

State and Local

A&M students win dates, prizes at second annual Dating Game

By Kristin Czarnik
Reporter

Bachelor No. 1: What is the first thing you would do if you were stranded on an island?
Bachelor No. 2: Will you sing "Love Me Tender" in your sexiest voice to me?
Bachelor No. 3: What kind of car does it look like bachelor No. 2 would drive?

These were a few of the questions asked at Texas A&M's version of the Dating Game Wednesday night. The second annual Dating Game was sponsored by Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

The game was similar to the popular television version in which a contestant asked questions to three contestants of the opposite sex to determine who to take out on a date, Dwight Wardlaw, philanthropy

chairman for Sigma Alpha Epsilon and a senior mechanical engineering major, said.

The people who asked the questions decided who they wanted to take out and then set a time for the date, Wardlaw said.

"The event consisted of 10 games," Wardlaw said. "Three of the 10 games featured celebrity contestants from A&M asking questions to contestants called at random from the audience."

Wardlaw said the celebrity contestants included Buckle Richardson, a football player; Scott Livingstone, a baseball player; and Sandy Hastings, a Diamond Darling.

"The 10 couples selected from the event will have a limousine pick them up on the night of their date and take them to dinner," Wardlaw said. "After dinner, they will be

taken at sunset on an airplane tour of the city.

"In addition, \$2,000 in door prizes, ranging from a hot tub suite at a local hotel to movie passes, were given away."

Wardlaw said every ticket purchased went directly toward the Gary Wane Corn Memorial Scholarship.

Corn, a Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge, died in a car accident in February.

"Our goal was to establish an ongoing fund of \$10,000 and offer a yearly \$700 scholarship in his name," Wardlaw said. "Our goal was set high because we want the scholarship to be here as long as Texas A&M is here."

Wardlaw said contestants in the Dating Game were representative of the entire student body.

"They were picked from fraternities, sororities, Corps of Cadets, dorms and apartments," Wardlaw said.

Karl Pierce, a senior electrical engineering major from Houston and a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, said being a contestant in the Dating Game was fun.

"Something like this could not be too serious," Pierce said. "I was just looking for a nice dinner and a night on the town."

Carrie Wiedenfeld, a freshman journalism major from Austin who represented the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, agreed with Pierce.

"I was a contestant because I thought it would be fun," Wiedenfeld said. "I have always wanted to be on the real one."

Prosecutors drop charges of murder after system mixup

DALLAS (AP) — A man who lost his job, house and car during the five months he faced charges of murder said his life was "a real nightmare" until prosecutors dismissed the charges because they had the wrong man.

The Dallas County District Attorney's office Wednesday dismissed the charge against Michael Morris because a man charged in connection with the same case couldn't identify him in a lineup.

"It's been rough," Morris said. "I kind of (contemplated) what prison was going to be like for a while."

"It's been a real nightmare," the former Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. employee said. "I think that's about the only way to describe it."

Marvin Wilburn, who had implicated Morris by saying he was involved in the slaying of a security guard in suburban Irving, was brought from the Texas Department of Corrections to take part in a lineup. He couldn't identify Morris so the charge was dismissed.

Morris' legal problems began March 7, 1987 when three men stole stereo equipment from an Irving warehouse. One of them shot and killed Virgil Morris Hardin, 62, a security guard. Morris says he was at home in Lancaster that night.

Wilburn was the first person arrested in the case. He said he was in the truck at the time of the slaying, but he said one of the other men was Michael Morris.

Black infant death rate rises to five-year high in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — The infant death rate of blacks jumped to a five-year high in Houston during 1986, a rate that was more than twice that of white infants in the city, a report by Houston's Department of Health and Human Services says.

In Houston, babies of all races die at a rate higher than those of the county, state and nation — a rate called "unacceptable" by the city's new health director, Dr. John E. Arradondo.

"We can never afford to waste a child," Arradondo said. A total of 412 infants died in Houston before their first birthdays in 1986.

The rates were revealed Wednesday when Arradondo released the third edition of The Health of Houston, a compilation of the city's vital statistics for the years 1982-86.

Arradondo said lowering the high infant mortality rate is the top priority for him in the coming year. In 1986, the city showed a slight increase in infant mortality with an overall rate of 11.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births — up from 11.1 in 1985.

But the black death rate — 17.5 per 1,000 — stands as the most startling, and Arradondo said he has no clue as to why black babies die at such a high rate in Houston. The city's infant mortality rate is higher than

the nation's 10.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, the state's 9.5 and the county's 9.9, according to the report.

"One thing I know is that it is not going down," Arradondo said.

Most of Houston's overall increase between 1985 and 1986 can be attributed to the jump in black infant deaths. The death rates per 1,000 live births for white and Hispanic babies dropped — from 9.3 and 10.3 in 1985, respectively, to 8.6 and 9.6 in 1986 — while the black rate increased from 15.2 deaths to 17.5. The rate among other ethnic groups rose from 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births to 6.9.

In 1982, the black infant mortality rate was 15.7 per 1,000 live births. In 1983, it was 17.2 and in 1984, 16.8.

Infant death rates were higher in the inner city, where the overall infant death rate was 13.4 per 1,000. For blacks, the rate was 17.7.

Lan Bentsen, a member of the national March of Dimes board and a local advocate for maternal and child health care, said the rise in infant deaths may be because the majority of indigent women get late or no prenatal care because they can't penetrate the system.

Health Department statistics show that about 31 percent of pregnant women receive no prenatal care in the first third of their pregnancies.

Prisoners begin hunger strike

MIDLAND (AP) — Federal prisoners held in the city jail have called a hunger strike to protest treatment they say is substandard for federal inmates.

But police officials said they are following standards for caring for federal prisoners.

Midland Police Chief Richard Czech said prisoners are contacting outside media and family members about the strike after the city Wednesday installed a pay telephone in one of the holding areas.

"Now they're calling everybody and their brother because they have access to the phone," he told the Midland Reporter-Telegram. "I guess it's not paying off being nice to them."

"We just want to do this in a peaceful manner — lawfully," said inmate Paul Gomez of Odessa, who said he is being held in the facility until his transfer to a federal prison.

Gomez said he is being held on a probation violation after being convicted of theft.

Of 18 federal prisoners held in the jail, 10 have joined the strike.

Gomez said. "There's no hard feelings," he said. "The people that want to join us, join us. The people that want to eat, eat."

Gomez, who supports the strike, said he was acting as an interpreter for other Mexican national inmates being held until transfer after convictions on illegal alien and transportation of illegal alien charges.

"These people have been convicted. They are under the authority of the attorney general and Bureau of Prisons," he said.

Among grievances Gomez mentioned were the serving of only two meals daily, bath times only once every other day, a lack of exercise facilities, a lack of access to the law library access and one hour of visiting rights weekly.

Chie Czech stopped short of calling the prisoners' actions a hunger strike, but noted that five prisoners stayed in their bunks and did not show up for breakfast this morning.

The city jail is under contract with the U.S. Government to hold convicted criminals until their transfer to a federal penitentiary, he said.

"We go through a test every year to make sure we meet their standards," said the chief.

Of the grievances, "We'll take a look at them," said Czech, adding he did not expect much change in jail conditions.

Czech said that prisoners receive three meals daily — one cold and two hot. "Federal standards are two meals a day," he said.

Prisoners have one hour of visiting rights weekly because "those are the rules of our jail — and it meets federal standards," Czech said.

Correction

An article in *The Battalion* Thursday gave an incorrect price for a performance of Indian music to take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Unitarian Fellowship Church. The correct prices for the tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for non-students.



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The MSC Visual Arts Committee is having a meeting to discuss plans for the '88-'89 school year, Thursday, April 21, 4:30-5:30, MSC rm 145.

We will also be signing up for officer interviews if you are interested in a leadership position.



Questions? Call MSC Visual Arts at 845-1515

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BEEF TENDERLOIN ROASTS		\$4.29 PER LB. (Reg. \$5.00)

Other Beef, Lamb, Pork, Sausage, Dairy products and farm fresh eggs are available. Prices effective while supplies last or through April 30, 1988. We are open for business Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We are located on the West Campus between the Kieberg Center and the Horticulture/Forest Science Building. (Phone: 845-5651).