

# Texas Film Festival brings new talent to A&M

By CHRIS MARTIN  
 Staff writer

Tonight is opening night for the MSC Film Society's 5th annual Texas Film Festival, beginning at 7 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium and running through Sunday. For some, opening nights bring mind images of bright, distant stars, glitz and glamour. But for the Brazos Valley community, the Texas Film Festival means a down-home environment where film audiences can not only see non-mainstream films, but can communicate directly with the people who made them. Whereas previous years' festivals have brought in big name directors such as Spike Lee, Oliver Stone and John Waters, this year's focus is to promote independent film making. Keryl Cryer, a senior journalism major and associate director of the festival, said the purpose of the film festival is to expose the community to independent films and educate audiences through workshops sessions with the film directors. "At first we needed the big name speakers to draw attention to the festival," Cryer said. "Last year we learned we can do all the other stuff with-

out the big name speaker and people will still support the festival." Penny Ditton, adviser to the Film Society, said she is looking forward to meeting and talking directly to the filmmakers. "You have to meet [the directors], and the public get to do that, to see the excitement of their project and talk to them about how many years it's taken and what their project means to them," Ditton said. "Last year the Academy Awards celebrated independence—we felt like we were ahead of our time, because we've been celebrating independence for three years before that." On Friday and Saturday, free public workshops will be held to discuss various aspects of the art of film. The workshops will cover music in film, ethnicity in film, and the work of Quentin Tarantino. Alan Houtchens, an associate professor of music, will discuss Bernard Herrmann's score in Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* on Friday at 4 p.m. in Rudder Tower. "I hope that we can get some group insight into how film can be enriched by sound that is not just ambient sound, but carefully composed music," Houtchens said. "It is a good idea

to have that kind of discussion." Another first for this year's festival includes special activities for younger viewers. "This year we are having a children's screening room, because we had some really cute shorts," Ditton said. "I don't think most film festivals do that." A local highlight of the festival will be the presentation of "The List" on Friday night, a short by former A&M student Paul Ryan. Cryer said although Texas A&M does not have a film department, the festival is providing a fertile environment for student films. "It would be nice to have more student films," Cryer said. "Only time will tell. But there is definitely a venue. If you have the time, money and drive, then go for it." The festival will host seven feature-length films and 24 shorts, ranging from a romantic Venezuelan period piece to a comedy short about mobsters running a fast food joint. Cryer said that although she is excited about the originality of the film selections, she is disappointed at the ones that got away. "We had one film called *Trekkies* about Star Trek fans—it was great,"

Cryer said. "It had people who had their ears surgically altered to look like Spock, people who know Klingon better than English—way beyond the normal Star Trek fan. The film got picked up by Paramount... [they] would not let us have it. That part was kind of frustrating." The Texas Film Festival began in the fall of 1992 when film society chair Paul Dykstra felt like A&M didn't have a response to film or film media, Ditton said. "There were no film classes except for one in the English department," Ditton said. "[Dykstra] felt it was really important to give students what they weren't getting at A&M. We had Spike Lee that year, and at that point it was one of the largest media events in A&M history." Ditton said he hopes the faculty, staff and students of A&M, as well as the community, will take advantage of the independent art brought in by the festival. "I want [the community] to take with them a sense of the fact that there are really creative projects out there, and there's no way they are probably ever going to see them unless they go to something like a festival."



## If you build it...



Erin Machac, a senior environmental design major, recreates the Pantheon in Rome out of Legos at the Building Technology Expo '98 in Houston Tuesday. Texas A&M finished third in the competition.

## Zamora found guilty of murder

FORT WORTH (AP) — Former Naval Academy midshipman Diane Zamora, once an ambitious honor student with dreams of becoming an astronaut, instead will spend 40 years behind bars for killing a romantic rival. A jury deliberated for six hours Monday, then needed only minutes Tuesday morning to convict Zamora of the Dec. 4, 1995, slaying of 16-year-old Adrienne Jones of Mansfield. Showing no emotion as the verdict was read, Zamora automatically received a life sentence because prosecutors were not seeking the death

penalty. She will be eligible for parole after 40 years. During the two-week trial, Zamora tearfully told the jury that she confessed to police under duress. The 20-year-old defendant said she had merely read, memorized and repeated the same statement given by then-fiance David Graham, a former Air Force Academy cadet. One juror who requested anonymity told The Associated Press that her confession was the most damning piece of evidence. "No matter how you look at it, Adrienne Jones would still be alive if not for Diane Zamora.

That seemed obvious even though the specifics were sometimes cloudy," the juror said. Prosecutors said Zamora and Graham, her high school sweetheart whom she planned to wed after they graduated from their respective military academies, killed Jones to cleanse their relationship after Graham and the girl had a one-time affair. Jones' father, mother and two brothers spoke to the court following the verdict. Zamora continued to remain stone-faced, although many in the courtroom dabbed their eyes.

## Raising awareness of MSC leads goals of president

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH  
 Staff writer

When the new MSC president, William Hurd, takes office April 1, he will try to increase student awareness of MSC services and programs. Hurd, a junior computer science and international studies major said he has two main goals for his term: to increase the MSC's presence on campus and to form alliances with organizations outside of the MSC. "I hope we can increase the quality of life for students and faculty," he said. "The MSC can complement students' academic education with speakers. We want to provide students with a balanced education with our programs and unite diverse groups of people." Hurd said people are unaware of the variety of programs the MSC provides, and he encourages people to see what the MSC can offer them. "The purpose of the MSC is to unify diverse peoples," he said. "Everyone is welcome here, and we hope to unify the experiences people get at A&M. I am open to student responses and flexible to students' wants. "We are here for 43,000 students, and they are the experts on the programs the MSC brings here," Hurd said. As the current executive vice president of administration and chair of the

Executive Lecture Series last year, Hurd gained the necessary experience to make the job transition smooth. Anne Black, associate director of the MSC and executive director of OPAS, said Hurd's enthusiasm and experience as executive vice president made him the best candidate for the job. "Will's enthusiasm is what sets him apart from most everybody I know," she said. "He's a very open, honest person who makes himself available to everyone. He's kind of out there in the trenches." Black said he is available and accessible to anyone who needs his help. "That's Will as a person as well as a leader," she said. "He's interested and sees the benefit of what he can learn from other people." Hurd said he will make internal changes in the MSC so programs will run more efficiently. "We have a 40-year tradition of excellence at the MSC," he said. "I plan for us to use our resources to get the word out about our programs." Hurd said that one day he hopes to work in the telecommunications industry, live in another country and possibly get involved in politics. Anji Moore, chair of the OPAS student committee and a senior zoology major, said Hurd is good at seeing the big picture and helping everyone else



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION  
 New MSC president William Hurd will try to raise campus awareness of MSC programs when he takes office April 1. He sees the same vision. "The thing about Will is that he is incredibly dynamic," she said. "He meets you once and remembers your name because he genuinely cares about what you have to say."

## Limits of veto powers questioned by Senate

By STACEY BECKS  
 Staff writer

Student Senate members said Tuesday they are uncertain whether Student Body President Curtis Childers has indefinite veto powers, a week after Childers vetoed a section of a senate bill. Childers vetoed a portion of a bill that would give student organization's constitutions precedence over SGA election regulations. Amy Magee, a senator and a senior psychology major, said the Senate will probably introduce a bill for the clarification of veto power. "Obviously there is a discrepancy between his [Childers] interpretation of the powers and other people's interpretation," she said. "So there needs to be clarification." It is the first time a student body president has vetoed a section of a bill instead of the whole bill. The Senate may override the veto by a 2/3 vote at tonight's meeting. Mark Floyd, a senator and a senior speech communications major, said the Senate probably will not challenge the veto because the most important part of the bill remains intact. "The reason for not challenging the veto is because the heart of the bill is not touched," he said. "He [Childers] left the yell-leader runoffs in the bill

like the Senate wanted and that was the true intention of the bill." Childers, a senior agricultural development major, said Student Government organizations should not have their own election regulations, but should follow Election Commission's regulations to ensure fair elections. "Letting an organization make its own decisions is right," he said, "but the way the bill was worded gave organizations the right to define their own election regulations." "This would cause problems because organizations would be able to decide how many flyers per bulletin board, large signs and the amount of campaign expenditures allowed." Childers also vetoed a bill that would randomly list candidates' names on election ballots to prevent an unfair advantage to candidates at the top of alphabetical lists. Childers said he vetoed the random-balloting bill to allow time for improvement of the process. "We're still going to try to do random balloting if we perfect it," he said. "But since I vetoed it, we don't have to implement it until it works efficiently." Childers said the freshman elections used random balloting last semester and mistakes were made, and he wanted to make sure that does not happen again.

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