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Telling tales: Area writers share secrets of creativity

By KEVIN BURNS
THE BATTALION

Despite some professors' penchant for preaching old literature as the paragon of literary importance and poignancy, there are other options available in contemporary fiction. In many ways, Chaucer is dead, and a new kind of fiction is on its way as Aggie students and alumni leave their marks, one page at a time.

James Bowser, a senior english major, started writing comics at age 10.

"I initially started writing comic books because I loved to read them so much," Bowser said. "I liked to read Spider Man, Daredevil and the Silver Surfer. I quickly created my own characters, then scripted a storyline."

Bowser quickly compiled a collection of short stories dealing with specialized, undercover crime fighters, he said. Bowser's story collection was complete by age 12. At this time, he began listening to darker music and focusing on the lyrics.

"I listened to a lot of ... stereotypically portrayed ... 'kill, kill, kill' music," Bowser said. "I found that these lyrics were truly imaginative and creative. This is when I began writing horror."

Bowser said his motives and messages came from book to book.

His current work deals with "perceptions, fears and self-loathing beliefs that prevent [people] from discovering their true tiny in life," Bowser said. "I want people to know that self-image is important in discovering who you are and where you are going."

Bowser sees himself being a teacher and writer after graduation and said graduate school is a possibility. Bower's most recent, yet unpublished, book *The Foreboding*, is about a black football player, predominantly white high school who has scholarship opportunities coming from every direction. Branded an "Uncle Tom" growing up, life has not been easy. An ACL injury before the playoffs of his senior year causes major colleges to drop him. Only one small, historically black university in Texas still wants him. When he accepts the offer, the story picks up pace and an evil unfolds, Bowser said.

Dr. Gideon Adjei, Class of 1975, has written a book to be released in late October, *Darker Shades of Light*. His book has been optioned for a movie by Hollywood Zeus, Steven Spielberg.

The publishing process was not easy for Adjei. "It's a very competitive field," Adjei said. "There are several people who have written or are currently writing."

While researching in the library about publishing procedure, he decided he personally would publish his book.

"I spent about the last seven months just preparing the book," Adjei said.

Adjei said his book is about acceptance and he wrote to touch people.

"I feel like I can help people because of my own life experiences," Adjei said.

Such experiences include traveling to several countries and spending time with people in crisis. Adjei was on location to clean up the oil spill after the Gulf War. Seeing people in dire circumstance allowed Adjei to grip the rainbow of human emotions.

It took Adjei five months to complete *Darker Shades of Light*.

"Most of it was written in the middle of the night at two o'clock in the morning," Adjei said. "During my career, I learned that we can survive on small amounts of sleep."

Adjei stands out as an example for writers who feel they do not have the tools or means to be published, and getting Spielberg to purchase his story is a pinnacle achievement.

Adjei admits that the task of writing a book is difficult, but realizes the ultimate product is its own reward.



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See FICTION on page 10

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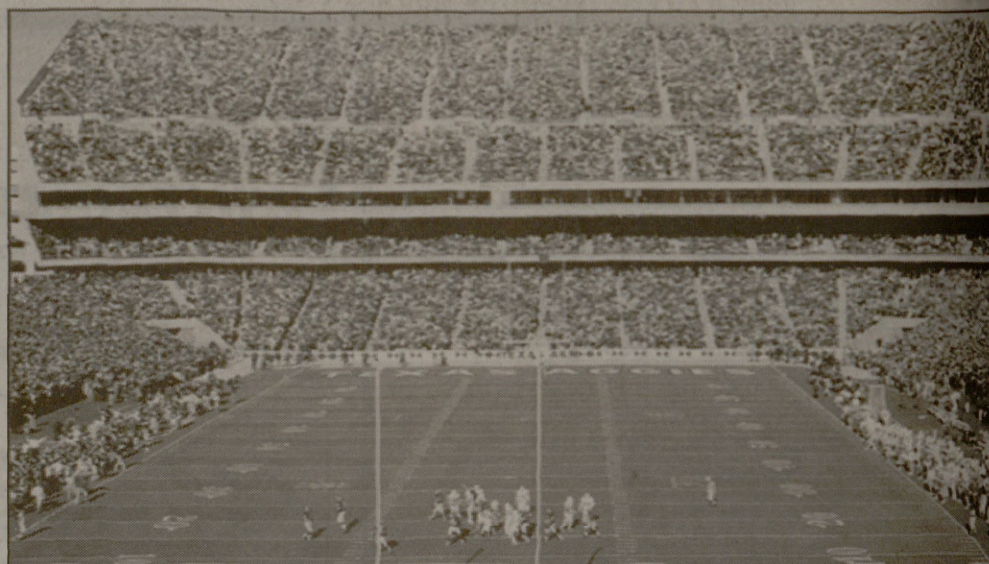
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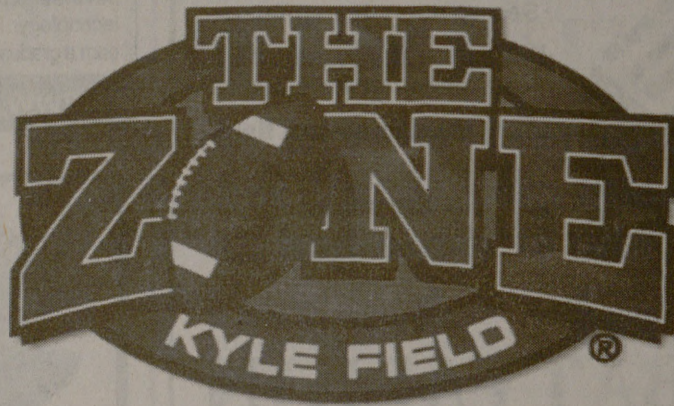
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