997**

**Hey You...Read This!  
Your Invited to Attend...and its' Free!**

Participate in the Intellectual/Research Community  
The Graduate Student Council Research Week  
Here on the TAMU Campus -- the Week after Spring Break!

March 17, 1997

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Texas State Graduate Leadership Initiative  
-- Open to all graduate students, faculty and administrators.

March 18, 1997

- 2:00 p.m. Special Guest Panel discussion with students on "Applied Research Making the Links from the Bench to the Public." Guests include Dr. Gilman, NCAR, Dr. Lomax, TTI; and Dr. Alexander, Baylor University. Open to the Public -- Cain Hall Viewing Theater.
- 4:00 p.m. Opening Reception -- Third Annual GSC All-University Research Competition -- Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Ray Bowen, President TAMU -- Open to the Public -- food served -- Forsyth Gallery, MSC.
- 7:30 p.m. Special Lecture, Dr. Soffen, Director, Goddard Space Flight Center, and Biologist on the Viking Mission to Mars, will speak on "Life on Mars." -- Rudder Theater -- Open to the Public.

March 19, 1997

- 7:00 a.m. Set up -- Poster and Speaking Competition -- Rudder Theater Exhibition Hall. Event is open for public viewing Wednesday through Friday.
- 2:00 Dr. LeMone, Senior Scientist, recently elected to the National Academy of Engineering, currently at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, her topic, "Women in Science." -- Rudder Theater -- Open to the Public. Informal reception after the reception.

March 20, 1997

- Research and Poster Competition Exhibit -- Rudder Theater Exhibition Hall
- 2:30 p.m. Dr. Miller, Editor, Science News Magazine, will speak on "Science and the Media: What Graduate Students Should Know." -- Rudder Theater -- Open to the Public -- Reception to follow in the Rudder Theater Exhibition Hall. The GSC is proud to promote this activity, sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology Journalism, and the Office of the VPR/APG.

March 21, 1997

- Research and Poster Competition Exhibit Open -- All Day -- Rudder Theater Exhibition Hall
- 2:00 Research Competition Awards Ceremony to honor all participants and award recipients. Rudder Theater -- Open to the Public -- Reception to Follow in the Rudder Theater Exhibition Hall.

All Events Are Free -- Don't Miss the Opportunity to Attend and be a Part of the Intellectual Community! Direct Questions to Amy Kardell 845-9925  
E-mail akardell@ttadmin.tamu.edu.

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