

AGGIElife

THE BATTALION

By JUSTIN GARRETT
The Battalion

It could be considered the most prominent and revealing form of expression employed by our society. It has become a quick fix for society to escape the mediocrity of an everyday routine. It is the drug of escape known as film.

At Texas A&M, it has had the most pronounced effect on the group of film enthusiasts who make up the Film Society.

They are a breed of student who not only use film for themselves, but actively supply it to the rest of the student body. Although they share similarities with the average college student, there is an intrinsic difference that separates them from the rest of the student body — their passion for film and its exposure to the public.

Through their efforts, students at A&M have the opportunity to experience the product of today's greatest movie makers and to meet the movie makers, themselves.

Though A&M is known by some as an institution lacking in cultural diversity and appreciation for the arts, the MSC Film Society seeks to dismantle the stigma. Through numerous programs including Texas Film Festival, the group aims to educate and draw people away from the mainstream and the heart of film. Film society vice-chair and junior English major Francis Hernandez said the group uses big name movies to expose people to the deeper aspects of film.

"The things that get the biggest turnouts are things like our sneak previews and Aggie Cinema. We try and use those to promote the other things about film ... where people can learn about film as art," Hernandez said. "It's kind of an avenue for us to get that

across and also just to show movies that everyone will like."

Members of the Film Society said they have found it necessary to devote a considerable amount of time to their passion. There is seldom a week this group fails to make a public presentation.

"We're one of the most heavily programming groups on campus," Hernandez said. "We average out at about one program per week, which is a lot."

As an officer of the club, most of Hernandez' spare time is spent working on something related to the group.

"I'm up in our cubicle probably seven to 10 hours a week," he said. "This week we have two programs back to back, so I can spend four hours on each of those. In an average week I probably spend between 15 to 20 hours [working for Film Society]."

Members of Film Society, members claim that the rewards make it worth the trouble. One such reward is an opportunity to be a part of the Texas Film Festival. It often attracts many big names and skilled professionals from the film industry. This gives the public an opportunity to learn about film as well as view films that otherwise would never be seen in College Station. It also gives Film Society members a chance to meet some of their heroes.

"You have the directors and actors in the movies, and we hang out with them," Brent Humphrey, Film Society aide, said. "We take them

around and make sure they're not bored. Then you get to know a lot more about the film industry."

The film festival also allows the Film Society to take part in the activity they love — watching movies.

"It was a lot of fun for us," Hernandez said. "We got to go and sit in theaters for hours at a time and watch things we would never ever get to see here."

Another benefit of being involved with Film Society is the social interaction of members. Given the specific focus of the group, it can be an excellent way to encounter people who share the same passion for film.

Hernandez said he views the social aspect of the club to be one of the most significant rewards.

"You get to meet lots of really cool people," Humphrey said. "I've made more friends in Film Society than probably any other organization that I've been in."

Although the members of Film Society are not in the spotlight often for bringing people and films to the

Aggies in the dark

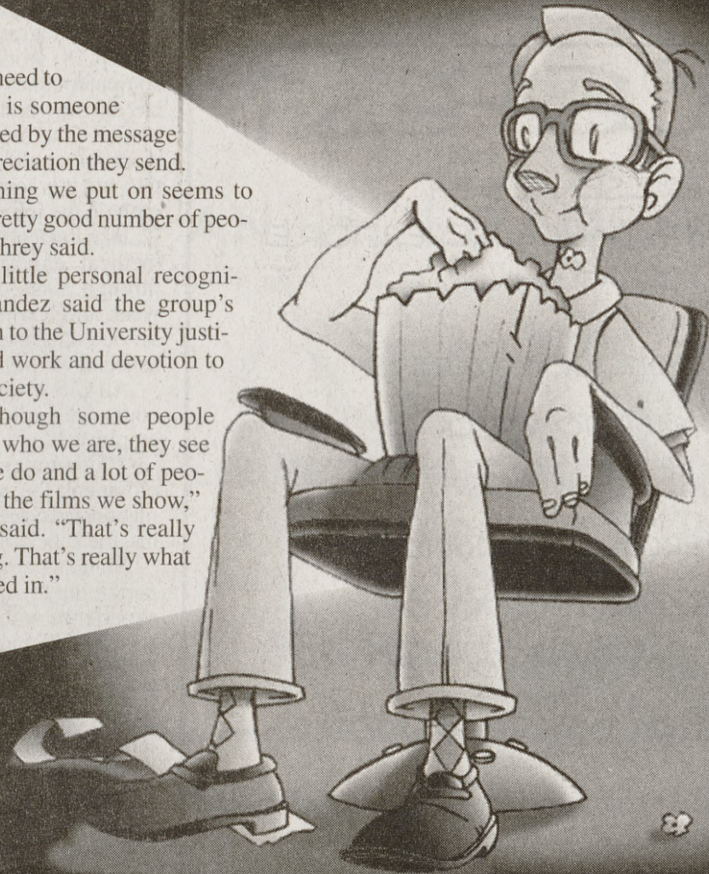
High times and long hours come along with a membership in the MSC Film Society

campus, some only need to know there is someone being reached by the message of film appreciation they send.

"Everything we put on seems to bring in a pretty good number of people," Humphrey said.

Despite little personal recognition, Hernandez said the group's contribution to the University justifies his hard work and devotion to the Film Society.

"Even though some people don't know who we are, they see the work we do and a lot of people come to the films we show," Hernandez said. "That's really the big thing. That's really what I'm interested in."



RICH HORNE/THE BATTALION

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The library remains open with posters warning out the bats. As of Tuesday workers were still trying to close. A few persistent students studying on the sixth floor of the bats are located. "We will take more precautions to seal the phenson said. He said the sixth floor is still assembled from the renovation and several sections of the closed for work. Gilreath said in the press students should remain calm is a student feels uncomfortable to the sixth floor to get arial, they can make requests at the main circulation Eric Zimmerman, a Branch of the Texas Agricultural Service, said bats are aggressive. Very, very seldom are bats bite," he said. "Unless it was or there was a common it odd that she would get in the area of the front phenson was unable to find out how the biting happened Zimmerman said some have as many as 20 million in them, but despite the isolation, the incidence of bat bites should always be potential exposure to be treated accordingly," he said Zimmerman said the bat migratory. Its body 4 inches long with a wing to 13 inches. In the meantime, Gilreath said to remain calm and to capture the bats.

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Democrats. Thia Wetzel, a senior development major in said that although she change her vote, it did better see the difference the two candidates. The debate made Bush a dumb ass the in the past," she said. Important point made in is probably that Bush is big government in the he's from Texas." Following the debate, Dr. a political science professor students in a discussion debate and whether their votes. ed on the responses, the not effect most people. most people said they candidate preference converted to another preference," she said.

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