

AggieLife

Friday, September 21, 2001

THE BATTALION

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THEN & NOW

Corps celebrates its 125th anniversary at A&M this weekend

By HEATHER CAMPBELL
THE BATTALION

If a thunderous "Howdy!" or "Yes sir!" rings in your ears, and uniformed cadets march across campus, you know you have arrived at Texas A&M. This year marks 125 years that the Corps of Cadets have represented A&M and will celebrate the milestone with a reunion beginning today and continuing through Saturday.

In light of recent attacks on America, many people have become aware of the Corps' presence and importance for our country. With flags flying everywhere, Americans are reminded of their freedom and can be thankful for the men and women who volunteer to carry out America's mission to protect the United States.

Eric Komfuehrer, a senior civil engineering major, has a marine contract and said he will be commissioned when he graduates.



"The Corps of Cadets is the heart of Texas A&M's many long-standing traditions."

— Texas Gov. Rick Perry
former cadet



"It hits home to us, especially the ones who have potential to get shipped to other countries," Komfuehrer said.

Alumni from the Corps stay involved during the year, and their dedication shows the passion they have to participate in the Corps network actively.

Rick Graham, Class of 1966 and former commanding officer in the Aggie Band, reveals an overwhelming sense of pride in every word he says about the Corps. His son, Kevin Graham, a senior business major in outfit E-2, represents A&M as a yell leader.

"When I attended Texas A&M, the school was all male and just the Corps," Rick Graham said. "There are a lot more activities in the school that the Corps is involved with, and I think the academics are stronger now which causes the Corps to

change. It's neat for us to come back and see our sons do the same thing we did," Graham said.

Graham periodically travels from Dallas to College Station to run with the Corps. The former cadets also remain loyal to the University. Many travel back for Corps events that involve the entire school such as Midnight Yell, Silver Taps and football games.

Tracy Cox, Class of 1981 and a dedicated alumni of the Corps, served on Corps staff and said he looks highly upon the Corps' participation in traditions.

"Bonfire was the most memorable time

The residence halls are similar to military barracks, and each year Corps members acquire more privileges. Their eating habits, physical exercise and dress code also differ from the everyday student. Wearing the long sleeved uniforms on sweltering days and strenuous exercise at the break of dawn are a few of the many hardships they endure.

This weekend will be a time to commend the cadets not only for their daily perseverance but also for their long-term determination to serve our country at all costs. The incredible 125-year milestone will be acknowledged Friday with a showcase of events including a Corps Scholarship Golf Tournament, President George Bush Library tours and aircraft and military equipment displays. Friday evening, Gov. Rick Perry will be present to speak at Reed Arena.

"The Corps of Cadets is the heart and soul of Texas A&M's many long-standing traditions," Perry said. "The Corps has trained men and women for 125 years to serve our state and nation with distinction, often at the expense of their own lives. I am proud to be just one of thousands who have worn the cadet uniform while attending Texas A&M."

The night will end with midnight yell practice at Kyle Field. Saturday's focus will be an Ol' Army Elephant Walk beginning at Rudder. At the football game, former members of the Aggie Band are invited to march onto the field to create the "Eternal Aggie Band."

Trevor Voelkel, a senior finance major, is in the Aggie Band and serves as public relations officer for the Corps. He was responsible for planning the events and said he encourages everyone to participate.

"This weekend is open to everyone and will be a great time for the community to see what the Corps is all about," Voelkel said.

MOVIE REVIEW

O
Directed by
Tim Blake Nelson
Starring Mekhi Phifer,
Josh Hartnett
and Julia Stiles

school production of Othello, and at other times, one feels as if they are watching an original version of the play.

Nelson unquestionably utilizes many of the original aspects of the play. One of the main symbols of the play is Desi's scarf that Odin gives her as a present. This mirrors the original play in that Othello gives a handkerchief to Desdemona as a gift. The scarf supposedly represents Desi's sexual innocence and her naive perspective in what is happening around her. Even Nelson's character names reflect which character is which: Odin (Othello), Desi (Desdemona), and Hugo (Iago).

Tim Blake Nelson retells the story of Shakespeare's Othello on the basketball courts of an elite private school. Odin (Phifer) is the big man on campus: a star basketball player, a diligent student, a charming gentleman to his beautiful girlfriend Desi (Stiles) and most of all, the envy of his supposed best friend Hugo (Hartnett). In the movie, Hugo attempts to sabotage Odin's life by making him think that Desi is cheating on him. From there, his life spirals downward.

Nelson's release of O was postponed because of the Columbine shooting a few years ago. His rendition of the story could have definitely sparked controversy through the retelling of one of Shakespeare's phenomenal tragedies. The movie takes place in a high school and has a violent ending involving guns. For this reason, it was not appropriate for the movie to be released during aftermath of Columbine.

O has an excellent cast, but unfortunately it is a movie of average stature. At times, one feels as if they are sitting through a very mediocre high

The movie gives the audience a sense that nothing good is going to happen. From the very beginning, Nelson does an excellent job of setting an ambiance of a dark and dismal tragedy, primarily with dark lighting. Each of the characters, particularly the principals, perfectly fit the molds of Shakespeare's originals. Odin is confident and glib while Desi is sweet, naive and beautiful. One automatically sees that Hugo is up to no good and that something bad is going to happen.

O follows the structure of Othello with a modern twist, but there is some-

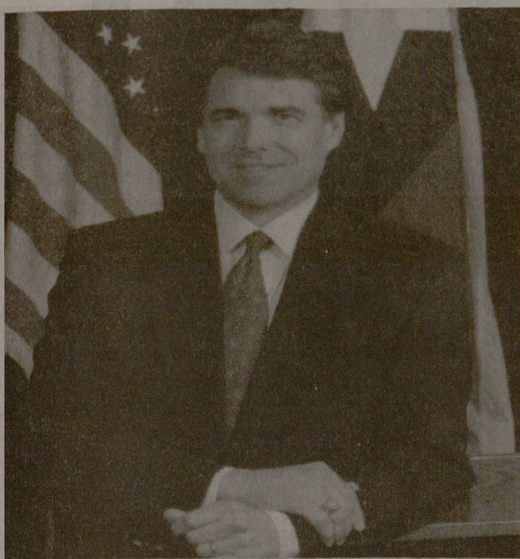
See O on page 10.

MSC Current Issues Awareness presents...

The Honorable Rick Perry

-Governor of Texas

Former Yell Leader - class of '72

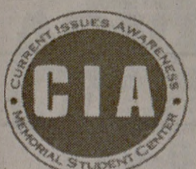


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