

## Director, producer Coulter returns to B-CS

Former resident to visit campus to speak to A&M students about his career, successes in Hollywood

BY JEFF WOLFSHOHL  
The Battalion

Bryan-College Station does breed success. Allen Coulter, director and producer of the Golden Globe-winning HBO show, "The Sopranos," is speaking at Texas A&M this week about his experience in the film business.

Coulter is briefly returning to Bryan-College Station to educate Aggies about the world beyond college.

"I want to show students how things work in the world outside of school," Coulter said.

A former resident of College Station, he attended A&M Consolidated high school. After graduation, he rejected local scholarships and went to the University of Texas.

"I was more interested in the arts and more interested in theater, and at that time there was not a strong theater department at A&M," Coulter said. "Also, there was the desire to get away from home."

Coulter said that A&M was a different school at that time. "It was compulsory military, it was not co-ed, it was a small-town school," Coulter said. "Now College Station is overwhelming — I get lost when I get home."

While attending University of Texas, Coulter went through the typical process of choosing his field of study. He said his next-to-last year at UT he was able to find his path through an epiphany.

"I saw an article about the movie 2001: Space Odyssey by [Stanley] Kubrick, and there was just something about the pictures from that that was something I wanted to do," Coulter said.

"I was trying to find something where I could take

advantage of the different areas of interest that I had," Coulter said. "I was interested in music, I was interested in photography, and I was interested in theater."

Directing was the profession that Coulter understood to be the culmination of his interests.

"I realized that if I direct in film and television I could be involved with all of these things," he said.

Coulter said fellow students helped form his career decision.

"I was around people who knew what they wanted to do, or if they didn't, there was a constant inquiry," he said. "These were like late-night conversations, drinking beer and doing all the things you weren't supposed to do."

His professors also had a hand in molding his decision.

"I would gravitate toward the professors who only seemed to take an interest in me, but have something that I wanted," Coulter said. "And being around that and seeing their focus, I was envious in the fact that they seemed like they knew what they were doing."

His last year in school, after Coulter had found his direction, he made sure to independently study film to prepare for his career.

"I went to as many movies as I could go to, as a form of research," he said. "Just like how you study all of the great books of literature to be a writer."

"Seeing movies as a kid, like *Sierra Madre*, I was floored, but they left deep impressions and in college it came back to me," Coulter said.

After graduating from UT, he said he went directly to New York, with \$90 in his pocket and a few crates that contained his belongings.

Coulter said that since money was an issue, he moved around several times and worked various jobs.

"It was about four years of scrambling around until I saved enough money to make a short film that took about three years to complete," he said.

"One of the reasons it took so long was that I had run out of money at one point," Coulter said. "We also had to do some reshooting because I had decided to change the ending."

This film became known as *The Hobbs Case*, described as a comedic detective story, and it went on to receive numerous awards from festivals around the world.

Coulter said in the '70s it was possible to make an offbeat film.

"Even major studios were making offbeat films," he said. "It's not like now [when] the studios make *Armageddon* and consider that a good film."

Many of the films that were made years ago are actually something that would be difficult to see today, Coulter said.

"*Rosemary's Baby* was a very popular film at the time, like *Blair Witch Project*, [being] the hot horror film of the time," he said. "Well, if you look at that film now, it is completely avant-garde."

"I think that films have dumbed down," Coulter said. "People are growing up with television and the subject of newer films are affected by that."

Coulter said television today tends to spoon-feed the idea that the audience is idiotic.

"Contrary to popular opinion that people are more visually sophisticated now, the truth is it is exactly the opposite," he said.

Coulter was able to put his own personal touch to

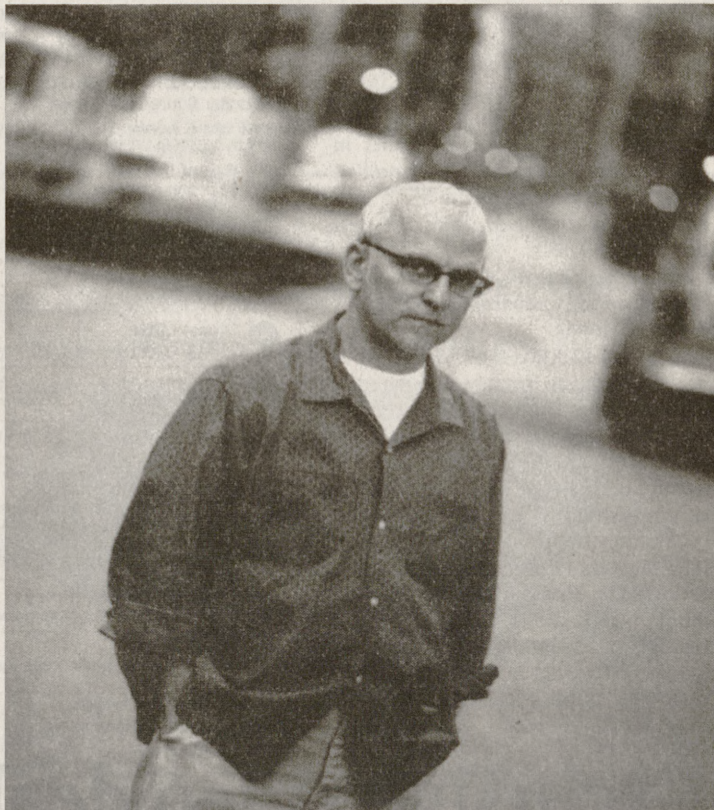


PHOTO COURTESY OF MSC FILM SOCIETY/THE BATTALION

See COULTER on Page 5.

# VIRTUAL DOMAINS

**Gran Turismo 2**  
System: Playstation  
Genre: Racing  
Developer: Sony Computer Entertainment

For any racing fan, the name *Gran Turismo* is synonymous with extreme realistic racing. The second edition further expands upon the original's great ambitions.

*Gran Turismo 2 (GT2)* features nearly triple the amount of cars and

tracks featured in the first game. This is an amazing achievement when a person considers that the first one had 166 cars.

One addition many racers will dread is the addition of another 35 driving tests to the 24 so-called "license tests" in the game — meaning it takes a whole lot more time to get a license this time around.

On the bright side, the game is supposed to allow players to use their memory cards to import their licenses from the first game. Hopefully, this

will save many players more time.

*GT2* also adds a new rally version of racing in which players can try their skills in an offroad setting.

The arcade version itself is actually not as good as the arcade version of the original, however, with all the new additions to the simulation, the game is still very cool.

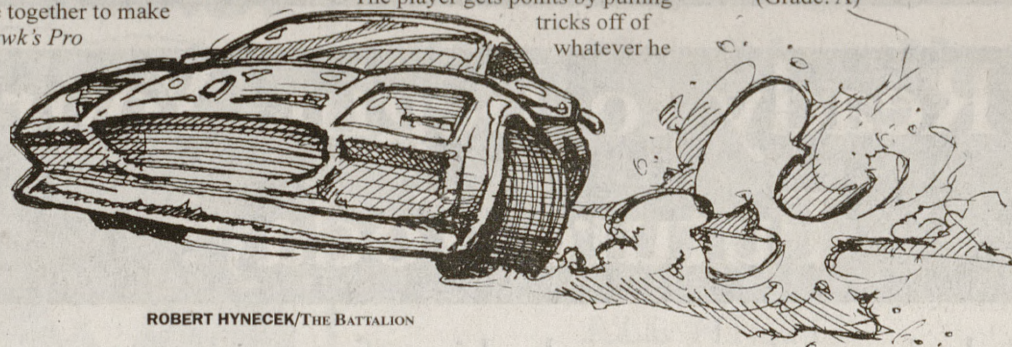
The only problem is that *GT2* is too similar to the first one in so many respects that unless a person is a hardcore race fan, playing the original is still a better deal.

For those hardcore race fans who will appreciate the new courses and new cars, *GT2* gives those people a brand new challenge. (Grade: B)

— Matt McCormick

**Tony Hawk's Pro Skater**  
System: Playstation  
Genre: Skateboarding  
Developer: Activision

This game rocks. Plain and simple. Graphics, sound and playability all come together to make *Tony Hawk's Pro*



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

*Skater* one of the best games of 1999. The premise of the game revolves around skateboarding. How can you make a game about skateboarding interesting?

By putting in tons of tricks and stunts, excellent camera angles and perspective and a top-notch soundtrack that includes bands like Primus, Goldfinger and Rancid. There is also a two player option for players to compete with each other.

The player skates around several venues which include skate parks, shopping malls and high schools.

The player gets points by pulling tricks off of whatever he

or she can find to use. The graphics are amazingly realistic in the motions of the character pulling off these tricks.

Skaters defy the laws of physics sometimes, shooting into the air almost a hundred feet off of half pikes.

The skaters can also get up after every bailed trick with only a little blood spilled whether it is after a hundred feet of road rash or a failed aerial trick that plants the skaters on their faces. The game is hours of intense, and sometimes hilarious, fun.

(Grade: A)

— Kyle Whitacre

**Buck's Pizza**  
PIZZA · STROMBOLI · HOAGIES

**Medium One Topping Pizza**  
**\$3.50**

\*Order 3 for free delivery

**409-693-2BUCK5**

Do you feel out of control when you are eating?  
Do you think you have problems with binge eating or bulimia?

A short-term treatment program is now being formed at the TAMU Psychology Clinic to help with these problems. This will be an affordable and scientifically supported treatment that will address: gaining control over binge eating/vomiting, reducing weight and shape concerns, building self-esteem, and developing healthy eating patterns.

For more information call Michelle Cororve at the Texas A&M Psychology Clinic - 845-8017

**BRIDAL CO. OUTLET**

BRAND NAME  
**BRIDAL APPAREL**  
AT  
**LOW OUTLET PRICES!**

107 WALTON DR • 764-8289 • AT TEXAS AVE. & WALTON DRIVE

HOURS  
Tues. - Fri. 10:30 am - 6:30 pm Sat. 10:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Closed Sun & Mon for Restocking

MASTERCARD • VISA • AMERICAN EXPRESS • CASH • CHECKS ACCEPTED  
\*LAWAY AVAILABLE\*

# GRE

Over 94% of Princeton Review students enrolled based on a friend's recommendation.

April GRE classes start Saturday!

**The Princeton Review**

(409) 696-9099 • www.review.com

The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University or ETS.

LEARN TO  
**FLY NOW**  
At United Flight Systems  
THE EXPERIENCED FLIGHT SCHOOL

Get Your Pilot License for as little as \$50 a month!!

College Station  
Easterwood Airport  
409 260-6322

www.unitedflight.com

AVIATION CAREER TRACKS

- While working on your college degree, accomplish your pilot's certificates at the same time. Upon finishing your college career, you can secure a job as an airline pilot.
- Easily awarded student loans (24 hr. award notice)
- Private thru advanced training
- Aircraft rental
- Pilot Shop
- F.A.A. approved 141 school
- VA eligible Benefits

**CORY MORROW**

HOUSTON • AUSTIN • COLLEGE STATION • DALLAS

**LIVE CD RECORDING TOUR**

SPECIAL GUEST  
**OWEN TEMPLE**

THIS THURS.

Hey Ags!... Represent Aggieland on one of Texas' favorite musicians' CDs - Whoop!

Brought to you by Dickson Productions Supporting Texas' Finest Music