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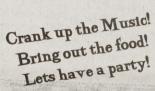


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A place to meet your next employer

Storyteller emphasizes necessity of bilingualism

By Kristin Rostran The Battalion

Se habla español.

Seventy-seven percent of the Texas A&M student body is white, and only nine percent is Hispanic. Though A&M's Hispanic population is small compared to the statewide population, the Hispanic population of Texas is expected to become the majority by 2015.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Just Peace Institute, a local service organization, and the Department of Multicultural Services brought Joe Hayes, a bilingual storyteller and author, to A&M to promote bilingualism and multiculturalism and share cultural issues.

"It's really a shame that we do not promote bilingualism more," Hayes said. "We hardly teach kids whose first language is English to speak another language." He added that not only does bilingualism spread culture and understanding, but it is also helpful in the work force.

Hayes shared Mexican folk stories in Spanish and English at Rudder and two classes on Tuesday.

Hayes said he began storytelling because he enjoyed his children's reactions to his stories and decided to make a career of it. Now, storytelling has become a way for him to bring together Hispanic and American cultures through the retelling of Mexican folk tales in both languages. He uses repetition, facial expression and gestures, so his audience is able to understand the parts of the story not in their native language.

"A storyteller like Joe Hayes really celebrates multiculturalism," said Cecilia Hawkins, Just Peace Institute chairwoman. "By telling stories in two languages he creates a community.

The effects of a bilingual community are not seen only at the storytelling level.

As Steve Oshewsky, an A&M accounting professor, said, "If my

would triple their job opport ties. They could look for jobs. just here, but anywhere in world. Speaking one languagel its their job opportunities."

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As part of his trip to A& Hayes visited elementary scho that have large populations of H

"Anytime you don't understa what is being said, it can makey uncomfortable, but that is not n son to limit a language," Hay said. "You can see a physical change come over [Spanish-speak ing students] when I start to us Spanish. They feel such pride. gives them a real sense of importance with their peers because the are able to translate for the friends around them."

Marco Portales, an Englishpo fessor, said the more languageso knows, the more ways there are look at the world.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

television stations, will broadcast an alert signal at 7 p.m. Wednesday to remind families to practice their escape plans for their homes at that

This year will be the 50th year that the Fire Safety Expo, a joint venture between the Brazos County firefighters and Bryan and College Station fire departments, Humphreys said.

"The Fire Expo exhibits fire trucks, ambulances, and we'll have our 'Hazard House' — a mock house that dis-

let people try fire extinguishers, and we'll also have a bucket brigade to allow kids to see what it was like to fight fires before we had big engines and had to move water by hand.

BFD and CSFD will also be making presentations to local pub-

'We've done three different tours a day this month, where we go to schools and talk about fire prevention," said Warren Fowler, public education officer for BFD. "We are taking the fire safety house out to different area schools this week. The fire safety house is a travel trailer specially built and made to plays fire hazards like frayed exten- look like a house. We put theatrical sion cords," Humphreys said. "We'll smoke in there, and it shows kids

the importance of crawling lo There is also a hot door, so theyo check to see if the room is on in This gives kids the chance to & how smoke and fire reacts."

Fowler said the most rewarding part of his involvement with Fig. Prevention Month is watching · schoolchildren respond to the info mational programs that the fire partments sponsor.

'When you tell, show and and ally have [kids] participate, they tain that knowledge better, and hopefully, they retain that for all time," he said.

Humphreys said A&M studies should find two ways out of ever room in an apartment to escape safe

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