

OPINION

Malcolm X was wrong in many ways, but at the end he saw the truth and tried to correct himself.

—Columnist Anas Ben-Musa  
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AGGIE BASEBALL '92  
A&M overcomes rain, SWTSU in first home games of the season

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Author reflects on the inspiration behind his poetry

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# The Battalion

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## Clinton releases letter to prove willingness to serve country

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton in a 1969 letter called the Vietnam draft "illegitimate" but said he gave up a deferment "to maintain my political viability within the system."

Clinton released the letter Wednesday after he received a copy of it from ABC News. The Arkansas governor, whose campaign has been on the defensive about questions over his use of a deferment, suggested the letter had been leaked to the press in an attempt to damage his campaign.



Gov. Clinton

New Hampshire's leadoff primary is next Tuesday.

"The fact that the leak occurred just days before the New Hampshire primary can be no coincidence," Clinton said. Still, he said he was glad the letter came out, maintaining it supports his contention he gave up the deferment on grounds it was wrong to keep it.

Clinton is sliding in state polls after leading them for several weeks. His troubles have supporters of several other prominent Democrats preparing for possible late entries into the race.

Clinton wrote the December 1969 letter to Col. Eugene Holmes to explain his decision to back out of an agreement to join the University of Arkansas' reserve officers' training program, which Holmes directed. Clinton had been granted a deferment when he agreed to join ROTC.

"After I signed the ROTC letter of intent, I began to wonder whether the com-

promise I had made with myself was not more objectionable than the draft would have been, because I had no interest in the ROTC program in itself and all I seemed to have done was to protect myself from physical harm," Clinton wrote.

The letter also says he "decided to accept the draft in spite of my beliefs for one reason: to maintain my political viability within the system."

Asked about that passage, Clinton said he felt that if he was to reach his goal of having political career and influencing U.S. policies he believed were misguided,

he had to play by the rules.

He drew a high lottery number and was never called.

Clinton said his campaign would publish the text of the letter in Thursday's Manchester Union Leader and he agreed to appear Wednesday night on ABC's "Nightline" to discuss the issue.

"I know real people will read the whole letter and I hope they can remember what it was like 23 years ago to be my age and to go through what we all did," said Clinton.

## Historian puts event in focus

Says black culture enriches history

By Julie Polston  
The Battalion

Continuing the celebration of Black History Month, a Texas A&M history professor discussed the importance of the event in our society.

Dr. Albert Broussard, history professor and associate department head, spoke as the MSC Bookstore's first guest speaker Wednesday afternoon.

"If nothing else, it informs us about our history," he said. "Not just black history, but American history in general."

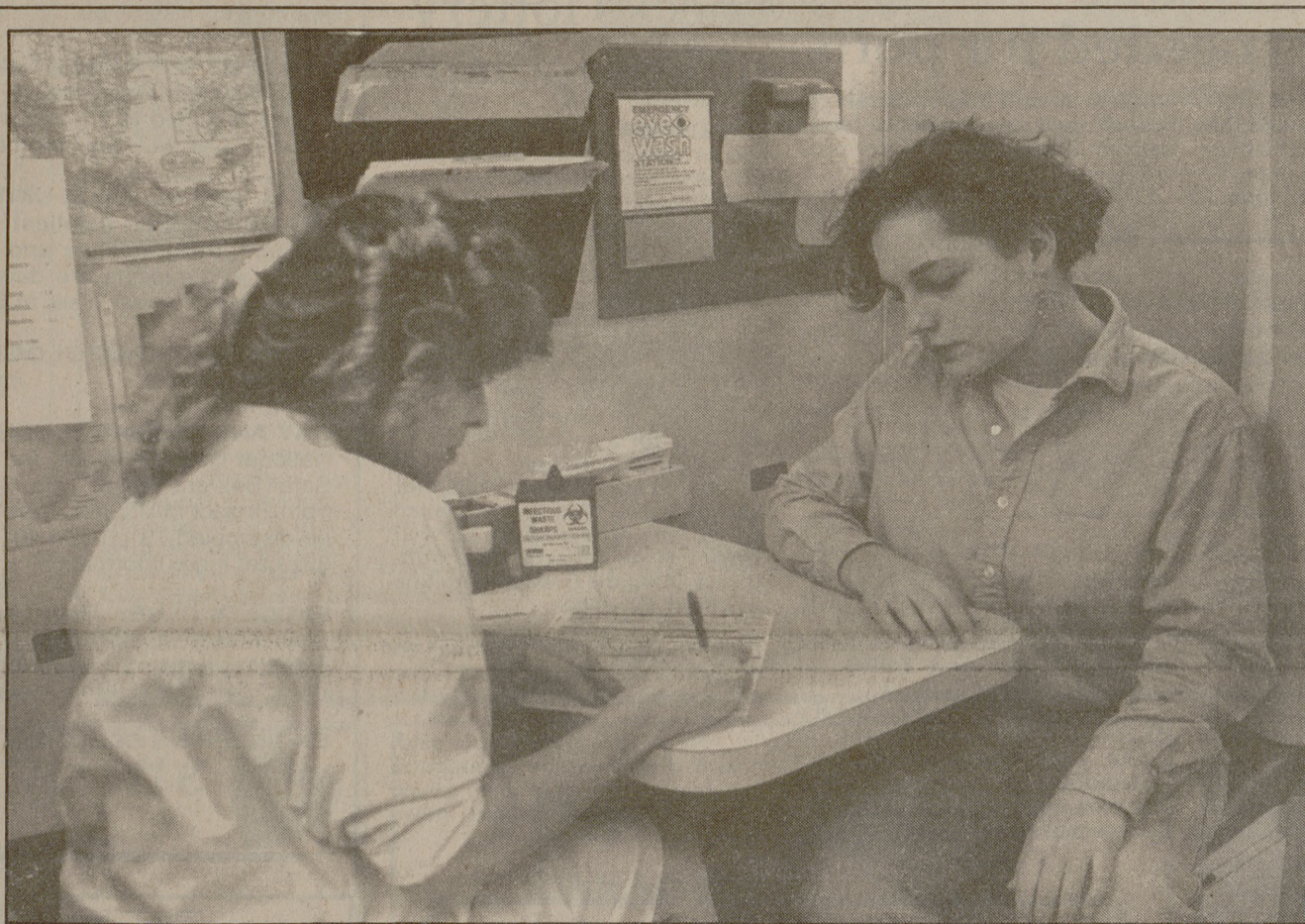
The interpretation of history changes when all types of people are included, he said. Incorporating African-Americans, Native Americans, Mexican-Americans and women creates a more accurate picture of history, Broussard said.

"Learning about other people will help prepare you to be a better citizen in the world today," he said.

Broussard referred to Cater G. Woodson as the "Father of Black History" for establishing the "Journal of Negro History." He also praised the late Alex Haley, author of "Roots: The Saga of an American Family."

"Alex Haley did more for the promotion of black history than any person in my lifetime," he said.

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### Preparing to give

Allison Cox, right, a sophomore psychology major, answers questions as she prepares to give blood at the Red Cross blood drive in the Academic Plaza Wednesday. Vans will be on campus until Thursday.

ROBERT J. REED/The Battalion

## U.S. faces hard task

Cisneros: America must fight, scratch to be No. 1

By Sharon Gilmore  
The Battalion

The task of the United States is to remain as strong as possible by focusing on democracy and people, the former mayor of San Antonio said Wednesday evening.

"I would argue to fight and scratch to stay number one," Henry Cisneros said in Rudder Theater during the keynote address at the 37th annual MSC Student Conference on National Affairs. "It is important that your generation make this commitment."

America must encourage democracy across the globe, he said in "Facing the Challenges of a New World."

Displacement, refugees and demographics are part of the people issues and multicultural conflicts that will require time to answer.

"Every day in our world, 40,000 children die from preventable disease because they can't get water, food or medical assistance," he said.

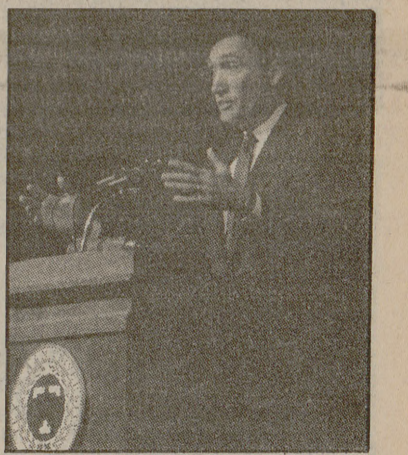
Cisneros, chairman of Cisneros Asset Management Company and Cisneros Benefit Group, is a 1968 A&M graduate with bachelor and master's degrees in urban and regional planning.

Cisneros also discussed the environment. He said it's not impossible to impose a preference concerning the environment, but it will have to involve bargaining.

He also said America must work on its international communication in dealing with other countries.

"We aren't an aggressive trading nation," Cisneros said. "We don't have the skills of language for trading." Americans have an obligation to use foreign languages for understanding other cultures. He said foreign languages should be required in high school and college.

"I would argue that this is one of your last chances to learn languages," Cisneros said.



Henry Cisneros

## Killeen massacre survivors testify on gun control

AUSTIN (AP) — Memories of the nation's deadliest mass shooting were revived Wednesday at a House Committee on Public Safety hearing on new gun controls, with survivors arguing on both sides of the question.

One survivor of the Oct. 16 massacre at a Killeen cafeteria — that ended with a gunman killing himself after murdering 23 others — told lawmakers why she should be allowed to carry a gun.

Suzanna Gratia, of Copperas Cove, said she was eating lunch with her par-

ents when gunman George Hennard smashed his truck into the restaurant, leaped out and opened fire. About a year before the incident, Gratia stopped carrying a handgun in her purse.

"I reached for my purse thinking, 'Ha! I got him. He's not going to kill us, by God.' Then I realized my gun was sitting in my car, a hundred yards away and I couldn't get to it," said Gratia, whose parents died in the gunfire.

Steven Ernst, who was shot twice by George Hennard, said he saw his moth-

er-in-law killed and his wife and her business partner wounded.

Ernst said lawmakers have allowed gun laws to become outdated because guidelines have not kept pace with the technological advancements in the weapons.

"You're not going to be able to take away the weapons from the people who want to have them; they're going to demand them," he said. "So, I would just ask that the legislation they enact would be sensible."

## Bush announces bid for re-election in 1992

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — President Bush formally announced his bid for re-election on Wednesday while telling voters he wants to declare on March 20 that "the liberation of America's economy has begun."

Campaigning in New Hampshire for a second term, Bush also said that Democrats who control Congress should pass his economic program intact by the deadline he set and not to tamper with it.

"They say they are taking up my plan but they are not," Bush said. "Just pass this plan and give the American people a chance to see if it's going to work as I'm confident it will."

"I want to be your leader for four more years," he said in a speech to the New Hampshire Legislature as he plunged into a

heavy campaign schedule after officially announcing his candidacy in Washington.

"Today is a special day for me. I know there is no higher honor than serving this great nation," he told legislators in the state that launched his 1988 presidential drive but where he now faces a spirited Republican challenge in next week's leadoff primary.

Although Bush is being challenged by conservative Patrick Buchanan, the president's speeches here and in Washington clearly were aimed at the general election beyond.

"Send a message to the Congress. Tell them the time has come to act," Bush said.

"The deadline is March 20 and we're going to hold their feet to the fire," he said.

With polls showing his popularity diminished and voters anxious about the economy, Bush declared: "On March 20, I want to be able to report to the American people that the liberation of America's economy has begun."



President Bush



Nuclear scientists experiment in a simulated weightless environment.

## ZERO-GRAVITY PHYSICS

Graduate students participate in tests for NASA space vehicle cooling system

By Reagon Clamon  
The Battalion

When Igor Carron was hired as a research assistant by the Department of Nuclear Engineering, he was told as a part of his job he would be thrown around inside an airplane at thirty-thousand feet. He was delighted.

"I thought it was cool," Carron said. "It was an opportunity I wouldn't have had otherwise."

Carron and several other graduate students in the nuclear engineering department are participating in a high-flying research project to develop a new cooling system for space vehicles.

The graduate students are learning how this system reacts in weightlessness. The team of researchers use a NASA-owned KC-135 aircraft to reproduce the zero-gravity of outer space.

"This plane flies roller coaster humps ten thousand feet tall," said Dr. Fred Best, the principal investigator on the project. "As it's falling it produces zero-gravity."

Best, an associate professor of nuclear engineering, said students who work for him experience weightlessness, but not all of them enjoy it. The researchers carry white bags with them in case they get sick.

"Let's be honest here — they're barf bags," Best said. "I believe some have called it (the plane) the 'Vomit Comet'."

The researchers are experimenting with a two-phase flow system designed to transfer heat from one location in a spacecraft to another, much like the cooling system in a car transfers heat from the engine to the radiator.

Unlike conventional cooling systems, however, the system the A&M researchers are testing uses both liquid and gas coolants. How this mixture acts in zero or near zero-gravity is what the researchers are trying to find out.

Carron said the system could be used in many different situations in space.

"We are interested in putting this system on the moon," Carron said. "If you want to sustain

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