

By Qui...  
FOR FOOTBALL...  
HEY, I'M ORDERING... WANT ANY...  
GOT AN... AT DID YOU...  
JD... I HOPE...  
TURD...

# A HELPING HAND



**By** A&M students find helping Bryan-College Station elementary school students a rewarding experience

BY MARIUM MOHIUDDIN  
Staff writer

5 X 5 = 25. To Aggies, this equation should be easy to solve. To elementary school students, this equation can be the cause of sleepless nights and stressful weeks of math. Simply helping a child through the horror of multiplication tables will be received with a big toothy smile and shining happy eyes.

A few A&M students encounter these awards on a weekly basis by volunteering at elementary schools in Bryan-College Station and spending 30 minutes to an hour a week with an elementary student.

Todd King, a senior marketing major, has volunteered for two years with the Aggie Buddies program in elementary schools.

"I got involved through my church," King said. "I would go (to the school) for a couple of hours every week, and I would sit with them in the classroom or in the hall. I would read with them or go over things they were having problems with such as math."

King said it is not always obvious he is helping the children he mentors.

"I had two students to work with," King said. "One showed no emotions and the other always ran over and gave me a hug and was always saying, 'thank you.' One time I could not come, so I called ahead and informed the teacher. When I went

back, the teacher told me the student (who did not show emotions) had been crying because I did not come. That just killed me because I did not know I was having such an effect."

Ann Busch, the enrichment coordinator at Rock Prairie Elementary School in College Station, has been involved with the Aggie Buddies program for two years and finds it to be successful.

"The program started nine years ago because we found there was a need for some young students to have a positive role model," Busch said. "We have grown from 14 volunteers to 100 volunteers in the last year. The teachers request buddies for their students. They look at students who do not have siblings, who may have lost parents, are very shy or who need academic help."

The students are nominated by their teachers and need permission from their parents to participate.

Busch said the program has been effective. Some parents have called her and asked if they can nominate their own child.

Six to seven A&M campus organizations are involved with the Rock Prairie Elementary School Aggie Buddies program. The volunteers do not come exclusively from campus organizations. Volunteers have come from church groups and some independently volunteer because they heard about the program through word of mouth.

Busch said she did a survey to discover if the program is effective.

"The teachers felt this was a positive influence and had made a difference on the students," Busch said. "The teachers have noticed an increase in the students self-esteem, their attitude and their school work."

Busch said some relationships between the students and their mentors are maintained outside of the elementary school, also.

"The partners have developed real friendships," Busch said. "With permission from the parents, some A&M students have taken them bowling or to putt-putt. It is very gratifying when you see them walking down the hall holding hands with big smiles on the children's faces."

Nicole Rodriguez, behavior manager at Ross Elementary School in Bryan, co-coordinates Ross Buddies, a mentoring program at Ross Elementary School, because she saw the impact it had on her daughter.

"Two years ago I had a baby," Rodriguez said. "I saw that my daughter was facing issues about the new baby and that 'we loved the baby more.' We felt that a buddy could help her through these issues. Her buddy helped to reassure her, and I noticed a change in her attitude towards the baby."

PLEASE SEE VOLUNTEERS ON PAGE 4.

Acting saving grace of *Playing God*

## Movie Review

*Playing God*  
Starring David Duchovny and Timothy Hutton  
Directed by Andy Wilson  
Playing at Hollywood 16  
★★★1/2 (out of five)

*Playing God* uses a nice cast and solid writing to give the audience a heavenly time.

The action-thriller gives small screen star David Duchovny another chance at the big screen.

Duchovny plays Dr. Eugene Sands, a gifted surgeon with a nasty drug habit. When he loses a patient while under the influence of drugs, he loses his license and almost his sanity.

Sands is in a club one night looking for some drugs, when a shooting occurs. A man is left looking like a can of V-8 at a firing range.

Sands uses his considerable medical skill to save the guy's life. After a job well done, Sands takes his drugs and heads home to get high.

When the good doctor wakes up from a narcotic nap, a couple of gun-toting thugs

are there to greet him. Apparently someone with a lot of clout took notice of Sands' impromptu medical demonstration and liked what he saw.

Sands' new admirer is Raymond Blossom (Timothy Hutton), a software pirate who is nuttier than a squirrel on crack. Blossom likes Sands so much, he wants Sands as his own personal doctor.

He pokes and prods Sands until he agrees to 'Play God' again, and start saving the lives of criminals.

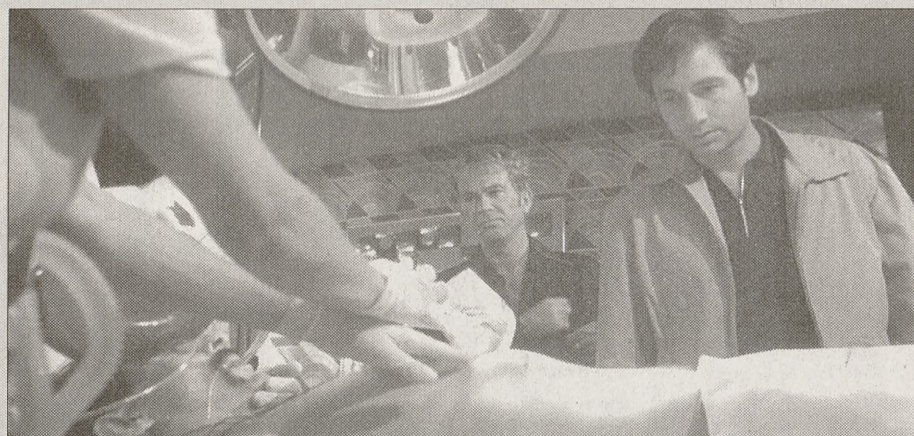
Blossom's lady, Claire (Angelina Jolie) is not as eager to see the surgeon start practicing again. As Blossom's gun handling moll, it is her job to be suspicious of Sands.

Things get complicated when the FBI gets involved, hoping to nail Blossom and anyone close to him. Soon Sands is caught between a large, jagged rock and a place harder than diamonds.

The acting in *Playing God* is excellent. David Duchovny uses his stoic nature for great effect as Dr. Eugene Sands. Sands is nothing but an emotional flat line, with only a deadpan sense of humor to occasionally spice up his existence.

Timothy Hutton steals the show with his portrayal of the new age guru-cum-gangster Raymond Blossom. Hutton, a skilled actor, makes Blossom a kind of charismatic beach boy with a bad attitude. His character is never boring.

PLEASE SEE GOD ON PAGE 4.



David Duchovny stars as Dr. Eugene Sands in the new movie *Playing God*.

## AT&T Wireless Services

G. Rollie White  
Tuesday  
October 28  
9pm

Presents  
**Aggie Basketball Mania!**

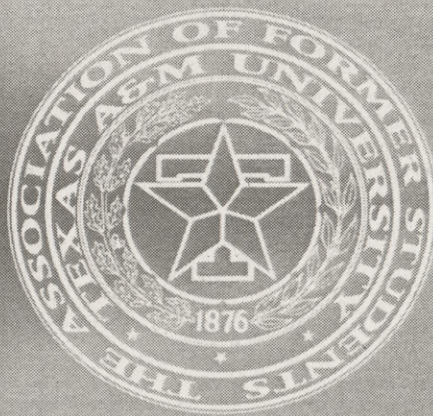
Meet Both Teams!  
The Aggie Band!  
Prizes!  
Contest!

Reveille!  
The Yell Leaders!  
Free Admission!  
Meet New Friends!

The Aggie Dance Team!



## The Association of Former Students Induction Banquet



Tuesday and Wednesday, November 4th and 5th, 1997

COLLEGE STATION HILTON  
GRAND BALLROOM - 6:15 P.M.

All December '97 graduating seniors and graduate students\* are invited.  
Complimentary tickets may be picked up in the MSC hallway,  
October 28, 29 & 30 (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

TICKETS GIVEN ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS  
Student I.D. Required to Pick Up Tickets

Compliments of The Association of Former Students

\*Graduate students who are not already a member may attend either night.

COLLEGE PARK 6 THEATRES  
2080 EAST 29TH STREET  
BRYAN, TX

### MOVIE TIME GUIDE

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS VALID FOR  
MONDAY - THURSDAY OCT. 27-30, 1997

CONTACT (PG)	7:00 9:50
SPAWN (R)	7:25 10:00
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING (PG-13)	7:10 9:50
CONSPIRACY THEORY (R)	7:00 9:40
LEAVE IT TO BEAVER (PG)	7:20
NOTHING TO LOSE (R)	10:00
HERCULES (G)	7:30
EVENT HORIZON (R)	9:45

BOX OFFICE OPENS 6:30 pm  
MONDAY through THURSDAY

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- Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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## UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL

TUESDAY OCT. 28  
7:00 MSC 206



# CARROT TOP

5 BUCKS OFF with Valid College I.D.

Welcomed by MSC Town Hall

**RUDDER AUDITORIUM**  
Thursday, November 13 • 8pm  
Tickets are available at MSC Box Office. For more information: 845.1234

**On Sale Saturday 10am!**