ExCel promotes diversity among students

BY ROBERT SMITH Staff writer

Incoming Texas A&M students learned about culnral diversity and college survival skills at the 9th an-nual ExCel program, held last Friday and Saturday in

Denise Cunningham, executive director of ExCel, said the program will benefit the students who at-

"They (new students) will have a good head start when classes begin compared to other students,

The ExCel program, which began in 1987 as a minority freshman program, is intended to help students make a smooth transition to college life, enhance leadership skills and preserve and promote

ExCel was attended by 88 students this year, a derease from 125 students a year ago and 198 students

Cunningham said the program was a success depite the lower turnout.

"This year was the first year the Hopwood decision eally went into effect, so we have fewer minority stuents coming in this year," Cunningham said.

This year's program included speeches on student ineraction and college survival tips, an exposition of A&M and community organizations and social activities.

A&M Student Body President Curtis Childers and Iniversity President Dr. Ray M. Bowen made peeches Saturday.

Stefanos Ghebray, a senior business management

major and an ExCel team leader, said leaders related their experiences at A&M to the students.

'The new students are able to interact with other college students and can talk to someone who has been there," Ghebray said.

Each student was assigned to a team leader. The leaders helped the students learn about the University, the resources and everyday college life.

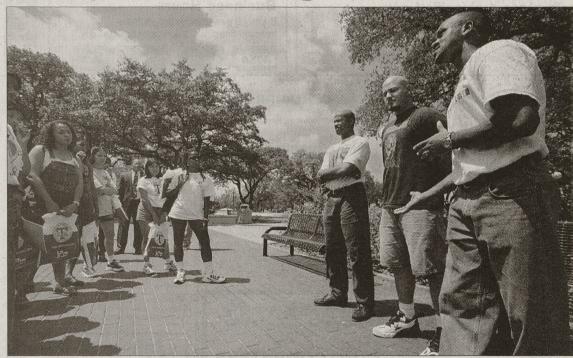
"This year was the first year the Hopwood decision went into effect, so we have fewer minority students coming in this year."

> **DENISE CUNNINGHAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** OF EXCEL

problem," Robinson said.

Danielle Ross, a freshman computer engineering major, said she was glad to meet people at ExCel.

'I knew some people before I got here, but it's good to meet some new people and just meet everyone,"



(from right) Andrie Leday, a senior marketing major, Eric Malonson, a senior wildlife and fisheries major, and Eric Brooks, a chemical engineering major, explain to students about the two benches outside the MSC, which are memorials to Reginald Broadus.

Burger Boy owner refuses city's offer

By BENJAMIN CHENG Staff writer

Boy owner George Sopasakis rejected the City of College Station's \$35,000 offer to pay for his re-location costs and said he would take the city to federal court in Houston

Sept. 16.
"We told them (College Station)
'No," Sopasakis said. "We're not going

Last Thursday, the College Station City Council voted 5-2 to offer Sopasakis \$35,000 in agreement with

ban Development regulations. But

"We told them (College Station) 'No'. We're not going to give in."

> **GEORGE SOPASAKIS BURGER BOY OWNER**

Sopasakis, who was not present at the meeting, said he wants at least

U.S. Department of Housing and Ur- \$45,000, and that relocation probably would cost more.

Jason Miller, a freshman electrical

engineering major,

said he enjoyed the

working and meet-

ing minorities and freshmen," Miller

"I like the net-

Rachel Robinson, a freshman kinesiolo-

"I like the net-

working and learn-

ing who's where and

where you need to go

if you want to do

something or have a

gy major, agreed.

ExCel program.

said.

The two sides differ on their interpretations of the Uniform Relocation Act, the section of HUD regulations that states what relocation costs Sopasakis can be reimbursed.

Assistant City Manager Tom Brymer said the city has negotiated in good faith with Sopasakis while following HUD rules.

'It's been lengthy," Brymer said. "We're as interested in getting Mr. Sopasakis relocated in another locain Northgate as he is.'

Sopasakis' lawsuit against the city cites various civil rights and HUD regulation violations. He said construction work on his new location will begin soon, but he will continue to fight the city on the settlement.

'We do not trust the city," Sopasakis said. "Their goal is to put us out of business — ours is to remain in business. It's as simple as that.'

Mayor Pro Tempore Hub Kennady said the city wants to resolve

'We really need to get this behind us," Kennady said.

ALL-U NIGHT

Continued from Page 1

"We tried to get the class of 2001 together to show their support for A&M," Cox said. "Also, we know that Appelt Hall is the best on campus, so we had to come prove it."

Jessica Porrazzo, president of Alpha Delta Pi and a senior journalism and international studies major, said she was excited about All-U Night, Alpha Delta Pi's first sorority activity.

School just started and already bonds have been forming in our sorority," Porrazzo said. "All-U Night is a chance to meet and get motivated about A&M.

The yell leaders introduced campus leaders after the Texas Aggie Band marched into Kyle Field.

Dr. Ray M. Bowen, president of Texas A&M, and Dr. J. Malon Southerland, the vice president of student affairs, welcomed the freshmen to A&M.

The night ended with the first yell practice of the year and an invitation to the Howdy Dance, sponsored by the Class of '98 for the Class of '01.



◆ NO ANNUAL FEE ATM CARD IF ACCOUNT OPENED BY SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

◆ STUDENT LOANS-FAST TURNAROUND

◆ PERSONAL SERVICE WITH YOUR OWN PERSONAL BANKER!!!



OF AUSTIN

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK WITH EXTENDED HOURS!

MON-FRI 9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. SAT 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. SUN 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED INSIDE THE BRYAN WAL*MART SUPERCENTER 2200 BRIARCREST DR.

731-8898

MEMBER FDIC

