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Aggeland 2003

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

The Department of Multicultural Services presents its
15th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, April 25
Barbecue Social
Clayton Williams Alumni Center

Saturday, April 26
Family Fun Day at the Rec
Student Recreation Center

Anniversary Gala
Student Recreation Center Archery Room

Times to be announced
For more information, email Christina Aguilar at cmaguilar@tamu.edu or call 979-845-4551

"Fifteen Years of Enriching Diversity:
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AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

CAMPUS Calendar

Saturday

Traditions Council will host a 5K Fun Run on Saturday, March 1, at 9 a.m. The race will begin and end at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.

Participants can register from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

Registration is \$10 and includes a T-shirt. For more information, call Della Reichenstein at 324-8416.

Tuesday

The Muslim Student Association will host a General Meeting at 7 p.m. in MSC 2928. Free Food. Call Mohammed Munawar at 575-4275 for more information.

TwoSpy

Continued from page 3

With its new disc, "Kool of Yaw Gnorw (Wrong Way to Look)" being launched today in a CD release party and show at Club Concept, McLawhon said the lyrics aim to have a positive message and good impact on their listeners.

"A lot of musicians tend to glorify pain and suffering by writing lyrics about ordeals they never even had," McLawhon said. "The lyrics that I mostly write about are about how stupid I can be sometimes. We also like to be truthful and original in our music."

Weidlich said he is a strong believer in the theology that it is not the end result that is important, but the path taken to get there.

"It's really all about the process of gaining experience to where you want to be, in whatever you are doing," he said. "In the beginning you write and play music for yourself. After being in the band for a while, we have all realized that we have to write for the whole band. Since we have all become in tuned to each others' musical talents, the composing process has just been flowing together lately."

Eric Ortman, a junior economics major and a long-time fan of TwoSpy, said TwoSpy's musical exploits get more impressive with each song.

"They are constantly reinventing themselves," he said. "This is reflected in their music. When I listen to their CD or attend their concerts, I'm blown away by how they always get better with each song. I saw them open for Flickerstick recently and they were incredible. It is amazing to see how far they have come in such a short period of time. It is very inspiring."

Loftis said the members of TwoSpy are in the band for the music.

"We don't care a lot about the money at this point," he said. "If I had enough money to pay bills and buy CD's then it's enough for me. The dream and goal is to do something that we love and get appreciated for it. We just hope people get something out of our music, whether they come to see us perform or listen to our CD."

TwoSpy will launch its new album at Club Concept tonight, and will be part of the local band showcase, which begins at 8 p.m. TwoSpy is scheduled to appear onstage at midnight. The band will also be a guest on 103.9 F.M. at 1:30 p.m. today.

'Gods and Generals' gives a whitewashed historical account

By Roger Moore
KRT CAMPUS

To suffer. To sacrifice. To endure. To somehow sit through three and a half hours of "Gods and Generals," the hackwork Civil War "prequel" to the 1993 historical embarrassment titled "Gettysburg."

We few, we unhappy few, grimace through the molasses-on-grits Southern accents, shake our heads at the historical revisionism and snort at the static dullness of this endless, flaccid adaptation of another historical novel about America's defining conflict.

PBS entrusted "The Civil War" to Ken Burns. Ted Turner, who makes cameos in these bloated-corpse reenactment movies, gave the job to Ronald F. Maxwell. And Maxwell, a TV movie director with no ear for dialogue that isn't over the top and no eye for the sort of visual poetry these stories demand, is plainly not up to the job.

"Gods and Generals" is as laughably drawly as a Foghorn Leghorn cartoon and as animated as a daguerreotype.

It's the story of Stonewall Jackson, his rise from religious fanatic artillery teacher at the Virginia Military Institute to legendary hero of Bull Run and immortal icon of Chancellorsville. Stephen Lang, who made a splendid Gen. George Pickett in "Gettysburg," is given center stage and a decent beard for this role as Robert E. Lee's "right arm." If only he'd been given compelling things to say.

"I regard the crime of desertion as a sin against the Army of the Lord," he preaches. He utters oaths about "our sacred war of independence," moons over his absent wife and professes to want an end to slavery to his new black cook, "Uncle" Jim Lewis (Frankie Faison).

The "S" word is hard to come by in this endless epic, just as Abraham Lincoln is forever the unseen, offstage villain of the piece. Only when Joshua Chamberlain (Jeff Daniels), returning as the Bowdoin College teacher-turned-Union officer, shows up is the ugly source of the struggle correctly articulated. And he does so in a speech so arch as to draw more eye-rolling than tears.

It would probably take a staggering budget and a director like Kubrick to pull off this huge tale on a grand canvas. As it is, the movie, like Maxwell's "Gettysburg," is heavily reliant on Civil War re-enactors, who fill the screen with thousands of men marching, firing and charging. These scenes are vivid and realistic to a fault until you notice the expressionless faces of the

nonactors (including a grinning Turner himself, who never know quite where to look or how to look when the camera is rolling).

An awful lot of public servants and ex-public servants turn up in cameos. Phil Gramm, George Allen and Robert Byrd are there. Surely there was a role for the least repentant Southern apologist of them all, Trent Lott?

Maxwell's racial myopia is patronizing. But his worst sin is his slack storytelling. He set out to make "Gettysburg" for Turner TV and then had the film released into theaters at an interminable length. That story, at least, seemed to support much of that length. "Gods and Generals" is just funereal, as Maxwell didn't know what parts of Jeff Shaara's book to leave out. He stages Christmas-carol singing, parlor piano-playing, visit after visit to the hospital tents and even a USO show (actually, CSO) that has everything but Bob "The South Will Rise Again" Hope. The photography is flat and colorless, save for a wintry gray re-creation of the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg.

"Gettysburg" benefited from a few standout performances, especially Lang in his earlier role and the late Richard Jordan, in a riveting and emotional sequence during Pickett's Charge. It also had the idiotically miscast Martin Sheen as Robert E. Lee and Tom Berenger, as General Longstreet, sharing the screen with a godawful fake beard that had a mind of its own. The beards are better here, and Robert Duvall makes a perfectly convincing Robert E. Lee. But Lee is in the background for too much of the tale. And there isn't an emotional moment in this.

There is some historical foundation for showing Southerners who wanted to end slavery, of slaves utterly devoted to their masters. But using anecdotes like that to justify the film's general whitewashing of history is patronizing and wrong.

Thanks to Ken Burns, we know how people talked and looked and thought during the Civil War. He reminded us that even then, people knew what the war was about. Thankfully, it will be the PBS version of the war that will stick in the public mind. And Ronald F. Maxwell can go back to cable where he belongs.

GODS AND GENERALS

1 star (out of 5)
Cast: Robert Duvall, Stephen Lang, Jeff Daniels, Mira Sorvino.
Director: Ronald F. Maxwell.
Running time: 3 hours, 58 minutes, including intermission.



Robert Duvall, center, stars as Gen. Robert E. Lee, in Ted Turner Pictures' sweeping epic "Gods and Generals."

PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

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