

WEEKEND PREVIEW

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|
| Fitzwilly's The Cheese — Rock and blues. The band will be playing at 9 p.m. and the cover charge is \$2. | Cow Hop 11 Hundred Springs — Alternative. Cover charge is \$3 and the show begins at 10 p.m. | Crooked Path Alehouse Throwaway People — Alternative. Show begins at 10 p.m. and the cover charge is \$3. |
| The Tap Sloppy Joe — Mix of '70s, '80s and '90s rock. The cover charge is \$5, but women over 18 will be admitted free. The show begins at 9 p.m. | Crooked Path Alehouse Floodgate — Alternative. Band will begin playing at 10 p.m. and there is no cover charge. | Fitzwilly's John Wick and the Full House Blues Band — Blues. Cover charge is \$2 and the performance begins at 9 p.m. |
| Third Floor Cantina Last Free Exit — Alternative. Show begins at 10 p.m. and the cover charge is \$5. | Third Floor Cantina Eugene Eugene — Rhythm and blues. Cover charge is \$5. | Third Floor Cantina Big Otis and the Big Otis Show Band — Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and tickets are \$10. |

STUDY ABROAD

Continued from Page 3

Texas A&M offers many loans and scholarships to A&M students wishing to expand their horizons. And there are still others.

The Memorial Student Center Overseas Loan Fund is an interest-free loan available only to A&M students planning to study abroad. The Minnie Stevens Piper Loan Fund is for juniors, seniors, and graduate students who are Texas residents.

For those who do not wish to burden themselves with loans, there are also scholarships available.

The Study Abroad Fellowship is a need-based scholarship for up to \$1,000, funded by former students and

Barnes and Noble Bookstores. The International Education Fee Scholarship is a merit- and need-based scholarship accumulated from a one-dollar fee that students pay every semester. Students may be awarded either \$500 or \$1,000.

Students who hold the President's Endowed, Lechner, McFadden, Terry Foundation, President's Achievement Award, Aggie Spirit Award, Academic Achievement, President's Achievement, Zoch-Chandler or Challenge Scholarships may be eligible for a \$1,000 study abroad stipend that may be used for a Texas A&M Study Abroad program only.

For her backpacking trip, Gore plans to add some to the loans that she will already be taking out for medical school and use money from graduation gifts.

Whether a student is backpacking or studying abroad, the total cost of the trip depends on how extravagantly or how humbly that student wishes to live while out of the country, and where they decide to travel. Divine said the cost of a Study Abroad trip depends on the program.

Trips to Latin America are cheaper than those to Europe or Australia. Divine said that between her two trips last summer, she incurred about \$5,000 worth of debt.

Tate said that in her four weeks abroad, she spent about \$7,000. The trip alone cost about \$5,000, and included airfare, transportation, room and board and a pass for the tube in London. She took another \$2,000 for meals and spending money.

Gore said her backpacking group plans to travel as lightly and cheaply as possible.

She said they plan to spend between \$2,500 and \$3,000 each during their three-week trip.

"We're going to take as few things as possible. We're taking backpacks. You can check them in at the [youth] hostels, but that's [backpacking] mostly how we're going to travel," Gore said.

In order to gain an experience as valuable as traveling outside of the country, whether they backpack or study abroad, most college students must be willing to incur some debt in order to pay their expenses. The size of the debt and value of the experiences, depend on the student.

People in the News

Writers Guild announces award nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than half of the Writers Guild movie award nominations announced Wednesday went to directors who wrote or co-wrote their own screenplays.

Nominated for best original script were three films written by their directors: *Magnolia* by Paul Thomas Anderson, *The Sixth Sense* by M. Night Shyamalan and *Three Kings* by David O. Russell.

The other nominees were *American Beauty* by Alan Ball and *Being John Malkovich* by Charlie Kaufman. For screenplay based on previously published material, director Anthony Minghella earned a nomination for *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, adapted from the novel by Patricia Highsmith; director Michael Mann and co-writer Eric Roth for *The Insider*, based on a magazine article by Marie Brenner; and director Alexander Payne and co-writer Jim Taylor for *Election*, based on the novel by Tom Perrotta.

The other nominees in the adapted category were John Irving for the screenplay based on his novel *The Cider House Rules* and Lewis Colick for *October Sky*, based on the book *Rocket Boys* by Homer H. Hickam Jr.

The nominees were chosen from 202 screenplays for films released in 1999. The winners will be announced March 5 at the 52nd annual Writers Guild ceremonies in New York City and Los Angeles.

O'Donnell gets called on to help out 'Millionaire'

NEW YORK (AP) — After waging a public campaign to be a "phone friend" on ABC's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," talk show host Rosie O'Donnell got her wish.

She is called upon for help on Sunday's edition of the



O'DONNELL

quiz show, by a contestant using a "lifeline" to get advice answering a question.

O'Donnell and ABC were tight-lipped Wednesday about who O'Donnell helped, what the question was or even if she got it right.

But she would be less likely to brag about it — as she did to talk show guest Matt Lauer on Wednesday — if she gave a contestant a bum steer.

She told Lauer that she was called the night before when the show was taped, then promptly refused to answer his questions about it.

"Let me just say I was nervous, and it's a lot more tension than people realize," O'Donnell said.

As game show viewers know, contestants get three "lifelines" if they are stumped by a multiple choice question.

They can poll the audience, have two wrong answers taken out of contention, or call a friend.

The friend has 30 seconds to offer advice. On her own show, the "Millionaire"-fixated O'Donnell has frequently asked for the opportunity to help out.

Contestants had arranged for O'Donnell to be a phone friend four times before she got on the air during Tuesday's taping, said her spokesperson, Jennifer Glasek.

O'Donnell's campaign hasn't always gone smoothly, though.

The *New York Post* reported this week that several "Millionaire" contestants had asked for her help and had not gotten a reply.

The *Post* called her a "phone-friend phony." Glasek said O'Donnell had gotten so many requests that she had been unable to respond to them all.

She was also rejected once because she wanted to be reached by cell phone and the show's rules do not allow this, ABC said.

O'Donnell's new friend gets a bonus for calling her: the contestant will be a guest on her talk show Monday.

Valentine's Day film fest focuses on gays, lesbians

NEW YORK (AP) — The Independent Film Channel coyly titles its Valentine's Day marathon the "It Ain't Just Boy Meets Girl Festival."

The reality — a four-film collection of gay and lesbian-theme movies — is still somewhat bold for television, where same-sex kisses are considered unusual enough to make news.

IFC, a pay cable network that reaches 30 million, or roughly one-third, of the nation's television homes, will kick off its festivals "as long as it's a punch line."

Gay TV characters tend to be the wisecracking next-door neighbor, with their love lives left unexplored, he said.

A televised gay film festival isn't unprecedented, though. Cable's Sundance Channel has, for the last two years, run several homosexual-theme movies in prime time in connection with Gay Pride Month, he said.

IFC said it was simply trying to come up with a gimmick. Last year its Valentine's Day festival was "Love Stinks," and around the holidays it paid tribute to director David Lynch with "The Lynch Who Stole Christmas."

"We're not making a political point," said Frances Berwick, the network's senior vice president of programming. "We're just presenting great films."

The network hasn't heard any complaints from viewers and doesn't anticipate any, Berwick said.

Other films, which run in order starting at 8 p.m. EST, include *Go Fish*, about a relationship between two young women; *The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love*, about a couple with different economic and ethnic backgrounds; and *Love and Human Remains*, about sexual and gender politics.

Seomin predicted large numbers of gays and lesbians would tune in.

"We just really never get to see the love lives, the heartaches and the romantic joys between two men and two women," he said.

Hendrix. Van Halen. Fisk.

A born risk taker, Eliot Fisk has revolutionized the classical guitar world with his youth and innovative play. Don't miss your chance to find out why Eliot Fisk is recognized around the world as one of the most brilliant and gifted young musical artists of our time.

Eliot Fisk, Guitarist
 Sunday, February 13 at 2 PM
 Rudder Theatre
 Immediately following the performance, please join moderator Penny Zent for a discussion with Eliot Fisk.

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 Or, place your order at opas.tamu.edu.

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Tired of the same old movies?
 Come view a foreign film!

What: "Central Station" - set in Brazil, it is the touching story of a little boy looking for the father he never knew and a woman looking for a second chance.

Where: Gallery B at MSC Forsyth Center Galleries

When: Thursday, February 10, 2000 at 7:00p.m.

Admission is free and a short discussion about the movie will follow the viewing.

Presented by the International Students Association and the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness

To inform us of your special needs please, call 845-8770 or stop by MSC 223-I.

Class of '00

INTERESTED IN BEING A CLASS AGENT?

To Qualify as a Potential Candidate:

You must run in a TEAM of THREE people that are enthusiastic, motivated leaders wanting to serve the Class of '00 until 2005.

Requirements for Intent to Run:

- One member from each team MUST CONTACT Shannon Crockett '93 at 845-7514 before noon on February 14
- At least two of the three candidates from each team MUST ATTEND an instructional meeting on February 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center

Class Agent Responsibility:

Class Agents will act as liaisons between the Class of '00, The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University.

Class Agents will be elected
 March 29 & 30 in the 2000 Spring
 Student Body Elections

The Association OF FORMER STUDENTS