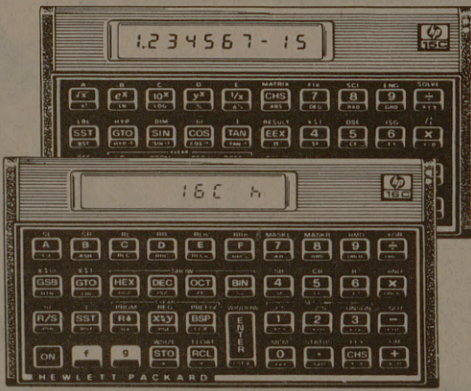
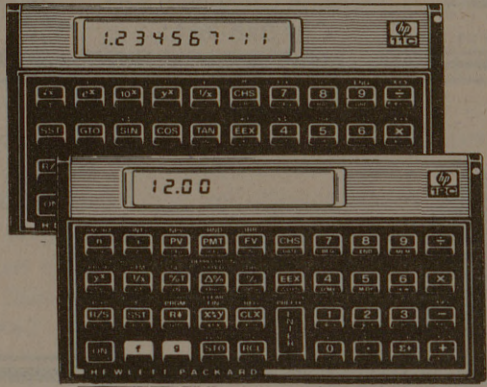


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State and Local

A&M's 'Big Kiss' grosses over \$5,000 to aid MDA

By **JULIA COKER**
 Reporter

Despite the lower than expected turnout, the 1,000 kissers gathered in Kyle Field for Friday's "Big Kiss" outnumbered the participants in the "Big Kiss" at the University of Texas and raised more than \$5,000 to help fight Muscular Dystrophy.

And according to organizers, the other schools in Texas weren't able to field as many kissers either.

Mark Kennedy, member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity at Texas A&M, said the fund-raising effort fell short of the goal. He said they were hoping to raise as much as \$15,000 for MDA.

Last year A&M set a record with 2,714 kissing participants, which was later broken by Oregon State University.

Belinda Hoppe, president of Delta Delta Delta sorority at A&M, said they had hoped the turnout for the event would have been better than last year.

However, she said that this year was good also.

She said, the turnout, was good especially compared to UT, which only had about 250 participants.

Yori Escalante, Corps public relations officer, said, "We (A&M) pretty much buried the other schools. They were lucky if they had 150 participants."

"We (A&M) pretty much buried the other schools. They were lucky if they had 150 participants."

— *Yori Escalante, public relations officer for the Corps of Cadets.*

The Kappa Alpha fraternity at UT helped sponsor the Big Kiss in Austin. A member of the KA fraternity there, chuckled and said he had no comment pertaining to the turnout of the event.

Other Texas schools holding the Big Kiss event included Southwest Texas State University, Stephen F. Austin University and Tyler Jr. College, University of Houston, Rice University, St. Thomas University, and Houston Baptist University.

President of A&M's KA fraternity Steve Ash said, "As far as the number of participants, it was a far cry from last year, but the event didn't cost us anything, so we still made around \$5,000 for MDA."

"We were even selling tickets to people who weren't planning to come, they just bought tickets to support the cause."

Escalante said he believed attendance dropped this year because the event wasn't the novelty it was in 1985.

Don Saustad, business manager of the event, said he believed the event was scheduled for other than Valentine's Day, a lot of people made other plans.

Jennifer Allison, a business manager, agreed with Saustad.

She said, "Perhaps this year the midnight would have been a time to ring in Valentine's Day."

She also said the price of a ticket was a little steep, especially for college students.

Escalante said he didn't have any complaints on the price of the event. He said they were charged less than any of the other schools in Texas.

"Lips Without Partners" a special section formed for people who wanted to attend the event didn't have a kissing partner.

The band, Four Hams, helped get the group pumped up by playing Bruce Springsteen's "Rising Sun."

The event was sponsored by Kappa Alpha fraternity, the Delta Delta Delta sorority, the Phi Kappa Psi, the Corps of Cadets, and KKYS radio.

Texas prison farms expect good harvest

Associated Press

BRAZORIA, Texas — When prison violence peaked in Texas prisons less than two years ago, inmates were confined to their cells and farm equipment remained idle.

But the Texas Department of Corrections is taking its tractors out of mothballs, and prison officials say they expect a good harvest.

Farming production at the 900-inmate prison suffered for about 13 months because inmates allowed to work in the fields were confined to their cells whenever a convict was killed or stabbed.

The TDC had a record year of violence in 1984, reporting 404 inmate assaults and 25 prison homicides.

In 1985, 216 TDC inmates were wounded and 27 were killed.

Prison farms have not been self-sufficient in several years, but prison officials said they hope to close the gap between the food the prison system must buy and what it produces.

In Advance Speaker to discuss racism in modern America Tuesday

By **YVONNE DEGRAW**
 Reporter

Dr. Charles King, director of the Urban Crisis Center in Atlanta, will speak Tuesday about modern racism.

The program is sponsored by MSC Great Issues and the MSC Black Awareness Committee and will begin at 7 p.m. in **Rudder Theater**. Admission is free.

Kyhl Amosson, co-producer of the program, said King's speech is designed to identify, analyze and help eliminate racism.

King's message is that racism does exist in today's society but that it's more sophisticated and subtle, Amosson said.

King has given similar seminars for 15 years and spoke to a largely black audience at Texas A&M two years ago, Amosson said.

Liz Thompson, BAC's associate executive vice chairman for

administration, said the committee are hoping to attract more students this time.

"It really doesn't benefit students as much as white students," she said. "They (black students) see racism everyday."

"I want to issue a personal challenge to every white student to have the intestinal fortitude to come to this program and face their personal biases and prejudices."

Fifteen of 20 panel members have been preselected, the remaining five will be chosen by the audience, she said.

On a televised seminar in 1985, King acted as a catalyst for a panel discussion by both black and whites. By attacking the opinions expressed by the panel, he drew the people out and helped them deal with their emotions and beliefs.

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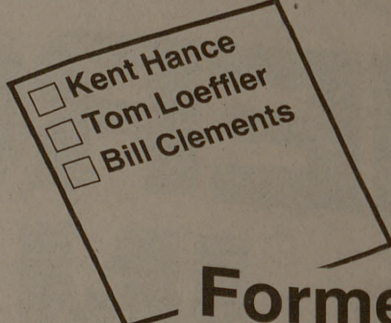


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