

Calender
Or for more information contact Jason Takuya at 847-5188.

Agnostic and Atheist Group: There will be a meeting at 7-8:15 p.m. in Rudder to discuss government. For more information contact Jason Takuya at 847-5188.

Thursday

International Student Association: ISA Mini-Olympics will be held at various campus sports. Check out the Mini-Olympics page for times and locations. For more information contact Jason Takuya at 847-5188.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Aggies: Special guest speaker Andreadis of the TAMU Department will speak about lesbian literature in Koltz at 7 p.m. For more information contact Dan Davis at jordandroy@aggies.tamu.edu

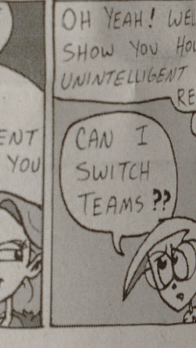
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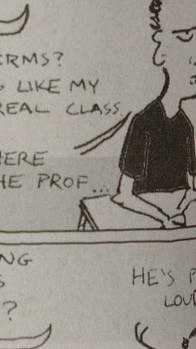
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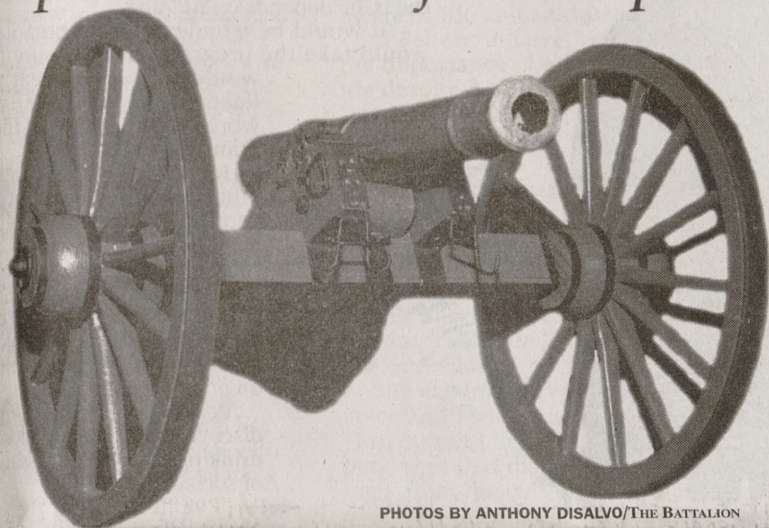
A&M History

on

display

Visitors to Cushing Memorial Library

impse mementos of A&M's past



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION



A carved relief (left) and a painting donated by John Wayne (right) are just two of the pieces on display at the Cushing Memorial Library.

BY BRIAN FLEMING
The Battalion

Some are unaware of John Wayne's artistic contribution to Texas A&M. Others also might not believe the name Krueger is directly related to priceless works of art as well. The Cushing Memorial Library can enlighten Aggies about their culture with their collections of priceless art spanning the past 100 years.

Steven Smith, special collections librarian, said the Cushing Library is home to a number of permanent exhibits.

"We have a lot of different kinds of art," Smith said. "It is one of the largest — if not the largest art collections here on campus."

The art collections can be divided into four separate parts.

The Krueger collection is a collection of European oil paintings from the 19th century.

Others include the Jeff Dykes collection, which contains many figures of southwest art, several 19th century prints and assorted pieces of art donated to the Cushing library over the years.

Smith said for many years, prior to the opening of the Memorial Student Center, the Cushing Library was the only place art was typically displayed on campus.

"If you wanted to hang art in a public space, the only appropriate place was the library," Smith said. "So the fact that we have this collection is kind of a happy accident."

Smith said donations to the library are usually from former students and sometimes have an interesting history.

"The Krueger collection, for example, was donated by Carl 'Polly' Krueger, Class of '12," Smith said. "[The collection] was built, however, by his father, Max Krueger, who immigrated from Germany to Texas in the middle of the 19th century with nothing more than the shirt on his back."

When Krueger made a great deal of money in the cattle business, he traveled back and forth to Europe, collecting art.

"When he died, he gave his collection to his children," Smith said. "Polly [Carl Krueger] eventually gave his collection of about 30 [works of art] to the University, and we have had it ever since."

This collection includes works by Arnold Corrodi, which portrays Martin Luther explaining the bible to Elector Frederick of Saxony as well as landscapes in Norway, waterfall scenes by Albert Rieger and other paintings of the European countryside.

Brian Flens, a student employee of the Cushing Library and a senior industrial distribution major, said one of the most popular of the library's works is "Happy Ducks" by Alexander Koester, which is part of the Krueger collection.

Other notable paintings include "Cattle Land," by Buck Dutton, which was featured on the cover of Southwest Art magazine.

Charles Haynie, an employee of the museum and a senior mechanical engineering major, said Dutton's piece is particularly striking to him.

"It is true western art and I think it is stunning," Haynie said.

Smith said another of the museum's more popular exhibits is a work which formed the background credits of the 1960s John Wayne movie The Alamo.

"People who have seen the movie and hear we have this painting tend to be very interest-

ed," Flens said. "[The painting] was actually used in the movie."

Smith said the story of the painting coming to A&M is an unbelievable tale.

"This painting has an interesting background," Smith said. "In the early '60s, a group of cadets were in love with the movie and one decided to write to John Wayne and ask if they could buy something from the movie."

"He wrote back and said he would not sell anything but would trade something. He offered this painting and they offered a ceremonial saber."

Smith said the painting was most likely a "studio hack" painted in less than two hours and despite its flaws, serves a significant role.

"Some art is important for social reasons," Smith said. "But this work is important for the history of what it did and where it was."

Smith said people react to the exhibits in different ways, depending on their attachment to the work of art.

"Some who may remember the donors of the works have a very sentimental reaction," Smith said. "Others who may not know we have these collection are also surprised. There are also many on this campus who are very interested in art. They are also very happy to find another place to come."

Flens said the exhibit is a good cross-section of A&M's past.

"I think it shows an excellent contrast of the various kinds of art," Flens said. "The fact that it is all right here on campus is great."

Flens said students need to be aware the galleries on campus are not the only source of art on the Texas A&M campus.

"I think a lot of people do not realize what all is here," Flens said. "It would definitely benefit anyone to come and check it out."

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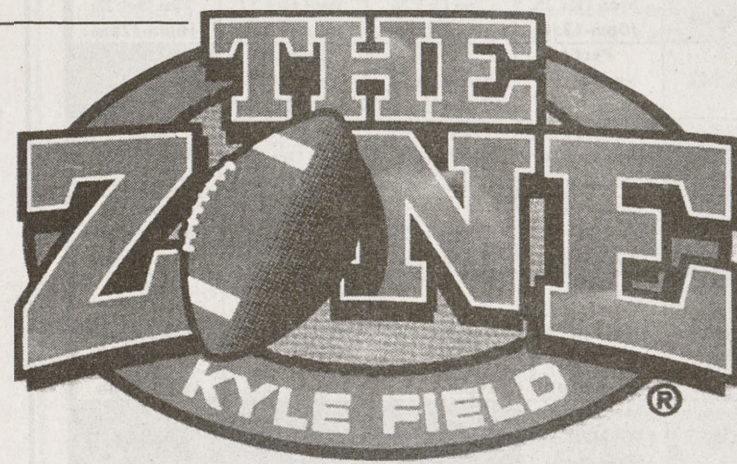
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