

Please ... no more tickets

A dorm student begs University Police for five tickets on the windshield. The car, parked behind Law Hall, had

Battalion photo by Jeff Coulter

RHA seeks to host convention in 1980

By PAT DAVIDSON
Battalion Reporter

The Residence Hall Association at Texas A&M University is seeking to host the National Association of Colleges and Universities conference in May 1980.

Nancy Nelson, National Communications Chairman for the local RHA, said the purpose of the national conference is to help RHAs around the country share and strengthen their programs.

Nelson said delegates from Texas A&M have attended conventions on other campuses, but that A&M has never hosted the convention.

Residence halls at Texas A&M regularly sponsor educational activities as well as social events for dorm students. The RHA serves as a link between dorm residents and the administrative officials of the University.

Right now, an executive-type committee is working on the project, Nelson said. It will establish the basic groundwork and coordinate support in the areas of housing, food services, and administration for the convention, she said. A committee of mostly freshman and sophomore students will be selected to help, since they are the ones that will be hosting the convention.

Plans for the convention must be organized and printed by March so that they can be submitted to the NACURH when it meets in May, Nelson said.

The main reason A&M wants to host the convention, Nelson said, is to share ideas and show other groups that the RHA can work.

"We definitely have one of the top four organizations in the nation," Lynne Andrus, RHA president, said. "In fact, we are the best."

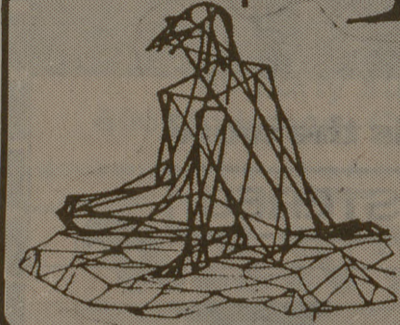
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United Press International
ST. LOUIS, Ill. — Narmen O. Hunter wants to convince executives that affirmative action plans do more than just help minorities — they help business, too.

Hunter is a Midwest regional representative of a Chicago-based program known as "Boomerang" which helps businesses work their way through the complicated federal requirements posed by the Equal Employment Opportunity law.

Since the Supreme Court ruling in the Bakke case, some executives have shied away from affirmative action plans. They fear reverse-discrimination actions if they pass over equally qualified candidates to hire minorities.

But Boomerang's message is that equal opportunity laws help businesses find talented employees who most likely would be overlooked if personnel offices were not forced to give minorities an equal chance at jobs.

"Most people have to overcome their prejudices, or at least learn those prejudices are obstacles in letting them do the best job they can,"

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Hunter said in an interview. "In the past managers tended to make decisions on cronyism, on the color of a person's skin, on sex. We say that in doing so, they have passed over some very good people for key positions and left themselves open to rather costly lawsuits."

So far, she said, Boomerang has worked nationwide with such business giants as Chase Manhattan Bank, U.S. Steel, Ralston-Purina and Coca-Cola as well as the Departments of Labor and Defense in the federal government to recruit qualified minority employees.

The message to all the clients is the same, as spelled out in Boomerang's introductory brochure: "Everything your attorneys, executives and personnel people know about EEO isn't worth a hill of beans unless that knowledge is

shared, understood and applied by every manager and supervisor — from first line on up."

Boomerang uses brief films to get its point across. Each vignette depicts a problem that could mushroom into a discrimination suit or other problems within the company.

A pregnant woman wonders about the real reason she is being fired. A black man demands to know why his police record was an issue in his job interview while it was not taken into account when a white man was hired. An attractive woman says complaints from the wives of male co-workers are holding her back.

The situations happen every day, Hunter said, and business executives must cope with them in the right way if they don't want their policies to boomerang in the form of legal action.

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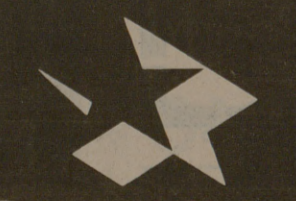
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