

**Panel**  
 Continued from page 1

that led to the uproar over the cartoon. Panel members agreed that many students do not possess the knowledge needed to understand the differences among cultures at A&M. Because A&M did not begin as a diverse campus, the cultural developments of different groups are a part of the history of A&M, the panelists said. "If you don't know that you don't know, it is not bad. It is history," Hernandez said. "Indifference has come because people don't ask questions about [each others'] history."

**A racist history?**

Eberhard Laepple, a graduate student representing the International Student Association, said problems come from a lack of knowledge about the history of other cultures which have not always associated with A&M.

"Even as a foreign student, you realize it," Laepple said. Brandon Hepburn, chair of the MSC Black Awareness Committee, said he remembers that as a freshman attending the EXCEL conference, he was told a story about a black student who found his car covered in racial slurs. Other panelists had heard similar stories that seemingly teach freshmen that A&M is an intolerant place.

Lyndon Pryor, president of the African-American Student Coalition, said sometimes racial issues arise because some students seem proud of the school's racist history.

"We have to acknowledge the history of the University," Pryor said. "The fact is, A&M has a racial history."

Stemming from this, panel members raised the issue concerning the display of the Confederate flag on campus and whether the flag is a symbol of racism or of history.

Tyler Dunman, president of the Young Conservatives of Texas, said students need to learn to eliminate stereotypes from both sides of the issue, otherwise they will see the Confederate flag as a symbol of hate.

"You have to have an open mind and perception; don't continuously draw the same conclusions, because you can't automatically assume everything is racist," Dunman said.

**The problem of indifference**

The panel members agreed that some students still perceive this and other issues of racism indifferently.

Panelists expressed that students at A&M are either indifferent or insensitive to current issues because of the history of the school, but most students are gaining the knowledge and the mindset to change the indifference.

"Two groups (on campus) had beliefs that weren't parallel, which led to misunderstandings about the cartoon," Hepburn said.

"One group was offended by the past representation of its culture," said Samecia Bloomfield, MSC director of cultural programs coordination.

"The representation was forced onto the group; it was tied to past ideas," said Student Body President Schuyler Houser.

**Growing pains**

The history of individual students at A&M and the lack of knowledge about what defines diversity have brought the campus to a turning point accompanied by growing pains, said panel members. The members noted that the reaction by some groups and the perceived lack of a reaction by others are all part of those growing pains.

"This campus needs to understand the value of diversity," said Mariano Castillo, editor in chief of *The Battalion*. "Historically, there has been a lack of understanding."

To begin moving away from past racial issues, "we have to examine the past and the changing times," said Pablo Rodriguez, SGA executive director for diversity issues and a sophomore speech communications major. "Changing times call for changing attitudes."

**PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**

**Spears says she is not in "an intense relationship"**

LONDON (AP) — Britney Spears said Monday that she's not "in an intense relationship with anyone," fueling speculation that she and N. Sync's Justin Timberlake have broken up.

The 20-year-old pop singer faced the British media at a news conference to promote *Crossroads*, her coming-of-age road trip movie, which opened in the United States last month. Journalists were warned beforehand that Spears would ignore questions about taboo topics, such as her love life.

But when a reporter asked whether she was involved in an "intense relationship," Spears replied: "No, I would not say I was in an intense relationship with anyone at the moment."

Later, she told ITV television that she felt entitled to protect her privacy.

"People talk about my private life. That goes with what I do. You have to accept that," she said. "But if they ask about it, I say it's none of your business."

Tabloids in Britain and the United States have reported that she and Timberlake have parted ways, and the cover of the April 1 issue of *US Weekly* magazine trumpets: "Britney & Justin: It's Over." But Spears recently told MTV that she and Timberlake were still together.

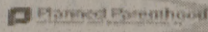
Spears and the 21-year-old boy band member have been pop music's power couple for the past two years, and have known each other since the mid-1990s, when they were cast members on the Disney Channel's "Mickey Mouse Club." At age 12, each was the other's first kiss; lately, they've shared a house in the Hollywood Hills.

**BIRTH CONTROL STUDY**

Planned Parenthood of Bryan is participating in a FDA approved injectable birth control method for women. A pharmaceutical company is sponsoring this 13- to 15-month study.

Qualified volunteers will receive medical-related services, including:

- Study-related medical examinations
- Study-related laboratory blood work
- Study medication



For more information, and to find out if you qualify, please call our Bryan clinic at 846-1744.

Participation is voluntary, and research participants will be compensated for their time.

**Graduating Seniors**  
 Aggieldand Printing sells  
 Graduation Announcements



2 Choices  
 See our brand new format with A&M seal New this semester!  
 Order by April 2 & receive them April 5



We sell  
 • Graduation Announcements • Graduation Remembrance Displays  
 • Thank You Notes • Personalized Graduate Notepads

**Aggieldand Printing**

1902 Texas Ave South, C.S. (in front of the new HEB)  
 693-8621 M-F 8:30-5:30

Order and pay online:  
[www.aggieldandprinting.com](http://www.aggieldandprinting.com)

**Starlight Music Series**

<b>Saturday, April 13</b> <b>JERRY JEFF WALKER</b> W/Diamondback Texas <i>Country Music, Texas Style</i>	<b>Saturday, April 20</b> <b>BRUCE ROBISON</b> W/Max Stallings <i>Best Songwriters in Texas</i>	<b>Saturday, April 27</b> <b>BO DIDDLEY</b> W/Karan Chavis <i>A Real Music Legend</i>
<b>Saturday, May 4</b> <b>GRUPO VIDA</b> W/Fuerza Latina <i>Great Tejano Music</i>	<b>Saturday, May 11</b> <b>BELLAMY BROTHERS</b> W/Rodney Hayden <i>Two-Steppin' Country</i>	<b>Saturday, June 1</b> <b>TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA</b> W/Ruthie Foster <i>Award Winning Family Fun</i>
<b>Saturday, June 8</b> <b>VINCE VANCE and the VALIANTS</b> <i>25 years of Rock N' Roll</i>	<b>Saturday, June 15</b> <b>The Back Porch</b> <b>2nd Anniversary Special</b> <i>Best Bands in Texas</i>	<b>Saturday, June 22</b> <b>IAN MOORE</b> W/Hadden Sayers <i>Texas Guitar Prodigy</i>
<b>Saturday, June 29</b> <b>BIG OTIS</b> <i>Rhythm, Blues &amp; Motown</i>	<b>Saturday, July 13</b> <b>THE KILLER BEES</b> W/Bobby Hall <i>Reggae &amp; Blues</i>	East Rudder Hwy. 6 Bypass Post Oak Mall Park Here Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater Dartmouth St.

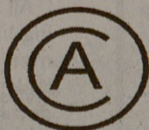
**Water is Life**  
**Power is Progress**  
**Service is Pride**  
**College Station Utilities**  
 Community Owned

**FREE ADMISSION TO ALL EVENTS**  
 ★ Bring your coolers & picnic baskets.  
 ★ BYOB. No glass containers.  
 ★ NO PETS  
 ★ Soft drinks & snacks available for purchase.

**WOLF PEN CREEK AMPHITHEATER**  
**Gates open at 6:30 p.m.**  
 Call 764-3486 for more information

**FREE ★ FUN ★ FREE ★ FUN ★ FREE ★ FUN ★ FREE ★ FUN ★ FREE ★ FUN**

**WANTED:  
 OFF CAMPUS AGGIES**



**WARNING:  
 KNOWN TO BE FUN AND EXCITING  
 REWARD:**

**FREE PIZZA AND T-SHIRT**

(bring a friend, get a t-shirt)

**When:** March 26, 2002 Tuesday

**Where:** Rudder/MSO 292B

**Time:** 7pm

It's **Toga Night**, so wear your toga, eat some pizza, and come listen to candidates speak!

Koldus 137 oca.tamu.edu 845-0688

**WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

Presents a  
**FREE ADVANCE SCREENING**  
 of

ROBIN WILLIAMS EDWARD NORTON DANNY DEVITO  
**DEATH TO SMOOCHY**

Get ready for an unexpected hit.

**TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY**  
 @ Rudder Theatre  
 8:00 PM Wednesday  
 March 27, 2002  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**while passes last\***  
**INFO?:** call SPO 845-1515  
<http://films.tamu.edu>

\* Passes available at Rudder Theatre Box Office or lobby.  
 Passes required. Seating is limited and not guaranteed. Please arrive early.  
 ID required. No one under the age of 17 will be admitted without parent or legal guardian.  
 Presented in association with MSC Film Society.

Want to be a VIP this summer? Apply for an internship working on an episode of Music in High Places, starring Unwritten Law. Learn how at [mastercard.com](http://mastercard.com)

**MasterCard**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CENTER**  
 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**NETWORK THEATRE**