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Dancing the night away

# Aggies Up All Night marathon to benefit Children's Miracle Network

exclamation is typically a child's cry for attention and maybe a chance to get a day off of school, but in the case of Grant Kennedy, his life would never be the

same. Never worrying about severe health problems, Grant was a strong 13-year-old boy with dreams of one day playing at Olsen field.

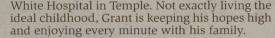
Grant stood five feet ten inches and 170 pounds and showed no signs of slowing down.

Just a few days after experiencing minor discomfort, Grant and his family found themselves in the emergency room at St. Joeseph Hospital. Grant had his first seizure.

He had three more seizures during the night. To protect his brain and control the seizures, doctors put him into a coma. Toxic shock, 351 tests, a high-frequency

lung ventilator, dialysis, gall-bladder surgery

and a tracheotomy later, Grant is now undergoing rehabilitation at Scott &



Judy Kennedy, Grant's mother, said she really appreciates all the support her son has been given

We are so thankful. The Bryan/College Station community has embraced us with open arms," she said.

The family said they are glad to come from a community of such great, friendly people. Their struggles have been hard, but with the help of prayer and friends, pain can always be replaced with hope.

These stories can be viewed as hopeless, but with the help of support, charity and fundraising, many unfortunate childrens' lives have been saved.

The fourth annual Aggies Up All Night Dance Marathon is one of the fundraising activities helping children like Grant Kennedy.

Sarah Elliot, event director, said she would like the marathon to develop into an annual event at Texas A&M.

"We want to make Aggies Up All Night an Ag-gie tradition," Elliot said. "It is a long-term event, raising more funds and awareness than the year before

Elliot said the dance marathon is a 24-hour dancing party guaranteed to make your feet sore but fill your heart with joy.

The event is student run with hours of preparation having gone into ensuring its success. Donations are received as pledges from individuals in the community who sponsor dancers.

The proceeds from Aggies Up All Night ben-efit the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) of the Brazos Vallev

Judy Kennedy said the CMN is a great organization that has always been there for her family.

"Since the first day Grant was placed in ICU here in Temple, Brad Peterson, the Brazos Valley CMN representative, has been with us," she said. 'They always remember special days and come

to give him something." Nationally, the CMN started 16 years ago as a charity for children's hospitals.

Locally, CMN started in April 1995. The CMN of the Brazos Valley's mission is to support chil-

om, I have a headache!" This White Hospital in Temple. Not exactly living the dren's services by enhancing the quality of pediatric-patient education and care.

The CMN said 100 percent of all money donated to the marathon will go toward the support of local, needy children.

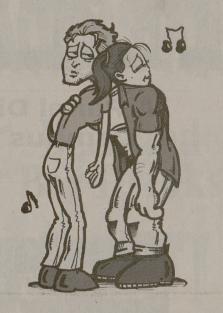
Chellette Austin, public relations director for the event, said she wants Aggies to come out and use their thoughtful and competitive spirits to help raise money.

"Penn State started this event years ago and has continued to raise millions of dollars," Austin said. "I know the Aggies could top that and show people what being an Aggie is all about.

Austin said donations are always being taken graciously, but a great way to donate is to give a little time and money to Aggies Up All Night. Austin said she knows Aggies love to dance

and cannot wait to see them at the marathon.

"The average Aggie pays money to a profit organization to dance for a few hours," Austin said. "Why not give a little to the children and dance an entire day!"







### Thursday, Feb. 25

Story by Jeff Kempf Graphics by Ruben Deluna

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Naturally Native 7:00 p.m. **Cinemark Hollywood 16** 

rally Native follows the lives, loves, pain, joy and onships of three sisters of American Indian ancestry as attempt to start their own business. Naturally Native interweaves a subtle, but strong wake-up call regarding treatment of Native people in corporate America; and provides some insight into the tribal infrastructure and g issues

### The Intervention 9:30 p.m. **Cinemark Hollywood 16**

t Hirsch is a writer who's lost faith in the power of iting. Lately, he's had suicidal inklings. They're not e tendencies yet, but with a little practice he thinks he get them up there. Nothing's particularly wrong with life, but then nothing's particularly right, either. Matt eves he's learned what life has to offer and would just as n kill himself, if only he had a gun. Unfortunately, he sn't feel strongly enough to take action - it's passion t'll kill you every time.

Remake, by Dr. Marian Eide, Library Annex, Rm 7C, 2:00 p.m.

The Film Consciousness and Poetry, by Dr. Paul Christensen, Library Annex 417C, 4:00 p.m.

## Friday, Feb. 26

**Night of Shorts** 

7:00 p.m. **Rudder** Auditorium

We will show a series of short Independent films. Check our website for more information.

Dancer, TX Pop. 81 9:30 p.m. **Rudder Auditorium** 



Welcome to Dancer, Texas, population 81, a sleepy West Texas town smack in the middle of Brewster County, right off Highway 91. A town where the nearest shopping mall is a general store that stocks vegetables and auto fan belts side by side; where the tastiest cuisine can be traced to Flora's Cafe, a greasy spoon with four tables; and where the showcase of higher learning is a five-room schoolhouse with 41 students and a high school graduating class of five - the largest in 20 years. A town where four Dancer graduates-to-be -- Keller, Ferrell Lee, Squirrel and John -- contemplate their futures and wonder if the pact they made at the age of 11 to leave this tiny dustbowl following their impending graduation will survive the test of time. The moment of truth is just days away, and what seemed like

a concrete decision seven years ago is now fraught with complications. The clock is ticking, and as all 77 remaining townspeople watch from the sidelines, offer advice, and place bets, these four very different boys with unique backgrounds struggle with the biggest decision of their lives -- whether to stay or leave home.

### Your Friends and Neighbors

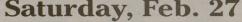
Midnight **Rudder Auditorium** 

From writer/director Neil LaBute, whose first film In the Company of Men was the most controversial film of the 1997 Sundance Film Festival, comes a new film... and this time, it's personal. LaBute moves from theboardroom

to the bedroom for this incendiary cocktail of modern mores set in suburbia. The intimacy between husbands and wives, between friends and neighbors, is explored... and exploded.

### Workshops:

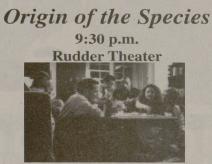
Film on Film, by Dr. Terence Hoagwood, Rudder Tower Rm 701, 2:00 p.m.





#### The Dry Season 7:00 p.m. **Rudder Theater**

Spencer Keating, a twenty-four-year-old florist, hasn't been with a woman for 350 days. If approaching that ego-smashing year mark isn't bad enough, he has to deal with his overbearing, oversexed best friend, a business deal headed down the getter, and the all-too familiar problems of living the single life. This straight-ahead comedy is set in beautiful Rockland County, New York; 20 miles north of New York City and will strike a chord with anyone who has experienced their own "dry season."



Six friends play the game of life.

Film Making Workshop, by Gary Ellenburg, Library Annex, Rm 417B, 12:00 p.m. Screenwriters Workshop, by Tim McCanlies, Rudder Tower, Rm. 701, 2:00 p.m.

lickets: \$3.00 Each, \$15.00 Festival Pass (Purchase all tickets at the MSC Box Office- 845-1234). For More Info. Call 847-8478 or Check out our Website www. texasfilmfestival.org. The Sixth Annual Texas Film Festival is a presentation of the MSC Film Society of Texas A&M. Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs.

