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Worship Directory

Assembly of God

Bethel Temple Assembly of God
 2608 Villa Maria,
 Bryan
 776-4835
 Sunday Worship 10:15, 6:00 pm
 Sunday School 9:30

Baptist

Try us out!
 You can expect...
 • Upbeat worship
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 • Practical sermons

Living Hope Baptist Church
 6:45 AM Bible Study
 11:00 AM Worship
 6:30 PM Worship
 INFO: 690-1911

We are NOW meeting at
 Oppress Grove Inter. Apt. Bldg.
 on Dryden Rd. between
 Wellborn and the West
 Aggie street Road.

Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church

College & Career Class
 You are invited to a Bible study especially for students.
 Sunday mornings at 9:45
 1228 W. Villa Maria
 779-2297

For more information contact
 Marcus Brewer: 696-6558
 m-brewer@tamu.edu
<http://PersonalWebs.myriad.net/mfbv>

Bible

Grace Bible Church

700 Anderson, College Station
 693-2911
 Services: 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
 College Sunday School Class 9:15 & 11 a.m.

Catholic

St. Mary's Catholic Center

603 Church Avenue in Northgate
 (979) 846-5717
www.aggiecatholic.org
Pastoral Team
 Rev. Michael J. Sis, Pastor
 Rev. David A. Konderla, Associate Pastor
 Campus Ministers - Deacon Bill Scott,
 Deacon David Reed, Martha Tonn, Lillian
 Smith, Maureen Murray, Jill Bludau
Daily Masses
 Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m. in the Church
 Tues. & Thurs. 12:05 p.m.
 in the All Faiths Chapel
 Sat.: 10:30 a.m. (Korean)
Weekend Masses
 Sat: 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
 Sun: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Confessions
 Wed. 8:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 4:00-5:15 p.m.
 or by appointment.

Christian

First Christian Church
 900 South Ennis, Bryan
 823-5451
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Robert D. Chandler, Minister

Church of Christ

A&M Church of Christ

1901 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy.
 (979) 693-0400
 Sunday Morning Services:
 8 a.m. & 10:30
 Sunday Night:
 6 p.m.

Aggie Class: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.



Episcopal

St. Thomas Episcopal

906 George Bush Dr. • College Station, TX
 696-1726
 Sunday services at 8:00, 9:00 and especially
 for late rising Ags, 11:15 a.m.
 Next door to Canterbury House,
 the Episcopal Student Center

Presbyterian

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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 cares for one another
 & proclaims the love of Jesus Christ to all"
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 - Ministers
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REEL CRITIQUE

MOVIE REVIEWS

The Contender
 Starring Joan Allen and Gary Oldman
 Directed by Rod Lurie

Every so often, a film comes along that proves Hollywood can still make mature, intelligent movies. Boasting exceptional performances and a compelling story, *The Contender* may be the best movie this year.

Sen. Laine Hanson (Allen) has been nominated to fill the vacancy of the vice president, and the only thing standing in her way is her confirmation hearing. The confirmation committee chairman, Congressman Runyon (Oldman), refuses to make things easy, as he sweeps events from Hanson's past into a sea of national controversy. A remarkably realistic portrayal of political power follows as the president (Jeff Bridges) fights for his nominee and the congressman fights to destroy her.

Written and directed by Rod Lurie, ex-film critic, *The Contender* crackles with energy and authentic-

ity by taking an insider's look at Washington-style politics. The conversations are harsh, the situations are realistic and the characters are well-written. Lurie's best achievement as a director is his savvy casting of actors such as Sam Elliot, Christian Slater, Joan Allen and William Petersen. Each actor fits his or her role perfectly.

Allen embodies dignity and class in her every move and gesture.

Bridges plays the president perfectly. He is strong and forceful as well as smooth and sly. He manages to turn an obsession with catching the White House kitchen staff off-guard into a joke which runs the length of the film.

Oldman turns in one of the most subtly mesmerizing performances of his career. Couple this with Elliot's propensity for playing the cagey old-timer, and this film is one of the best-acted

films in years.

Powerful and stirring, *The Contender* also manages to poke fun at politics. Each dramatic scene is beautifully balanced with a joke, which shows the director's keen sense of comedic timing.

The Contender is one of the few

recent films that have lived up to the legacy left by Hollywood greats such as Frank Capra and Alfred Hitchcock. This movie makes a clear distinction between a good movie and one that deserves to be called a classic. (Grade: A)

— Matt McC



Nobel Prize for literature given to Chinese writer for first time

BAGNOLET, France (AP) — Gao Xingjian burned his early writings to save himself from communist zealots, was denounced by his own wife and eventually went into exile. On Thursday, the 60-year-old survivor of China's upheaval and oppression became its first Nobel Prize laureate for literature.

The Swedish Academy cited the novelist and playwright for the "bitter insights and linguistic ingenuity" in his writings about the "struggle for individuality in mass culture."

Gao, "very, very surprised" at the honor, declared writing to have been his salvation, even during Mao Tse-tung's brutal 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, when intellectuals were silenced and he had to burn "kilos and kilos" of his writings lest they fall into the wrong hands.

"In China, I could not trust anyone, not even my family. The atmosphere was so poisoned, people were so brainwashed that even someone from your own family could turn you in," he told The Associated Press.

That actually happened, according to his friend and fellow Chinese exile, poet Bei Ling. "His wife told people from the government that he had been writing literary things at home, and writing literature then was very dangerous," said Bei.

Gao did not go into specifics in the interview, but it was not uncommon during the Cultural Revolution for people, driven to extremes to save themselves, to divorce loved ones targeted by the zealots.

Gao went on to become a leading cultural figure in China but fled in 1987 after one of his plays was banned and he was put under police surveillance. After the 1989 blood bath at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, he wrote *Fugitives*, set against the background of the slayings. The Communist regime declared him "persona non grata" and banned his works.

Gao's novel, *Soul Mountain*, a complex narrative based on his travels in China, was published in English translation last year and was singled out by the Swedish Academy as "one of those singular literary creations that

seem impossible to compare with anything but themselves."

Gao has lived in France for 12 years, speaks flawless French and holds French citizenship. He is an authority on modern French drama but leads a spartan life. After the Nobel announcement, he received visitors at his apartment in a blue-collar Paris suburb wearing a sweat shirt and slippers.

Gao said he started keeping a diary when he was 8, now writes or paints up to 16 hours a day on a glass, the only furniture in the room.

"Writing eases my suffering," he said. "When you write, you're able to keep your mind alive. Writing is my way of reaffirming my own existence."

Having survived the Cultural Revolution, he saw his dramas fall victim in the 1980s to a government campaign against what it called "spiritual pollution." *Bus Stop* (1983) and *The Other Shore* (1986) were banned. After leaving China he wrote *Between Life and Death* (1989) and *Weekend Quartet* (1995) which critics say gracefully combines poetry, comedy and tragedy to portray grim realities.

Gao said the prize, worth \$915,000, "really is something, especially for a Chinese man because the Nobel is a very heated issue in China."

China has been suspicious of the Nobel institution since it awarded the 1989 Peace Prize to the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibet's struggle to throw of Chinese rule.

Gao said he would not try to make political capital out of his award. "I am not a politician," he said. "I'm not involved in politics, but that does not prevent me from criticizing the policies of Communist China. I say what I want to say. If I have chosen to live in exile, it is to be able to express myself freely without constraints."

Gao said that he has broken all ties to China "so that I can express myself freely without endangering my family and those close to me."

Poet Bei, who lives in Boston, called the prize "an affirmation of his creativity and a great show of support for all of us independent writers and

"When you use words, you're able to keep your mind alive. Writing is my way of reaffirming my own existence."

— Gao Xingjian
 Nobel Prize winner

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