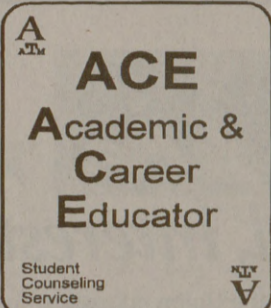


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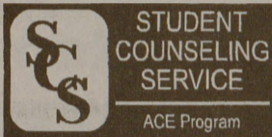
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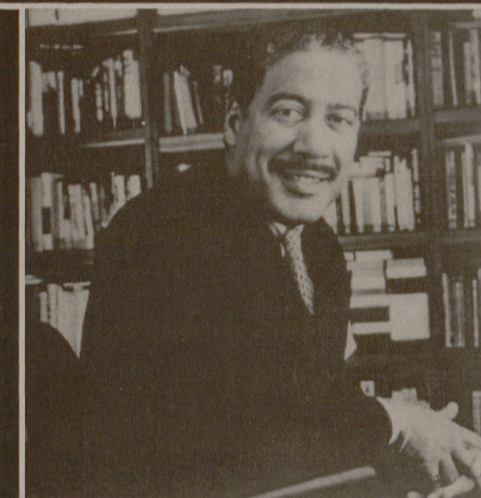
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Presented by:

Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference
MSC Black Awareness Committee

For more information please call the MSC BAC at 845-1515 or visit our web-site at <http://bac.tamu.edu/>.

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MEN IN TIGHTS

WCW brings high-flying action, student praise to Reed

BY STEPHEN WELLS
The Battalion

On Jan. 1 another year of Aggie football faded into the history books, leaving Texas A&M students with no outlet to satisfy their urge to see burly hyper-thyroid men in tights smash into each other in an open ceremony.

For three hours on Sunday, those Aggies can satisfy their craving when World Championship Wrestling (WCW) takes a leap off the top turnbuckle into Reed Arena.

Mary Helen Bowers, the associate director for special event facilities, said students have been asking about professional wrestling for a long time.

"When the arena opened we knew that wrestling, would be a fun event to bring," Bowers said. "We talked to the people over at UT about it because they had done it before and they said it did well. When we opened the arena, we mainly got two questions. The first was 'How many seats are available?' and the second was 'I suppose you'll never get wrestling, will you?'"

After attempted talks with the World Wrestling Federation, which did not produce a booking at Reed Arena, promoters began making a deal with WCW.

"We're excited about it," Bowers said. "We had a good number of people lined up to get tickets. WCW wanted to sell the tickets during the Christmas break, but we had to tell them the students would kill us if they couldn't get the good seats."

Despite its reputation as an institution for the testosterone addicted, WCW at Reed Arena is being eagerly anticipated by every walk of life.

"I've been asked for tickets by a young woman, who, of course, insisted she was only going because her fiance was going," Bowers said. "We've also sold tickets to faculty members and other well educated people. They are

coming to see good entertainment, and WCW puts on a good show."

There are positive aspects of professional wrestling for women as well. Kristine Riente, a sophomore zoology major, said professional wrestling is more below the surface than men beating each other into mulch.

"I think it's a bunch of men showing their feminine side," Riente said.

"You watch two grown men slaughter the hell out of each other, and one of them always lays on the mat in great pain for 20 minutes afterward in agony," Riente said. "But the next day he's jumping around like nothing happened."

Believability is not an issue for wrestling fans. Mark Douglas, a junior biomedical science major, said professional wrestling should not be enjoyed without being judged.

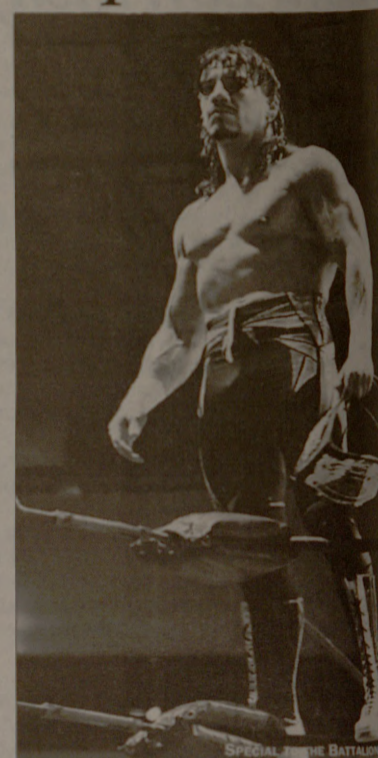
"For a guy, professional wrestling is a great escape," Douglas said. "It really is a soap opera with fistfights involved. There are no doctors cheating on their fourth wife or whatever, and all the disagreements are decided by a big fight."

Douglas said even those who say professional wrestling is a big hoax and make fun of it will probably show up to watch the show when it comes to town.

"It's the same thing as everybody making fun of the Spice Girls when they had the album," Douglas said. "I think there are a lot of closet wrestling fans. They'll be there to watch it live and they'll have a good time, but they'll say they were only there for the experience."

Douglas said watching a professional wrestling event is a memorable experience.

"It's wild," he said. "People get into the action way more than at a concert or anything else. Everybody is wearing the T-shirt of their favorite wrestler, and people are taking it way too seriously. You yell 'Kill! Kill! Kill!' at the top of your lungs, but you know it's all in good fun."



At a previous wrestling match, Eddy the Bull stands on the top turnbuckle with his...

Whether or not one considers it a "Method Acting for Dummies" couple continue to flock to professional events and have their own personal to explain its popularity.

"People need to take some time now and then to just have some fun," said. "That's why we celebrate Hall's a holiday even when we don't even it for a special reason. It's a lot of peeing fun together, and wrestling is just

The 11th Annual Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference

January 21-24, 1999
EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Friday, January 22, 1999

- Conference Career Fair - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. MSC Flagroom
- Speaker Dennis Kimbro - 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- "Players of the New Hip Hop Jazz Era" Jazz Poet's Society - 9 p.m. Rudder Auditorium (Tickets available at the MSC Box Office - \$10 presale; \$12 day of concert)

Saturday, January 23, 1999

- Conference Vendors - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Rudder Exhibit Hall
- Comedy Night featuring BET All-Stars Montana Taylor & Jay Lamont 10:30 p.m. Rudder Auditorium (Tickets available at the MSC Box Office - \$5 presale)

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*VARSITY BLUES (R)	11:10 1:40 4:10 7:00
*THE THIN RED LINE (R)	12:30 4:30
AT FIRST SIGHT (PG-13)	12:40 3:30 6:50
TIN DREAMS (R)	12:30 2:50 5:10 8:05
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)	1:00 3:40 7:00
A CIVIL ACTION (PG-13)	11:20 1:55 4:25 7:00
VIRUS (R)	12:05 2:30 5:00 7:45
STEPMOM (PG-13)	1:30 4:15 7:30
THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG)	11:00 7:15
YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)	11:15 1:50 4:30 7:00
PATCH ADAMS (PG-13)	11:30
THE FACULTY (R)	7:50 9:50
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ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)	11:40 2:20
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