

AggieLife

THE BATTALION

3A
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AND ... ACTION!

Aggies dream of the movie-making industry

By Mike Whitlow
THE BATTALION

While the process of movie making is a mystery to most, some Aggies have pulled back the veil and entered the world of film production. Dan Steele, a junior English major, recently directed his first film, *Rhyme and Reason*.

"My film was intended for my Shakespeare class," Steele said. "It's about a filmmaker trying to make the perfect Shakespeare adaptation. Now I'm working on a couple of films that I intend to screen at festivals."

Steele said he became interested in filmmaking when he saw *Jurassic Park*.

"While all the other kids were saying 'Wow, dinosaurs!' I was saying 'Wow, how did they do that?'"

Through a high school teacher who knew a sound mixer in the film industry, Steele was able to visit the set of *Miss Congeniality*.

"I spent so much time with the people, including Sandra Bullock, that I knew there was no other choice in life for me," Steele said. "My lifelong goal is to make a film in every single genre."

Recently, Steele attended the Worldfest Film Festival in Houston, as well as several smaller festivals around the state, building his connections within the industry.

At the Worldfest, Steele met R. Lee Ermey, who played the drill sergeant in *Full Metal Jacket*, and at an Austin film festival, Steele met Russell Crowe.

"R. Lee Ermey stood up at a party and began reciting his entire opening monologue from memory. Everyone cracked up," Steele said. "Crowe and I hung out for several hours, and I realized that these stars are just normal people who

enjoy being around other human beings. "Russell seemed to let me stick around because he liked my name," Steele said. "He introduced me to people by saying, 'This is Dan Steele. Isn't that a great f---king name?'"

Steele also helped with the production of a film about a newspaper thief, *The Eagle: Learning to Fly Again*, that was directed by Julian Londono, a senior mechanical engineering major, and Casey Pinkston, a senior environmental design major.

The Eagle was screened at the Texas Film Festival and won a Special Audience Award.

"*Failing to Adjust* is our newest project and deals with a condition called sleep paralysis," Londono said. "We hope to finish production by the middle of summer."

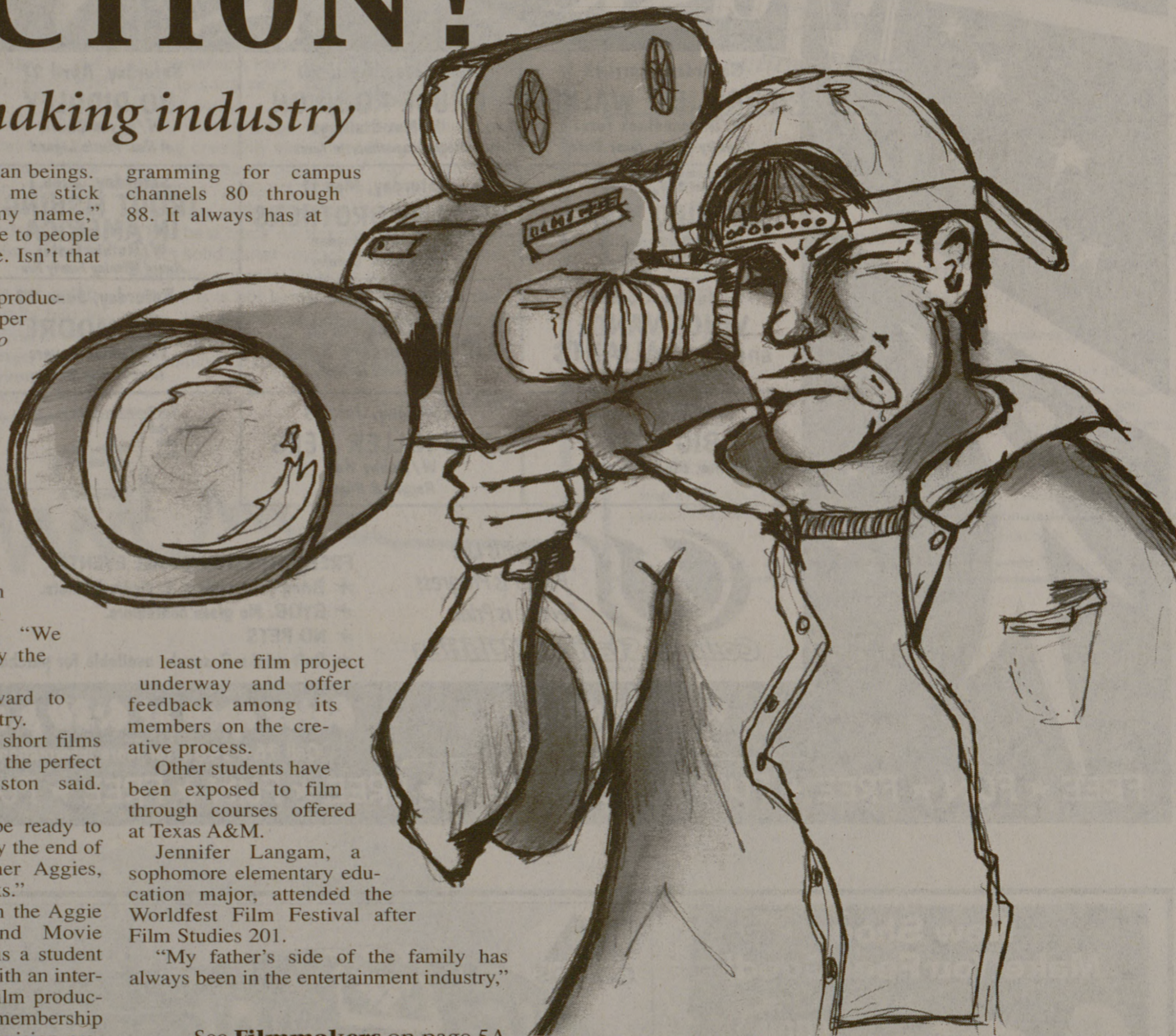
Both said they look forward to future careers in the film industry.

"We want to keep making short films like this until we have written the perfect feature-length script," Pinkston said. "Then we'll start pitching it."

"With a little luck we'll be ready to make a feature-length movie by the end of 2005," Londono said. "Former Aggies, please go grab your checkbooks."

All three have worked with the Aggie Screen Writing, Acting and Movie Production club. S.W.A.M.P. is a student organization open to anyone with an interest in these three aspects of film production. The group, which has a membership of about 50, also produces television pro-

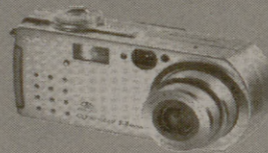
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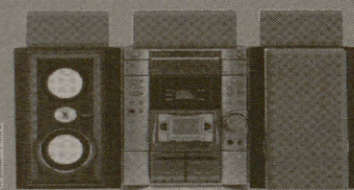
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