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THE BATTALION AGGIELIFE

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SUNNY

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enforced by her age — 24 at the time of enrollment. "I was older, so I didn't rely at all on campus social life," she said. "It really didn't matter that much, because from the moment I walked on campus I had one goal, and that was graduating."

Armed with determination, Nash worked her way through school with several journalism positions.

She was the first program director at KAMU, the University's television station. She later reported weather forecasts for KAMU, and then worked as a news reporter for local radio station WTAU (now KTSR).

Nash also crammed her semesters with as many hours as possible and graduated in three-and-a-half years. And at the end of all the hard work, Nash had a degree she is proud to have earned.

"I'm glad A&M turned out to be the place I went to school," she said. "It has a reputation for being a tough school — people respect the name."

From Aggie to Artist

Nash worked at A&M for nine years after graduating, first in the College of Business Administration's Real Estate Center and then as a freshman recruiter.

Then a position as a writer and producer for the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston pulled Nash away from A&M and led to a photographic project.

She became intrigued with "back-street churches" in Houston and began taking pictures of them. Her collection, *Shopping for Hope*, consisted of 500 portraits.

The project expanded as Nash traveled to Harlem, Philadelphia and Newark to photograph more churches.

Now complete, *Shopping for Hope* is beginning a national tour next spring, starting at the Air Force Academy.

Nash said she never expected the project to grow so large.

"I had no idea it would turn into a career," Nash said.

At the time, she wrote freelance pieces for the Houston Chronicle's Texas Magazine and other publications.

In 1991, during a break from photography, Nash began writing a column for the Bryan-College Station Eagle, in which she shared her childhood experiences in Bryan. The column was syndicated on the East Coast, and when it ended last year, the Texas A&M University Press proposed collecting the columns in a book.

After some editing and pasting, Nash said, her vignettes came together in *Bigmama Didn't Shop*

at Woolworth's.

The book was released Tuesday, and the Just Peace Institute is hosting the book reading and signing on Sunday.

Phyllis Frederiksen of the Just Peace Institute said Nash caught the attention of the group because she is dedicated to promoting tolerance, which was the inspiration for her "Shopping for Hope" pictures were featured in its peace art exhibit last fall.

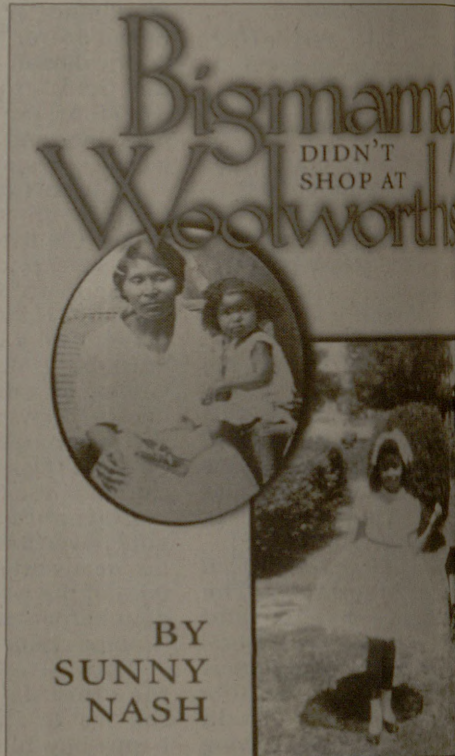
Frederiksen said Nash's work helps keep memories of the past alive so injustices never happen again.

"The Just Peace Institute is proud to bring the community," Frederiksen said. "By her presence and coming here, we will be reminded of how we [African-Americans] needs. I think that's what the work can provide — to prevent it from happening to another group."

Nash said she is looking forward to sharing her life.

She also said she feels fortunate that she is able to attend A&M and pursue her writing dreams.

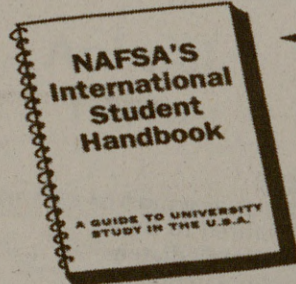
"I had choices in the '70s that I wouldn't have had in the '60s, and I'm just glad that I had those choices," she said.



This is the first book by Sunny Nash, Class of '91.

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► People in the News

Jackson gives first concert in Africa

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisians are practically moonwalking in anticipation of Michael Jackson's concert appearance.

TV and radio shows are chattering about it. Merchants are selling thousands of Jackson T-shirts and other memorabilia. Cafes and restaurants are blaring his hits. Hair stylists have even offered "Michael" coiffures.

Tunisians seem relieved that the singer is going ahead with the concert after canceling one in Casablanca in neighboring Morocco.

"The Tunis concert has a special meaning to me because it's the first I'll give in Africa and in the Arab world," Jackson said.

Capitalists snatch Gorbachev tickets

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev has had more luck attracting American capitalists than Russian voters.

Gorbachev, who received few votes in last summer's presidential election in Russia, will speak Tuesday at Butler University. The 2,200 free passes made available to faculty and students were snapped up in less than 30 minutes.

The university was happy with the high demand, but less thrilled when a ticket agency began buying tickets and selling them for \$25.

Gorbachev, president of the former Soviet Union from 1990 to 1991, will discuss global environmental issues.

Trump considers Hard Rock casino

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Donald Trump, who loves to see his name in lights, may soon pull the plug on some of them.

The casino mogul said Thursday that he was in talks aimed at converting Trump's Castle Casino Resort into a Hard Rock casino.

"If they pay enough money, I would allow them to put their name on it. They're buying into the

building," he said.

Under the deal, the "Trump name" would come off but he would still operate the casino portion of the building. Trump said he was seeking \$325 million in the deal. Talks began two weeks ago.

Gershon restrains femininity for film

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Gina Gershon studied films of Lon Brando, James Dean and Eastwood in an effort to shed "girly" qualities.

That was necessary, she said, to play Corky in *Bound*, which opens Friday. In the movie, she and Jennifer Tilly play lesbian lovers who conspire to cross Tilly's gangster boyfriend and steal \$2 million from the mob.

"In the flirtation scenes, Jennifer, I found myself touching my hair and cocking my neck — girly things, without realizing she said. "I knew that was wrong. I had to find that male essence and become one of those who drives me crazy."



Gorbachev



Jackson



Trump

to Coffeehouse

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