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President

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ing with high school students about developing their leadership and personal skills.

"I'm looking forward to conducting leadership conferences and speaking at state conventions across the country," Childers said. "This is the best time to help students out, meet people and serve as a positive role model."

Childers' success, however, did not come overnight. A member of the Glen Rose FFA chapter, he joined the organization as a freshman in high school. Childers participated in such leadership contests as parliamentary procedure, farm skills demonstration and state creed speaking competition. In 1991, he was elected president of the Texas FFA, and in 1992, he won the national FFA extemporaneous speaking contest.

Naturally, these leadership accomplishments led Childers toward the path of becoming a national FFA officer.

But getting elected to a national office was no easy task. A nominating committee of nine state officers interviewed the 50 potential candidates for office. Each candidate went through six rounds of personal and group interviews and took a written test.

Childers said the nominating committee asked about the key issues affecting agriculture, agricultural education and assessed his personal skills to determine if he would make a good officer.

"I began studying for the interview process in September by gathering all the material I could about FFA and agriculture," he said. "My goal was to be as knowledgeable about these subjects as I could when November arrived."

Brooke Leslie, judicial board chairman and past speaker pro-tempore at Texas A&M, grew up in Glen Rose and went to high school with Childers. She said she knew when Childers was a freshman in agricultur-

al education classes, he had the ability to someday come national president if he wanted it.

Five years later, when it came time to run, Leslie said, "Curtis went in knowing what would be expected of him. He knew getting elected meant more than having the right talents, he had to be prepared."

Childers spent many hours studying and preparing for the interview process. In the end, hard work paid off.

Joe Townsend, associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, said having a national FFA president will be positive exposure for Texas A&M University.

He said, "Curtis will travel worldwide selling leadership and also selling the Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences."

As a student at Texas A&M, Childers earned a prestigious Terry Foundation Scholarship based on academic and leadership experiences. Upon graduation, Childers plans a career in international agricultural relations.

Childers is the first president from Texas A&M elected since the 1970s, but he follows a long line of former and current students that have served as national officers.

Other past officers from Texas A&M University include: 1991-92 national vice president, Leslie King, agricultural journalism major and Class '94 graduate; 1985-86 national secretary, Clay Shorter III, now director for agribusiness development at the Texas Department of Agriculture; a 1971-72 national secretary, Fred McClure, managing director for First Southwest Corporation, and former legislative affairs assistant to President George Bush.

Townsend said the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is proud of the accomplishments of these current and former officers.

He said, "The college is excited that these young people are in a position where they can bridge the gaps between many interest groups. Learning to work with people and exercising positive influence on others is the key to success in the future."

Tribe

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Ebert of hip hop and let it flow."

In "Oh My God," Phife says, "When's the last time you heard a funky diabetic?" But Phife said his having diabetes, a disease that affects a person's blood sugar level, isn't a laughing matter.

"Everybody's gonna die one day, so I ain't f-ckin' around with it," he said.

Phife said in the past, he didn't take the disease seriously.

"I was like 'Yo, f-ck that sh-t, I ain't sick,'" he said.

But the rough touring life caused things to worsen for Phife.

"I had to chill for a bit and get my sh-t back together," he said.

The emergence of the group also played a part in Phife's acceptance of the disease. He said Q-Tip and DJ/producer Ali Shaheed Muhammad said, "Yo man, you gotta take care of your sh-t 'cause we can't lose you now."

But things have improved.

"You've gotta accept it," Phife said. "So everybody's lookin' out nice and good and I'm doing cool."

Phife said the new Quest album, "Midnight Marauders," was a back-to-basics experience.

"It's basically a freestyle album," he said. "We wanted to get back, I mean really get back, to what hip hop was. It's all about the freestylin' and the battlin'."

Quest has become one of the top sellers in rap, as shown by "Midnight Marauders," which recently debuted at number eight on the Billboard album charts. However, hard core rap usually dominates record sales and gets much more attention.

But Phife said he won't go that route.

"I could never talk about shootin' nobody or smackin' a 'bitch' in her face," he said. "That sh-t is dead to me."

One characteristic of the hard core style that Quest does use is the word "nigga." Phife said it is unfair for white people to criticize rappers for saying "nigga."

"How the f-ck can a white man tell me I can't say nigga?" he said. "He gave me the word,

dissed me with it and whippin' my ass with it."

Phife said the meaning of "nigga" has changed dramatically from the racist definition.

"Black people, we've taken word as love," he said.

Phife said he has found himself in the position of a role model, that he accepts.

"We have no choice 'cause the kids listen to hip hop," he said. "We have to represent them — they lookin' up to us and everything."

Rap's popularity with today's youth has Phife concerned with their effects on the children.

"I refuse to come out and do about bustin', a cap (shootin' somebody)," he said. "The generation of today is f-cked up, the generation of tomorrow gonna be even worse, so we gotta look out for them."

As for future quests of the Phife said, "We just gonna make album after album 'til we grow old and grow out of it. I don't think we're gonna grow out of it no time soon."

De La Soul

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"We're saying we're not making a song to go Top 40, so anything we make won't self destruct," he said. "Because it wasn't made for that particular reason, if it goes that route, then it goes that route."

Much of De La's music is on the positive tip. But Posdnuos said there is another side to the story.

"Rap is an entity like anything else — there can't be a positive side without a negative side," he said. "There's a lot of stuff said within rap that I don't agree with, but I don't think it's right to censor them."

Posdnuos said the negative can easily outshine the positive rap.

"You hear a lot of news reports downing a Snoop Dogg or a 2Pac, but the don't come behind them say, 'Here are some rappers that are doing something positive,'" he said. "They don't talk about that at all."

The enormous success of rap has scared some people, Posdnuos said. "Once something like that which people thought would never be in the eye, gains as much power as it has, I guess the ones that get upset about that," he said. "Here's Snoop Dogg could be on trial and he just debuted number one."

Trugoy said rap can do more than entertain and educate.

"In essence, rap is like a newsletter, like a newsletter for the youth," he said. "It's just letting everybody know what's going on, and what's happening."

Connick

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"Come-on-baby-take-a-sleigh-ride-with-me," Connick adds extra spice to an already spirited classic.

He even improves the timeless "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Jazz horns, drums and bass drive the song along, and Connick adds something extra — a chil-

dren's choir. Amazingly enough, it works pretty well.

Still, Connick doesn't keep himself confined to the jazz genre. On the album, he branches out and experiments with a slew of musical techniques.

On "(It Must've Been Ol') Santa Claus," he jumps into an old rock-n-roll beat. And on "I Pray on Christmas," he tries his hand at gospel with the support of a full-force choir.

But Connick's experimentation does turn back and bite him at times.

On "The Little Drummer Boy," he adds a syncopated drum beat and a lot of violin flourishes. Obviously he tries to add color to the song, but he all he does is detract its simple beauty.

Still, mistakes like those are few and worth enduring. Connick, for the most part, delivered a classic Christmas album.

SPEAKERS' SEMINAR

The Student Activities office will offer a one hour credited seminar for students who would like to speak about Texas A&M to various groups which are members of the TAMU Family. This includes Mothers' Clubs, Former Students and other interested organizations.

Students may complete an application at the Student Activities Dept. Room 125 in the John J. Koldus Building between Dec. 1 and Dec. 15. Applicants should be of junior or senior classification with at least one more year at Texas A&M after Spring '94. Students should be at a mid-level of involvement in activities and should have a fair knowledge of Texas A&M programs. Students must also be willing to become a member of the Speakers' Bureau which speaks on behalf of the university to various audiences.

The Seminar will meet on Monday from 3:00 to 4:30 P.M.

Application Deadline is 5:00 P.M., December 15, 1993.

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