

# Reel CRITIQUE



**TRAVIS IRBY**  
staff writer

The movie is based on Joe Klein's novel of the same name and is supposedly based on the 1992 Clinton presidential campaign. It follows a presidential campaign through the eyes of a idealistic young campaign manager named Henry Burton (Adrian Lester). The candidate is a portly, democratic southern governor named Jack Stanton (John Travolta). His chief loves are junk food, politics and women in no particular order. His much beleaguered wife, Susan (Emma Thompson), is an educated Midwestern liberal willing to put up with her husband's faults, as long as they don't impede his (their) path to the White House. Burton must battle with campaign staff like redneck strategist Richard Jemmons (Billy Bob Thornton) and gun toting, lesbian trouble-shooter Libby Holden (Kathy Bates), who is appropriately nicknamed "The Dust Buster."

*Primary Colors*  
Starring John Travolta, Emma Thompson  
and Adrian Lester

Directed By Mike Nichols

Playing at Hollywood 16

Rated R

Critique: B+

Throughout the campaign, Burton learns the ideals, dreams and candidate he holds dear are as illusory as the latest poll numbers.

*Primary Colors* wins due to its excellent acting. Thompson, Bates, Thornton, Travolta and Lester create one of the most engaging casts in movies this year.

Especially endearing is newcomer Lester. A British stage actor making his U.S. debut, he gives Burton a sense of idealism soon tempered by realism, without letting the character become clichéd.

Thompson is heart wrenching as the ambitious, Hillary-esque Susan Stanton. She engenders the audience's compassion as she weighs her husband's infidelity with her

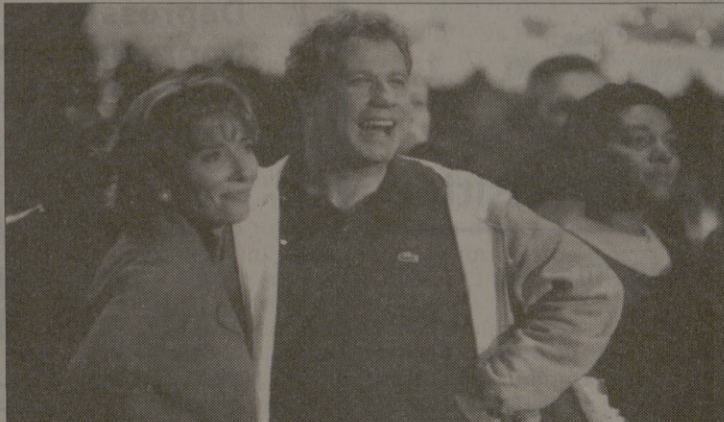
desire to change the country. Thompson shines in what is a bright cast.

Travolta does a dead-on Clinton impersonation, right down to the raspy southern drawl and need to touch people.

Bates starts out as a bombastic stereotype and ends up being the film's moral compass, and Thornton has all the best lines in a role that is too short.

Director Mike Nichols handles the complicated material capably. Even though the film seems to change from comedy to tragedy rather abruptly, it keeps the audience's attention.

*Primary Colors* is an uneven mix of satire and drama; it can be frustrating and exhilarating at the same time. Such characteristics make the film as real as its subject matter.



Emma Thompson (Susan Stanton) and John Travolta (Jack Stanton) star as the husband-and-wife team in Stanton's race for the presidency in *Primary Colors*.

# Cepheid on Parade

## Sci-fi, fantasy showcased at AggieCon

By TRAVIS IRBY  
Staff writer

MSC Cepheid Variable is offering Texas A&M students a variety of science fiction, fantasy and comic-book related events when it puts on its 29th annual AggieCon.

The four-day event will run March 26 to 29, and it will be attended by professionals in the comic-book industry, as well as published authors in the genres of horror, sci-fi and fantasy.

Daniel Robb, director of public relations for AggieCon and a senior mathematics major, said this year's Aggiecon has some unique guest speakers.

"We have Garth Ennis (Preacher) and John Mcree (Hitman) coming in; they live in England and usually only come to the states for major comic shows in cities like San Diego and New York," Robb said. "These two guys are considered to be some of the top talent in comics today."

Robb also said AggieCon will offer fans of sci-fi and fantasy literature a chance to listen to some of their favorite authors.

"Richard Aspin and Joe Lansdale are going to be in attendance," Robb said. "Aspirin hasn't been at a convention in five years."

Guest speakers are not the only thing AggieCon is bringing to students. There also will be special events such as a charity auction and a masquerade ball.

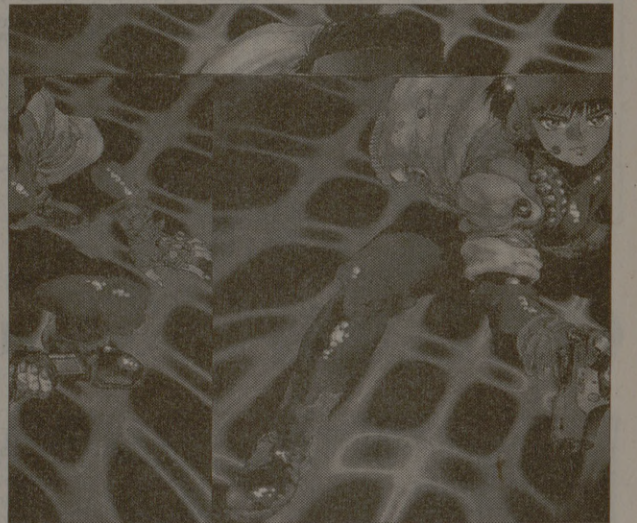
The main portion of the auction's proceeds will go to Scotty's House, a center for abused children, with the rest going to the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

Christie Cooper, director of operations and a senior chemical engineering major, said the auction is for a good cause and many valuable items will be made available to the public.

"There will be some great stuff made available," Cooper said. "We receive donations from dealers, collectors, comic book companies, writers and artists. We will have something for everyone."

The auction occurs Saturday, as does the masquerade ball, which is held to crown Miss AggieCon. Cooper said the masquerade ball has become a favorite fixture at AggieCon.

"People have a lot of fun there, even the guest speakers participate," she said. "One year Richard



Biggs of 'Babylon 5' won the contest." Some Aggies, who in past years have helped put on Aggiecon, are now guests of the event.

John Willis, a junior business major, along with some fellow students are debuting their new comic book imprint Katt Butz Comics.

The book will feature various writers contributing stories to each issue.

Willis said it is a different experience being a guest at the show.

"For the past two years we've worked behind the scenes, and now we have our table with our own [comic books]," he said.

AggieCon is offering some students a chance to succeed in comic books, its appeal not just limited to comic book fans and trekkies.

Troy Tompkins, vice chair of Cepheid Variable and a senior English major, has worked with Aggiecon for four years.

He said his main interest is not the comic books some students might see as being the focal point of AggieCon.

"I really don't even read comics," Tompkins said. "There are a lot at the event, but there are also things like toys, sculptures, games and books."

PLEASE SEE **AGGIECON** ON PAGE 5.

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