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This is a come and go event with refreshments provided. Business attire requested. EOE. If you are unable to attend but still wish to apply, please fax or mail your resume to:



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**Come and learn about  
The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future**



Cathy Bonner and Lillian Murray will share information about the newest museum that is dedicated to the history of women in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The museum is located in the Dallas FairPark area.

Monday, March 27, 2000  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
206 MSC

For more information, contact Diane K. Carr at 845-4016.

To learn about The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future, check the web site at: www.thewomensmuseum.org



To learn more about Women's Week, check the web site: womensweek.tamu.edu

**And the Oscar goes to ...**

72nd annual awards show takes some risks, but still has undeserving winners

**B**ecause the 72nd Annual Academy Award were produced by a couple of honest-to-goodness movie producers, there was talk of the Oscars might actually be over in a reasonable amount of time this year.

Had these people ever heard how many months a movie can be in production? Even small movies are in production for several months.

So the Academy brings in people who work in terms of months to produce a show that is only supposed to run for three hours. Smart, huh?

All talk of an early evening went out the window when only one Oscar, one for costume design or something, was presented in the first 25 minutes.

Thankfully, most of the early minutes were spent watching Billy Crystal do his ritual song-and-dance routine, which is the most entertaining part of the show, anyway.

They obviously hoped to keep the Oscars short by limiting the time each recipient had to thank everyone they have ever known in their life, which surprisingly, seemed to work. Not.

Don't these producers realize that if they were to do away with all the dedications to past movies and programs, the awards would be over in half the time, even if all those bloated Hollywood egos were allowed to talk as they went to at the podium?

Now everyone knows the Academy Awards have been known to pick movies while everyone else in the world asks themselves, "How in the heck did that win an award?"

This year's awards actually started off promisingly as the first two main awards presented, best supporting actress and best supporting actor, went to the actual two most-deserving nominees, Angelina Jolie for *Girl, Interrupted* and Michael Caine for *The Cider House Rules*, respectively.

Good job by the Academy, but what about the 11-year-old wonder Haley Joel Osment from *The Sixth Sense*? Well, if this role was any indication, this kid will have many more nominations to come, so do not despair.

The Academy went with the "hip and cool" route for technical awards, totally shunning *Star Wars: Episode I Phantom*



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

*Menace* (Yeah!) and giving the awards for visual effects, film editing, sound and sound editing to *The Matrix* (oh, yeah).

The awards for best original screenplay and best adapted screenplay went to *American Beauty* and *The Cider House Rules*, respectively, which makes a lot of sense considering these movies led the way with eight nominations and seven nominations, respectively.

It was fitting that Hilary Swank won for best actress for her brilliant performance as a girl pretending to be a guy in *Boys Don't Cry*. The Academy must be celebrated for taking such a big risk by giving her this award.

It was obvious that the ABC camera operators were really rooting for Kevin Spacey for best actor since he was given more camera time than Billy Crystal. Could Spacey have possi-

ble looked any more smug, though?

Not quite surprisingly, Spacey won despite my cursings at the TV.

What the heck were those people thinking though to give the Oscar for best actor to Kevin Spacey?

The guy is a good actor, but he has given the same deadpan performance in every role of his career. Having met the "esteemed" actor, it just does not seem like he really did that great of a job of acting in this movie. In fact, he gave the same performance in *American Beauty* as he did in *Rocket Gibraltar* — minus the flat-top hairdo.

If one hasn't heard of that movie, go rent it and watch the now-superstar Spacey struggle in a "blah" role. The Academy could have picked nearly any of the other actors nominated and not gone wrong, but this decision was nothing short of a disgrace to the other nominees.

It was as disgraceful as giving the statue for best director to Sam Mendes for *American Beauty*. I am not saying that this movie is bad — it is a great, extremely inventive movie.

The problem is that the script by Alan Ball, which won exactly what it deserved, and the rest of the people involved in the movie are what made this movie great.

Sam Mendes said it himself in an interview that without Conrad L. Hall, his cinematographer and his editor, the movie would have been nothing.

The Academy gave the award for best director to a man who had no film experience. It is obvious that he relied heavily on his underlings to tell the story.

Of course, the film went on to be the best picture as well. I agree with that choice. I think this film earned best picture and best original screenplay, and best cinematography. These awards are all richly deserved.

However, the actor and director did not deserve to win the awards when compared to the other talents represented in their categories. Let's because Mendes manages to tell his actors where to stand does not make him a great director.

The only explanation one can give for these lapses in the voters' better judgment is that *American Beauty* had momentum, evident by it winning five of the eight awards it was nominated for. That, however, is no excuse, particularly after they display such courage in giving the best actress award to Swank.

All in all, the show this year was decent, albeit long.

When will the Academy realize that many people in America would be so much happier if the show ran somewhere close to its allotted time instead of more than an hour over?

The next time the Academy tries to pretend it will end on time, people should take that with about the same amount of belief they had when Bill Clinton uttered the words, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman." Yeah, right.

Matt McCormick is a junior agricultural development major.

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