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October 16-17

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Registration fee is \$10* (includes meals, snacks, and a t-shirt)

Deadline: October 13
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project: **Campus** & **MSC GREAT ISSUES**
forums

Presents

Social Security

Where do we go from here?



Come and share your views in an engaging discussion on social security and the proposed reform measures. Results from this forum will be presented in Washington, D.C. in January at a national meeting.

Presented by Nathan Cray and Conor Seyle, NCHC members from Texas A&M. Over the summer they won the National Social Security Challenge Championship. The prize was a \$100,000 grant to get college students engaged in the national debate on Social Security. They plan on holding these forums on campuses all over the country.

Thursday, Oct. 15 6-8 PM
Rudder 601

Persons with disabilities 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.
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Campus

Minority health conference addresses health-care issues

BY MEGAN WRIGHT
The Battalion

A minority health conference titled "Are We Meeting the Needs?" will be held today from 8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. at the College Station Hilton and Conference Center. The conference is sponsored by the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute and the Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine.

Topics to be discussed include migrant and farm worker's health; indigent health care in Texas towns and cities; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases and minority health care; and cultural values and health. Focus will also be on the recruitment and promotion of minorities and women in the health and research-oriented professions.

Dr. Mitchell Rice, director of RESI, said the conference aims to develop new ways to improve minority health-care systems.

"Federal and state health data shows that minority, particularly African-American and Hispanic, health status is behind that of the white population," Rice said. "These minorities have lower life expectancies, higher disease and illness rates, higher HIV/AIDS infection numbers, higher infant-mortality rates and higher maternal-mortality rates. The purpose of this conference is to bring together health researchers, scholars, policy analysts and health practitioners to discuss strategies and proposals to improve health-care conditions for minorities in Texas and the United States."

Keynote speaker for today's conference will be Renato Espinoza,

director of the Office of Health. Espinoza will speak from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

Thursday's conference features keynote speaker Louis van, former secretary of the Department of Health and Services and president of the Galena Park High School. Sullivan will speak Thursday from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

Other speakers expected at the conference include Mary L. regional minority health U.S. Public Health Service George W. Roberts, special for Communities of Color, for Disease Control, Clyde counselor, Galena Park High the Galena Park, Texas; and lators, city and county 24-17-1998. Found g members from universities national research centers.

Auction offers misplaced items

Annual MSC Lost and Found puts abandoned goods up for bid

BY AMY CURTIS
The Battalion

The MSC Lost and Found Auction will be held today in the MSC Flagroom from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. offering an array of items ranging from sports equipment to coupons for local places of business.

Ron Fulton, manager of the MSC Guest Room, said the auction is organized by MSC Hospitality, a Student Programs organization.

Fulton said everything from sporting equipment to umbrellas come through the main desk and end up at the auction. He said items left behind in the residence halls are sold at the auction.

Scott Generes, chair of MSC Hospitality, said an auction is held every semester. Last semester two auctions were held because so many items were turned in, but he said this semester they anticipate only one auction.

Generes said local businesses including Hastings Book, Music and Video, Marble Slab Creamery and the Outback Steakhouse donate certificates that are auctioned.

Generes said on average the auction generates \$1,000 in revenue. He said the proceeds help pay for programs such as "Winter in Aggeland," a program that decorates the campus for the Christmas season.

Generes said a lost article stay in Lost and Found for months before it is sold in the auction. He said a student picks what he or she wants to buy and takes it to the auctioneer. The bidding is held on it with the bidder getting the item. Students may pay with cash or checks.

Generes said there are quality items at the auctions: sports equipment, jewelry, calculators and Walkmans. He said of the more unusual items he seen auctioned was underwear.

He said items not purchased at the auction are donated to places like the Salvation Army or local schools.

Pastor discusses acceptance of gays within church community

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Dr. Jo Hudson, pastor of the Friends Congregational Church, addressed Tuesday the continuum of acceptance of gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

"Churches will fall along a continuum," Hudson said. "There will be churches in which a homosexual lifestyle is preached against and there is another end where churches make statements in support of the gay and lesbian lifestyle."

Rainbow Christians, an organization open to people of all sexual orientations, sponsored the event as part of national Coming Out Week (COW), which recognizes gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

Hudson said the Friends Congregational Church, part of the United Church of Christ, adopted an "open and affirming statement" in 1994.

"The statement talks about our belief in welcoming people and included in that is welcoming sexual orientation," Townsend said. "They

"I think the creativity and the incredible nature of God is that he allows people to find a place of faith."

— Dr. Jo Hudson
Pastor, Friends
Congregational Church

are created by God as they are created. We welcome all people. Into the full life and ministry means into the sacrificial life of the church."

Michael Moore, president of Rainbow Christians and a computer science doctoral student, said he struggled with the verses in The Bible that speak against homosexuality.

"My faith background is Church

of Christ and I struggled with interpretation of scriptures concerning homosexuality," Moore said. "We p is cultural interpretation involved in the scriptures. We tend to focus on being Christian than being a though b impro The A Casey C

Hudson said within the Friends Congregational Church, there been dispute over the interpretation of scripture.

"Whether you interpret scripture as literal or as open broader, there are scholars on port on both sides," Hudson said. "There are ample statements condemn homosexuality. There an equal number of scholars do not draw those conclusions from the scripture."

"A lot of people have to see what the heart of God is. It is creativity and the incredible of God is that he allows people find a place of faith."

Hudson said the Friends regational Church, founded 1978, sought to increase the ber of women and minorities in the congregation and has become a congregation of gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

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