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Organization Works For Equal Rights

By KATHY OAKS
On a warm November night, some 50 students, almost half of them male, wedged themselves into a conference room designed for 20 to witness the birth of the Women's Liberation movement at Texas A&M, an event which undoubtedly caused a ripple of disbelief beneath tombstones of the

Confederate officers who once made military discipline a way of life for Aggies.
Women's Awareness Workshop, since its inception in November, 1972, has taken its place among other campus organizations, receiving university recognition in March, 1973, and having a paid membership of about 50, includ-

ing 14 men.
Membership is open to both student and non-student members of the community and meetings, held twice monthly in the M.S.C., offer films and guest speakers on women and women's activities. Business meetings are conducted separately.
Sept. 20 has been set as the opening meeting date for the fall semester and will serve as an orientation session to acquaint interested incoming freshmen and transfer students with the activities of the organization.
Aims of the group include heightening the awareness of both women and men of legal inequalities for women, of cul-

tural prejudice and falsely imposed roles, and of individual growth possibilities.
Other objectives deal with reaching specific political and social goals, such as proper health care for A&M women, abolishment of outdated rules of the university, and proper enforcement of equality laws.
Current projects include compilation of a booklet on birth control and venereal disease, research into availability of credit for women, formation of consciousness raising groups, and establishment of a library of literature and information concerning women.
In the offing for the upcoming

year are guest speakers who discuss, among other things, shaping in children's literature and women in history, film, discussion groups.
In addition to their activities, Women's Awareness, affiliated with the Texas Men's Political Caucus and in August will send two voting delegates to participate in CA activities in San Antonio.
Group officers include Ellen Parker and Judi Wooten, chairpersons; Ellen Williams, treasurer; Cathy Reuschle, responding secretary; Kathy Oaks, recording secretary; Marina Weiss, faculty advisor.

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Former Students Unites Ag

One organization which affects A&M students, both before and after graduation, is the Association of Former Students.
Presently there are more than 55,000 A&M alumni the world over, and the Association, now in its 93rd year, strives to unite them all.
However, the focal point of activities of the organization is today's A&M student. Many of the programs are geared for the undergraduate, and various student leaders participate in advisory capacities to work with Association officials.
Officers are elected annually, but a permanent staff performs the administrative duties involved. This staff is headed by Executive Director Richard "Buck" Weirus, Class of 1942. He is assisted by Associate Executive Director Robert L. "Bob" Walker '58, Field Director Harry J. Green '52, Director of Business Affairs Juanita B. Murray '67, Texas Aggie Editor Jerry C. Cooper '63,

Director of Class Programs Olive S. DeLucia, Director of On-Campus Programs Pat Morley, and a staff of 12 additional workers.
Some of the major programs of the Association, designed to aid university and student body activities are:
Opportunity Award Scholarships—Established in 1940, more than 700 students are now receiving annual cash awards of \$300 or more.
President's Scholarships — Begun in 1967, these full four- or five-year scholarships of \$1,000 per year are intended to attract outstanding high school graduates to A&M.
Dean's Funds — Each of the academic deans of the 11 colleges at A&M have \$2,000 at their disposal each year to extend the effectiveness of their offices in areas where state funds are not available.
Student Loan Fund — Started

in 1924, more than \$500,000 have been contributed by former students to provide a permanent loan fund that is administered through the Student Financial Aid Office.
In addition to these programs which affect the students from their first days on campus, numerous other projects are conducted by the Association. Clubs are given continuous attention. Included in this area are the Texas Aggie, magazine of the Association, the Director of Former Students, Aggie Magazine ceremonies throughout the year, Distinguished Alumni Awards, class reunions, Distinguished Faculty Achievement Awards, Distinguished Graduate Student Awards. Many former students belong to the Century Club, a group composed of those who donate \$100 or more annually to the Association.

OPAS To Begin Premier Season

The Opera and Performing Arts Society will present international stars of the opera, dance and concert world in its premier 1973-74 season at A&M.
OPAS is a unified effort of the university, community and area in support of the arts.
Prominent opera featuring Norman Treigle in "The Marriage of Figaro" will be presented.
A&M students have until Sept. 15 to become members eligible for option seating. The opera, concerts, ballets and other performing arts programs will be presented in TAMU's new University Center 2,500-seat auditorium.
Besides assuring choice seating, OPAS membership means an invitation to the Opera Gala to be held in connection with "The Marriage of Figaro."
The series will open Dec. 5 with Violinist Itzhak Perlman. OPAS' premier season will also present Pianist Van Cliburn, the National Ballet of Washington, the Houston Symphony and Soprano Marisa Galvany.
OPAS special attractions include Guitarist Christopher Parkening and the Houston Lyric Arts String Quartet.
Membership means joining lead-

ing A&M students and area residents in a commitment to development of an outstanding fine arts series. Students may become members after Sept. 15. Choice seats will be available until that date.
Support for the organization is being sought from the Town Hall committee of area residents. Many leading citizens of Bryan and College Station surrounding communities, A&M faculty-staff and students have joined by making guarantees or contributions. These are sufficient backing for the present artists to appear this season.
OPAS also has received support from the Texas Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Council of the Brazos Valley and other groups.
Van Cliburn will perform at A&M on Jan. 17, 1974. The internationally renowned pianist will be followed Jan. 31 by the National Ballet; Feb. 27, "Figaro" April 9, Marisa Galvany, April 25, the Houston Symphony.
OPAS specials feature Parkening on Nov. 5 and the Houston Lyric Arts String Quartet, March 28.

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