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An Optional Informational will be held Wednesday March 1st at 8:30 in Koldus 111.

No experience necessary and you do not have to be in B/CS in the fall. Questions? Call 845-1627



March is National Women's History Month... Join us in the celebration!

March 1
Financial Planning for Women
601 Rudder 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Contact: Brandi Hartsell 862-1716
Cosponsored by Human Resources Dept.

"Gender Ground Zero: Women's Experiences in Antarctica"
4 p.m. Rudder 292A
Sponsored by Women's Studies Program

March 3
Kickoff Event with Jane Curry
Kickoff walk 5:15 p.m. Student Rec Center
Dinner 6 p.m. & Show 7:30 p.m. Garden Room - Student Rec Center
Contact: Jennifer Powis 458-3252
Cosponsored by Athletic Department

March 4
Col. Eileen Collins, USAF (NASA space shuttle pilot)
G. Rollie White 11:30 a.m.
Contact: 845-1321
Sponsored by Women in Discovery Project

March 6
Dr. Stephanie Adams "Making the Final Push through the Dissertation"
11:30 - 1:30 342 Zachary

"Successful Academic Strategies" for first and second year students
5:30 - 7 p.m. 227 A Zachary
Contact: Jan Rinehart 847-8887
Sponsored by College of Engineering

March 8
International Women's Day
205 MSC 11:30 - 1 p.m.
Contact: Allison Dunn 845-1107
Sponsored by Gender Issues Education Services

Darleane Hoffman "The Long-Sought Superheavy Elements"
4 p.m. 2104 Chemistry Building
Contact: Sherry Yennello 845-1411
Sponsored by College of Science, Department of Chemistry & Cyclotron

EXHIBITIONS

March 1 - 23
Photographic Exhibit "Rural Texas Women at Work"
West Campus Library
Contact: Lalaine Little 845-9252
Sponsored by Women's Week 2000 Committee

March 2 - April 16
Marie Curie Exhibit
Stark Gallery
Contact: 845-6081
Sponsored by Women in Discovery Project

womensweek.tamu.edu

CAMPUS

THE BATTALION

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

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ROUND TABLE

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Simpson: Back to what Rasheda was saying, when you come here and A&M people think that you're a visitor, they 'Howdy' you down, but if you're a regular student, you're not 'howdyed' down and that's been my experience. If they think you are a visitor, white people will help you with your luggage, they'll help you with a cooler and all kinds of stuff, that's when you're visiting. But once you're here, it's like 'Howdy' every once in a while, it's a totally different story, and that's why he's saying he would rather go to UT, because it's a friendly environment when you're visiting, but when you're here, it changes.

Hight: What can we do to change this?

Brown: When I was looking for a school, I wasn't looking for a place where there were a whole bunch of black people. I am looking for a school that has good education. Up until four months before I decided to go to college, I was not coming to A&M. I'm a legacy at this school, both of my parents went to this school and I was not coming here. I didn't feel like [A&M] wanted me to be here. The only reason why I'm here is because they gave me money and my parents went here.

Young: So what can you suggest that they can do differently?

Brown: Try to improve on that, because up until then, it didn't seem like A&M wanted black people to be here, in my opinion.

Figaro: Basically, I made the choice to be here and I like it here. I like the people that I've met, black and white. We first, as a group, both black and white, we have to change how we mentally think about our school because we represent A&M whether or not we want to be here. So we have to learn in our own way to love some aspect about the school enough to tell a young person I like this school, maybe it doesn't have enough black people in there, but here are other aspects. Recruitment's going to be hard enough because we are like 1.5 percent, which I think we are way less by the numbers I saw — so think about it, you have to do a marketing strategy, you have to sell the school. You have so many other good things, you have a great education, one that goes above and beyond what I expected. You have a ring that... I've worn my ring lots of places and people that don't even like me are like, 'That's a nice ring, if you need a job come and talk to me later.' You meet great people so you learn a lot of people skills. So you have to learn how to sell that and it's going to be hard to a lot of young students who are like, 'There's so few black people.' Of course it's going to be hard, but that's just something that you have to learn how to deal with and learn how to speak to people in a way that they can understand what they're saying while talking on their level.

Jenkins: I think, overall we would all agree that A&M has been a good experience for most of us, even if it's no more than just academic because otherwise you would have been a transfer by now. So because of that, we've made it through here so let's go back and pull somebody else aside and say I made [it] and you can do that too and bring them in.

Johnson: I think the administration needs to take

more of a role in addressing some of these issues with the people who are already here, because right now a lot of people are unhappy about the way things are for African-American students on campus, so when they go talk to other people who could possibly come here, then they're like 'Don't come.' Part of the problem here is that we have no place to go, we have no entertainment. If you go to a bar, or you go to a club, or you go to any restaurant in the town, all you see is this image of whiteness and what makes white people happy and there's nothing to draw black people in. I personally haven't had a problem with the people on campus. I can go to the MSC and sit down at a table and talk to white people or I can stand outside the MSC and chat with them and they'll come up to me and it's fine. It's just the atmosphere and the whole town. The University has a lot of pull in this town. Texas A&M owns Bryan-College Station, there's no doubt about that, so the University administration needs to make more of an effort to change it so it isn't.

Hight: How do they do that though? How do you get the University to make changes like that?

Figaro: I know there have been presidents from the student body that have tried. I don't think the administration is listening. Either [they] are not listening or they don't want to. There's some higher power who's telling them if you do this or that then we're not going to give you any money. They have enough black people here to satisfy the status quo or quota. There is something about the administration that is not ready to hear us because they hear us cry but they don't want to do anything to help clear up our tears. They make it hard for African-

"They brought me down on a black-event weekend... When I came down to my freshmen orientation it was, what, eight of us."

— Rasheda James
President of the African American Business Society

American organizations to do things on campus. I know because I work in the MSC.

Hight: How do they make it hard?

Figaro: They do a lot of restrictions. I've seen so many restrictions. Like for Greeks, as well as other organizations. I hear people talking and they're like "We don't want them in certain places, because they're either too loud or too destructive."

Hight: Like if you wanted to rent a room in the MSC?

Johnson: Since I've been here, they've changed the party policy because, for most of the black organizations that try to make money here, it has always been that MSC parties or parties on campus have been the vast majority of our revenue because we don't get student fee allocations or anything like that. They have changed the

rules year by year to make it more and more expensive to make it more and more difficult to do. It becomes more of a hindrance to throw something that is going to benefit the community than a benefit. It seems they're just making these rules for us because it only affects, generally speaking, the minority population.

Figaro: As many times as I've sat back and observed things, a lot of the minority associations don't have as much money as a lot of the 'other' associations. But as far as these other ugly restrictions, I am like 'What's really going on?' We have more security at our events than any other and I've seen that and I know other people have noticed that. Why do we have to have all the security? Isn't there another way we can avoid this or this another way where we don't have to have all these restrictions?

Ogumbeni: If there are restrictions that we strongly feel were put in place just to restrict minority organizations, let people get together that will represent the minority organizations and take it to the appropriate authority, they will listen.

Young: Is that easier said than done?

Figaro: Yes, there have been many tries to actually try and do stuff like that, but like I said, they're not really willing to listen. It's like they have some big egos and they're not hearing you because it's all about the money.

James: The Association of Former Students has big hold on this University. They are the ones who donate most of the money for these Corps of Cadets scholarships, for majority of scholarships, funding for The ZONE. They Association of Former Students run this University. Dr. Ray Bowen may think he runs this University, but I really do honestly feel that the Association of Former Students has a strong hold on this University. And if they feel like, 'No, we want to restrict that they can get whatever they want,' because they can see I'll draw all my money back.

O'Bryan: Do you guys think that if there was no violence that occurred at these functions that these restrictions would be happening?

Figaro: The thing is, there is violence in every other organization. The thing is, since we hold a lot of things on campus, that's one thing, but there are more good things we do than there are bad. We hold really good meetings and events to help student learn things, but why is it just focused on the bad things when you have all these other organizations that drink so much it's ridiculous and that they're falling on campus and flaming. They get all the focus of all the good stuff and we get all the focus of all the bad. And it's not that I'm angry or upset, it's just things I've seen and observed and things I've heard.

Johnson: The way they write [the rules] it does apply to everybody, but because of the structure of the way we run things, if somebody else did the exact same thing they would have to go under the same rules, but the way the organizations are designed, it's kind of specific to us because they customized it to our particular organizations. The African-American Greeks throw open parties, so they wrote an open party policy. But the other Greeks on campus don't have open parties, so if they were to throw an open party, it would apply to them too, but since that's not what they do then they don't have to worry about that.

APARTMENT

Continued from Page 1

Sarah Olsen, community manager for Sterling University Village, said their prices are about average because the individual leases break everything down.

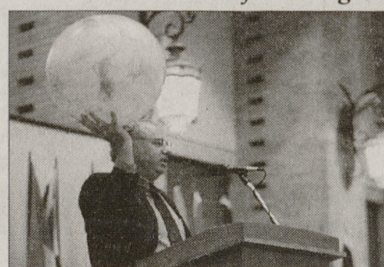
"For our properties the individual lease by the bed is real important," Olsen said.

Michael said individual leases have become popular among residents of University Commons.

Although it is still early in the spring semester, apartments are in the process of leasing for next fall. Some places like Sterling and University Commons are nearing capacity.

INTERNATIONAL

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BRIAN SMITH/THE BATTALION
Dean of Architecture Tomas Regan gives a speech at the opening ceremonies for International Week.

"It is important to recognize our heritage," adding that she spoke on behalf of Bryan Mayor Lonnie Stabler.

Toni Ruttimann, a Swiss who founded a non-profit business to help third world countries with disaster relief, spoke later in the day. He is known in Ecuador as Toni El Suez (Toni the Swiss) and has been aided by American, Ecuadorian and European air forces in carrying out his work.

The rest of the week features a variety of different events including a talent show, international buffet and a traditional dress parade held by the ISA.

SGA

Continued from Page 1

"Our image is not bad, but there is always room for improvement," she said.

"Spring is a good time for SGA to raise awareness because with the elections coming up, and people are going to start deciding what they want to do next year and how they want to get involved," Baggett said.

Baggett described the program as very informal and that their presentations will be fun and relaxed.

"This is our attempt to be more proactive in the campus community," she said.

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THE BATTALION

Mariam Mohiuddin
Editor in Chief

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