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Deadline is February 11th

Social

Continued from Page 1

ple with similar interests, backgrounds and values. It provides a social outlet.

But Reese said there still is no location off campus for black students to socialize.

"They have the Dixie Chicken for a lot of A&M students," she said. "That's a known and recognized place where they can go. For black students, there is not a locale. There's nothing here that we can say 'That's where we go to hang out.'"

Tanya Williams, president of the Black Awareness Committee, said black students are an ignored audience.

"If you don't like country, alternative or top 40, you're pretty much left out, other than the fraternity and sorority parties on campus," she said. "Until people realize there is an audience that will pay money, things will stay the same."

James said he never considers frequenting predominantly white establishments, because it could lead to trouble.

"I avoid places like that. The Chicken - I've never been there," he said. "I wouldn't put myself in that situation. I'd be too busy looking over my shoulder to have a good time."

James said although it is unlikely any racial incidents would occur, he would feel uncomfortable in those types of establishments.

Williams said some black students don't feel a sense of belonging at A&M, which can cause some students to transfer to another school.

"African-Americans don't feel comfortable on this campus," she said. "They get in as freshmen or sophomores and end up being the only (black) person in class, having connection with hardly anyone. And they transfer because they don't feel comfortable."

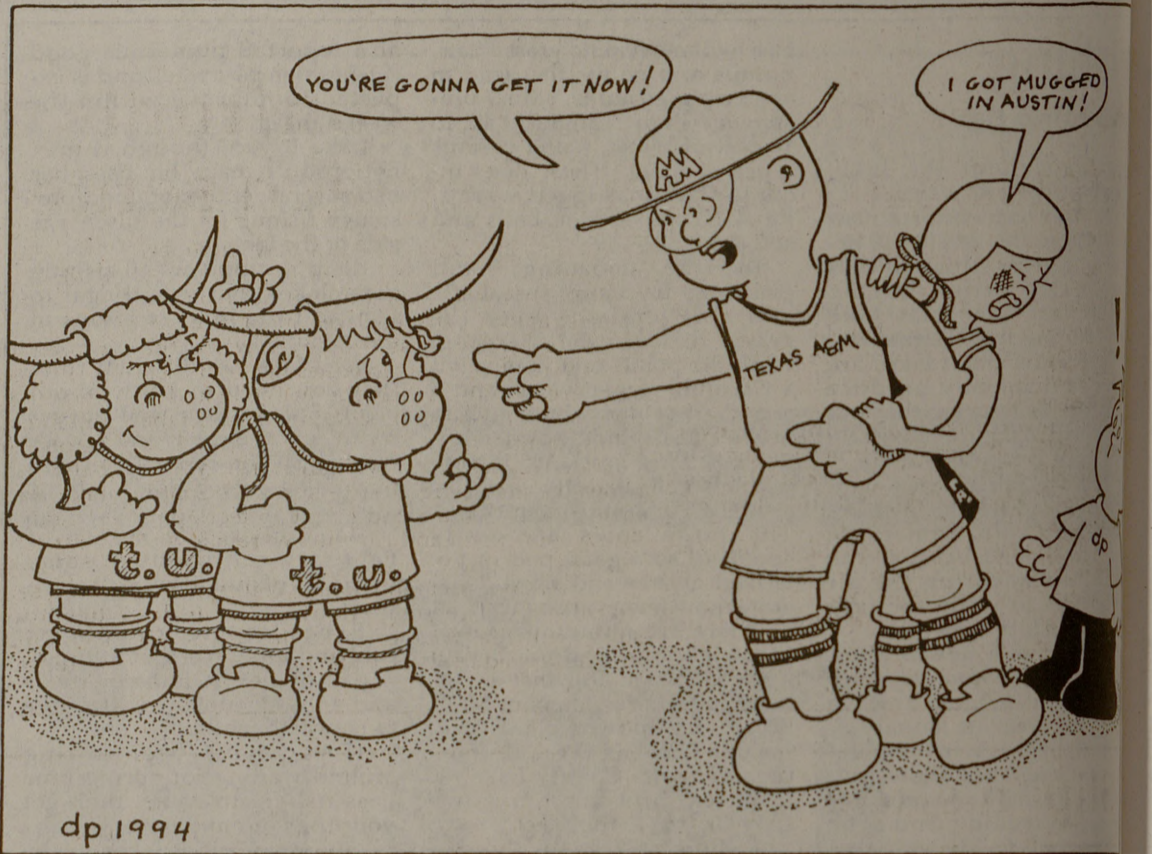
One such student is Brian A. Battle, a freshman chemical engineering major from St. Louis, Mo., who is planning to transfer to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., after this semester.

Battle said he feels there is a better social environment at Morehouse.

"I want to go to a place where I feel like I belong, where I can take some ownership in," he said. "And I don't get that here."

Battle said a major reason for some black students' dissatisfaction is the Aggie traditions.

"The traditions aren't geared toward us," he said. "We don't participate in the traditions. We just kind of push them to the side."



dp 1994

Woman to attend church as part of parole for drugs, judge orders

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — A federal judge is giving a drug defendant a second chance — as long as she takes her four children to church every Sunday.

"I just thought it would do the woman good to get her and her family in church and do what the good Lord says," U.S. District Judge David Belew Jr. said Wednesday.

Emma Jean Oliver, 29, who was facing a maximum \$250,000 fine and three-year federal prison sentence for a drug-related felony, said the judge was an answer to her prayers.

"I think it was a blessing. And as for the judge, I think he's a wonderful, loving, kind man," the Wichita Falls woman said.

Belew, co-founder of a nondenominational church in Fort Worth, said he didn't believe he violated constitutional guarantees separating church and state.

"I think we've gone too far on this separation of church and state. This country was founded on religious freedom, and it's getting to where we have less and less of it," he said.

"I believe the whole trouble with this country is the moral breakdown of the family and that people aren't going to church and worshiping God," the judge said.

Oliver said she mixed with the wrong crowd and became involved in a drug ring stretching from Amarillo to Wichita Falls. In May, she and 22 other people were arrested, all on drug charges.

Oliver pleaded guilty to having knowledge of drug activity and not alerting authorities.

She appeared before the judge Monday, accompanied by her three young daughters and a 14-year-old son, who doctors say is mildly retarded.

After being told that Oliver is the daughter of a Baptist preacher and the sole provider for her children, Belew said that he decided to stray from legal recommendations for a prison term. He gave Oliver five years' probation.

She and her children, however, must attend church and Sunday school services each week, unless illness or other major problems keep them away. A probation officer will make sure that she lives up to the bargain, Belew said.

Oliver said that she and the judge hugged after the sentencing and that he told her, "Don't go being any more kids without a husband."

She said she was not upset by the comment. "I understood what he was saying. A lot more people need to be told that," Oliver said.

"For the rest of my life, I'm going to serve the Lord, take care of my children and live a clean, straight life," she said.

Belew said he made the comment because "I'm just tired of those unwed mothers having children and being on welfare."

Oliver already faces one setback. After pleading guilty to the felony charge, she returned to Wichita Falls on Tuesday to find that she had been fired from the coin-operated laundry where she had worked for eight years.

Belew was appointed to the federal bench 10 years ago by President Jimmy Carter, and he now has a reduced caseload as a senior judge.

Television ads may promote teen alcoholism

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Those fun-filled beer commercials at half-time may be influencing children to drink, according to research that found fifth-graders reciting slogans, reeling off brand names and saying they intended to drink frequently later in life.

And they get plenty of chances to absorb those commercials whenever they watch sports on TV. Researchers counted 685 alcohol ads during 122 televised sporting events, only three of which cautioned moderation in drinking.

"Their beliefs are being influenced, their beliefs about the positive consequences of drinking," said Joel Grube of the National

Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's Prevention Research Center. The institute is an arm of the government's National Institutes of Health.

The issue of alcohol advertising's impact on children has long been controversial. Teen-agers consume 1.1 billion cans or bottles of beer every year, and some researchers have linked such drinking to exposure to ads.

The industry insists that it doesn't target underage consumers and that even if minors are exposed to the ads, it doesn't influence their behavior.

But Grube, in two studies to be published Friday in the American Journal of Public Health, found that not only are children bombarded with alcohol advertising, they link drinking with "romance,

sociability and relaxation."

His work debunks the industry contention that Spuds McKenzie, the "Bud Bowl" and other popular advertising symbols are harmless, said James Mosher, executive director of the Marin Institute, an alcohol-prevention foundation in California.

"This research underlines the urgency for action," he said, calling for legislation to govern alcohol advertising.

The Beer Institute responded that no one has proved advertising contributes to underage drinking, which has been dropping since the 1970s thanks to intensive education programs.

"This is an obvious campaign against the beer industry waged by a small anti-alcohol faction within the American Public

Health Association," which published the Journal, said institute President Raymond McGrath.

Grube found that fifth- and sixth-graders recited slogans, reeled off brand names and identified commercials by a photograph in which the brand name was marked out. Those not aware of the ads were most likely to say they intended to drink frequently as adults.

Yet they weren't aware of the negative impacts of alcohol, from drunk driving to alcoholism, or of public service announcements on drinking. They didn't even remember one featuring basketball star Michael Jordan.

Grube's is the first study to look at children's awareness and retention of alcohol advertising instead of mere exposure to ads.

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