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Aggie Style

Date: Tuesday, October 21
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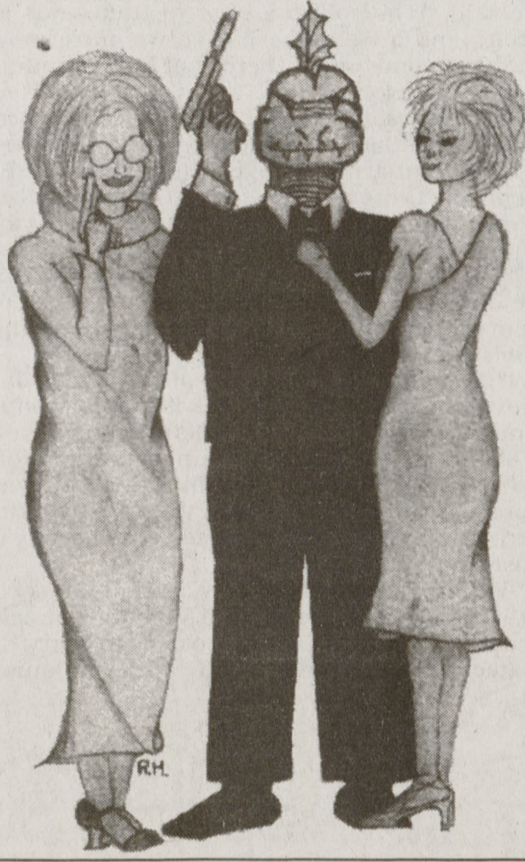
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4 THE BATTALION LIFESTYLES

Monday • October 20

Meier's cure for the common movie is a copy of *Swingers* at the video store.

I am an admitted movie connoisseur. I know release dates by heart. The Academy Awards are a holiday for me. I screamed when Lauren Bacall did not win for Best Supporting Actress. In other words, movies are a huge chunk of my life.



AARON MEIER
lifestyles editor

However, too often movies of today are produced by talented, sterile directors such as Joel Schumacher (case in point, *Batman and Robin*).

We all get bored with these trash films that steal millions of dollars from us, and we complacently accept them as the best Hollywood has to offer. If *The Lost World* is the best Hollywood has to offer, then let me shoot myself now.

But before I pull the trigger, I'll pause for a minute and examine other aspects of cinema. Underneath — way underneath — this celluloid funk Hollywood is in, lies true movie-making magic.

Every American has heard of *Pulp Fiction*, the movie that brought John Travolta out of oblivion and made Ezekiel 25:17 ("The path of the righteous...") the most quoted Bible verse on college campuses.

What most people do not know, though, is that Quentin Tarantino was not some no-name director. His first film, *Reservoir Dogs*, set Robert Redford's Aspen-based vanity project, otherwise known as the Sundance Film Festival, on its ear before *Pulp Fiction* was a twisted glimmer in Tarantino's eye.

Other directors such as Ed Burns, Kevin Smith and Robert Rodriguez have emerged out of

the Sundance snow glare to become the directors on the cutting edge of filmmaking.

Ironically though, these young directors will hardly be seen on a Bryan-College Station big screen. I am willing to accept the fact that a lot of people like Bubba and his hound dog named Killer do not want to watch Samuel L. Jackson on "brain detail."

Enter the wonderful world of movie rental — where the average Joe or Josephine has a choice on the movie they want to see.

However, the world of movie rental can be as confusing as the director's cut of *Natural Born Killers*. Not only is there the typical movies everyone has heard of, but there is also the "straight-to-video" section, which essentially means, "This movie sucked so bad we wouldn't even release it." Sorry to offend any Alyssa Milano fans of *Poison Ivy 2: Lily*.

The video store is one of the few ways to catch art house films in B-C.S. The only thing missing is a map to separate the good movies from *Relentless 7: The Coreys Strike Back* (Haim and Feldman).

Now let me put my editor hat on: In order to better serve the readers of *The Battalion* and to expand the horizons of the greater Bryan-College Station area, I have decided to run a video pick of the week.

I will pause here so readers can catch their breath and cheer.

It may not sound like a lot, but imagine being excited by movies again. Watching a film and jumping up and saying, "That was one great movie. That Meier guy is a genius with excellent taste."

So maybe people will not get that excited, but at least they will have a guide when going to a video store.

The first movie to be selected for the "Video Hall of Fame" is *Swingers*, starring Jon Favreau, best known as Monica's Ultimate Fight-

er, millionaire boyfriend on "Friends," and Vince Vaughn in *The Lost World*.

Welcome to the world of slang, where every woman is "beautiful baby" and getting to Disneyland as Goofy is desirable. Written by Favreau, this is a gem. It is full of catch phrases much more inventive than "me the money."

Baby, this movie is so much most people don't even know.

Not only does it offer an interesting glimpse on male bonding, it is a wicked spearing of the wood actors' scene, where a party is a power play and a standup comedian is a sitcom waiting to happen.

Swingers reaffirms my faith in the creative process of movie making. A horrendously funny scene and actors who act and dance in front of the camera make one of the best independent movies to come around in a long time.

Director Doug Liman takes an interesting look at the "retro Pack" mentality currently in vogue. Martinis, cigars and lounge singers make for interesting fare in this flick.

Women will especially appreciate the view into the minds of "Seeing the male animal world" sexual scenario offers a unique few movies can offer.

This movie proves one thing: nothing else. "A broken heart the redial button on a telephone make for a depressingly two combination."

Swingers is a movie with black heart, but a heart of gold. Favreau proves a script can be written for a movie that does not require rubber costumes or a million dollar dinosaurs.

Hollywood, take notice: a generation of filmmakers is being over.

Aaron Meier is a senior journalism student.

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