

R a c i a l p r e j u d i c e

Students look to promote ethnic harmony

Film's participants share its effects

By Rachel Barry
THE BATTALION

Four A&M students have brought back to campus a better understanding of the effects race has on their daily lives. The students participated in the making of *Skin Deep*, a documentary about racism on college campuses that is showing tonight at Rudder Theater.

The film was made by Francis Reid, who has been nominated for an Academy Award for her documentary *Straight from the Heart*.

The four students, along with 19 other students from across the country, were interviewed individually about their feelings and beliefs on racism. All 23 students were then brought together in California for a weekend retreat where they had roundtable discussions about racial issues.

Duane Thomas, a senior industrial engineering major, said he expected to hear a lot of different views at the retreat and to see a lot of emotional speaking.

"I didn't expect to come up with any solutions or major points of action," he said. "I came to have the opportunity to understand other people's point of view and to see how different issues affected different people."

Tammy Early, a Class of '95 computer science graduate, said she was excited about the opportunity to participate in the film. She said she comes from a background where there wasn't an understanding of different ethnicities, but that she wanted to change that.

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A&M is becoming as rich in diversity as it is in tradition, and racism is an evident growing pain.

Duane Thomas, who participated in the making of *Skin Deep*, said the problem of racism on the A&M campus may stem from people ignoring events tied to the issue. He said some people are afraid to deal with racism because it has been such a touchy subject for so long.

"If they actually have to face up to it, they may find that they are racist and they are wrong, and then they will have to change," he said. "By nature people are reluctant to change."

"People need to accept that racism does exist on campus, and they need to talk about it and discuss where it is coming from," he said.

Thomas said educating people and providing positive reinforcement can help people open their eyes to accepting new ideas and attitudes.

"People at least need to have an understanding of

other people and cultures and be willing and able to work with those individuals," he said.

Thomas said some people's racist attitudes are not the result of personal learning experiences.

"A lot of it isn't from direct experience or interacting with other people," he said. "It is from hearsay or misconceptions that have been perpetuated, and they haven't dared to challenge their attitudes or change those attitudes, they have just accepted them as their own."

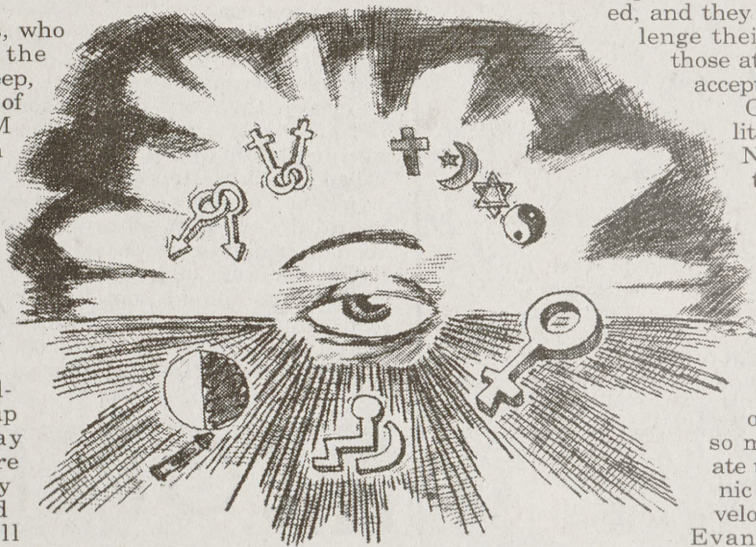
Octavia Evangelista, political action chair for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a junior political science major, said she wants to see people at A&M recognize contributions made by different races, religions and ethnicities.

"A&M wasn't developed by pure whiteness, so maybe we can appreciate these religions and ethnic groups (that helped develop A&M)," she said.

Evangelista said there is something missing when she walks across campus and doesn't see images of minorities. She said she is working on trying to get more statues and pictures of minorities on campus.

With her participation in the NAACP, Evangelista said she is trying to make the campus more conducive to minorities.

"I feel like A&M has a lot of catching up to do," she said.



The NAACP works to make A&M more representative of minorities through its 12 point plan of action. The plan includes expanding minority scholarships, improving graduate rates for minorities and increasing the amount of images of minorities in the MSC.

Chris Alvarado, an August graduate of psychology and history, said racism at A&M continues because people have the attitude that they can get away with it.

"Overall the feeling is that nothing will be done about it because it is a social ill," he said.

Alvarado said the racial problems at A&M are cyclical, with a different issue coming up every semester.

One thing Alvarado said could help overcome racism at A&M is getting students more involved on campus.

"The student body needs to beef up their voice," he said. "They don't realize how much power they have." He said that because the former students have such a strong pull on campus, it is hard for students to change the attitude and the reputation of A&M.

"A&M needs to change from being a school of former students to a school of current students," he said.

DISCRIMINATION AT A & M

This article is the third in a series that will run through Friday and explore different kinds of discrimination students experience at A&M.

The Central Ballet of China

Historic tour makes only Texas stop at A&M

By Amy Protas
THE BATTALION

East will meet west on the Rudder Auditorium stage when The Central Ballet of China performs this weekend.

The ballet company hasn't been allowed to dance outside of China since the Tiananmen Square massacre nine years ago. Now, people have the opportunity to see the dance troupe at A&M.

The ballet is sponsored by the Opera and Performing Arts Society. College Station is the only Texas city that will be visited on the group's current 34-city tour.

Wu Zhenrong, the ballet mistress, said coming to Texas gives the Central Ballet a chance to exhibit its talents to a different culture.

"This is really a good opportunity," Zhenrong said. "We like to think of it as a

cultural exchange. The Houston Ballet came to China (last year), and now we can show what we learned from observing the western style."

Founded in 1959, the Central Ballet is the premier and biggest dance company in China. Zhenrong said it is often referred to as the National Ballet of China to reflect that it is the most treasured dance company of the country.

The company will be performing three times this weekend in an evening show on Friday and Sunday and a matinee on Sunday afternoon.

On Friday and Sunday night, audiences will see The Red Detachment of Women. Detachment, which premiered in 1964, depicts a girl's struggles during the 10-year civil war on Hainan Island.

Karen Allen, MSC OPAS student committee chair and a senior biomedical science major, said the ballet gives students a chance to observe a part of China's past.

"This is the first time The Red Detachment has been performed in the U.S.," Allen said. "It's really an exciting part of their culture. It shows how communism got started. It's such a fascinating piece."

The ballet is a Chinese work and is not part of the company's classical repertoire. Allen said it will be unique because people can always see a classic ballet like *Giselle* or *Swan Lake* anywhere, but that it's a rare opportunity to see a

Chinese ballet.

In addition to The Red Detachment, there will also be performances of Don Quixote (Act III), New Year's Sacrifice, Pas De Quatre, and Before the Wedding Chamber.

"It's a really exciting part of their culture."

— Karen Allen
MSC OPAS student committee chair

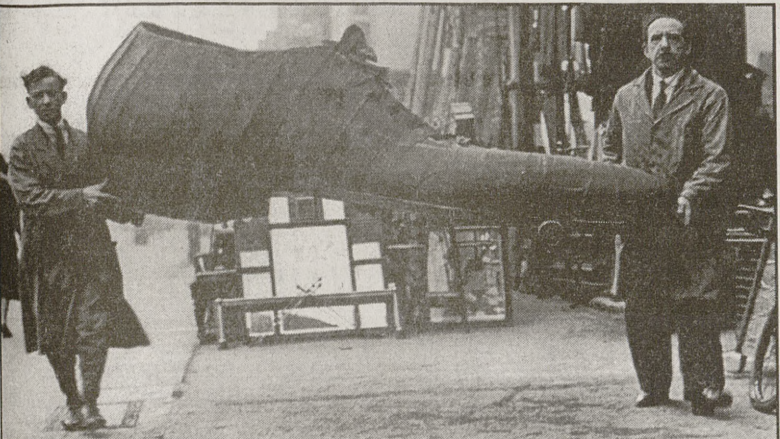
Before each performance, there will be a lecture sponsored by the Patricia S. Peters Lagniappe Lecture Series. The lectures are free to anyone with a ballet ticket.

Patricia Wehener, an OPAS employee, said the talks will answer questions about the ballet.

"People from the ballet will be there to answer questions about the company and the performance," Wehener said. "It should be really interesting."

Zhenrong said the ballet members are eager to perform again for American audiences.

"Americans show things in their hearts," Zhenrong said. "They are more enthusiastic than Chinese audiences who don't applaud as much. We love American audiences."



No, we aren't having a really big shoe.
We're having a really big show. It's so big that we had to break it up into two nights. Come see *Freudian Slip* this Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m. in Rudder Forum. Tickets are \$3 and they go on sale at 8. Doors open at 8:30. So, get there early!

FREUDIAN SLIP

improvisational comedy-
It's never the same show twice.

Skin Deep

A Film Examining Collegiate Racial Issues

Featuring 4 Aggies

Followed by a panel discussion with:
Frances Reid, the Film's Director, and
Two Texas A&M Former Students.

Free Screening!!

Thursday, October 12, 1995

7 PM

Rudder Theatre

For More Information call 847-8478.

Sponsored by: Multicultural Services, RHA, Student Government Association, MSC CAMAC, MSC Black Awareness Committee, and MSC Film Society



Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.



AGGIE RING ORDERS

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS
CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER
DEADLINE: October 18, 1995

Undergraduate Student Requirements:

- You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of 95 credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated and passed, cannot count as additional credit hours.)
- 30 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if you successfully complete one semester at Texas A&M University prior to January 1, 1994. 50 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you do not qualify under the successful semester requirement. Should your degree be conferred with less than 60 resident credits, this requirement will be waived after your degree is posted on the Student Information Management System.
- You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
- You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements

If you are a December 1995 degree candidate and you do not have an Aggie ring from a prior degree, you may place an order for a '95 ring after you meet the following requirements:

- Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and
- You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

If you have completed all of your degree requirements and can obtain a "Letter of Completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies, the original letter of completion may be presented to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

Procedure To Order A Ring:

- If you meet all of the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office no later than Wednesday, October 18, 1995, to complete the application for eligibility verification.
- If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring on December 13, 1995, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Visa or Mastercard (with your name imprinted) no later than August 4, 1995.

Men's 10K	\$309.00	14K	\$422.00
Women's 10K	\$174.00	14K	\$203.00

Add \$8.00 for Class of '94 or before.

The ring delivery date is December 13, 1995.