SCIENCE AND TECH

7Conference to focus on women engineers

Id March By NONI SRIDHARA The Battalion

Tuesday, October 17, Page 5

The 1940s icon Rosie the Rivetbecause of their (pro-li er's theme "we can do it" sets the ir support of the [Nation stage for the Women in Engineering for equal rights laws Conference in Rudder Tower on Fisexual and transgender, day and Saturday. Jan Rinehart, assistant director

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aid the conference's purpose is to and Bush wouldn't care provide women in engineering elds with a professional developent experience. ourages it to be an activ I

l arenas. This activity She said the conference encourn the A&M chapter ber ages female students to study engiof the Year by the Tex neering by providing them an oportunity to interact with rofessional engineers. eas where there is a geal

"Our main goals are [to expose atmosphere, like Austin he students] to mentoring and relaed to change things, an onship-building," Rinehart said. r communities than our "Women are underrepresented in enwhere individuals can gineering nationally. Only 9 percent d - can feel too afraid of the engineering workforce is igin said. "Sometimes" women, so there is a shortage of fetrying to move a mous male role models, for women engive see situations when neering students."

e — where women face Rinehart said the first set of Texas A&M female graduates in engenital mutilation." testers of the march Sur gineering in the 1970s was comd signs with message prised entirely of community colmy: It's to die for," and lege transfers. ns such as "Get backing

"Four percent of the nation's engineers were women back then, and now women engineers make up 20 percent of the total," she said.

Dawna Putnam, president of the Society of Women Engineers and a junior mechanical engineering major, said she does not believe that there

"Only 9 percent of the engineering workforce is women, so there is a shortage of female role models for women engineering students."

> - Jan Rinehart assistant director of student engineering programs

are competitive discrepancies between male and female engineers. "We have made extremely significant progress throughout the years,"

Putnam said. "We have many more opportunities available to us now."

When asked whether she expects the percentage of women engineers in the workforce to reach 50 percent within the next five to 10 years, Rinehart said it would take a lot of work.

However, Rinehart said, the fact that women are getting better offers than men when they graduate is another step toward increasing the number of women engineers.

'We have noticed that women as a group overall generally graduate with higher GPRs than the average male engineer," she said.

"This, combined along with these women engineers' previous internships and/or job experiences, provides them with higher salaries upon their graduation.

Workshop topics include "Transitions from School to Work" and "Being the Best in Both Worlds: Family and Career.

Rinehart said the students will be teamed up with mentors who are industry professionals so they can network and develop long-lasting relationships.

Sponsors for the conference include DuPont, IBM and Lockheed Martin.



Tuesday, October 17, 2000

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

only a few, but those at Melanoma patients have new treatment verall, the march was far

mune system booster to chemotherapy might double the chances of some advanced melanoma paents surviving the skin cancer, new research

Melanoma is one of the most rapidly increasshe said. "It reminded a ng cancers in the world and has one of the worst prognoses if it is not caught early. There is curently no treatment that improves survival for people whose melanoma has spread to other parts of the body

Whether they receive chemotherapy treatment or not, only about 10 percent of those whose disse has spread survive.

But using chemotherapy in combination with e immune stimulant interleukin-2 could push at up to 20 percent, researchers told scientists athered Monday at a conference of the European ociety for Medical Oncology in Hamburg. The technique only helped those who, despite

ONE NIGHT ONLY!!!

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Adding an im- their cancer having spread to other organs, did not yet feel sick, said the study's leader, Dr. Ulrich Keilholz. For those who already felt weak all over or were bedridden, it was probably too late to bolster the immune system, he said.

Boosting the immune system with interleukin-2 would not work early in the development of melanoma because microscopic single cancer cells are not enough to trigger an immune response, Keilholz said. Experts said Keilholz's findings were promising but preliminary and noted that the benefit the approach could provide seems limited. Scientists want to do better than 20 percent survival.

"It presents progress and it may turn out to be useful," said Dr. Huber Christoph, chairman of the oncology department at Johanes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. "But it is not enough. It is one step, but it's not going to be enough.

"After more than 10 years of testing inter-

leukin-2 we still don't know the optimal dose, and interleukin-2 can have side effects;" he added.

At very high doses, interleukin-2 can result in a sharp drop in blood pressure, fever, chills and blood leaking into tissues. Keilholz said his team has not yet analyzed the side effects experienced by patients in the study.

Melanoma occurs when the skin's pigment cells become cancerous, most often after prolonged exposure to the sun. It is the deadliest of skin cancers, with some 90,000 new cases each year. It kills a total of 15,000 people every year in the United States, Europe and Australia

It can be cured with surgery if it is caught when the tumor is thin and shallow. That happens in about 90 percent of cases

This is still meaningful because once you are out to two years, your chances are high you will have a stable remission," Keilholz said. "It is still a step upward.'

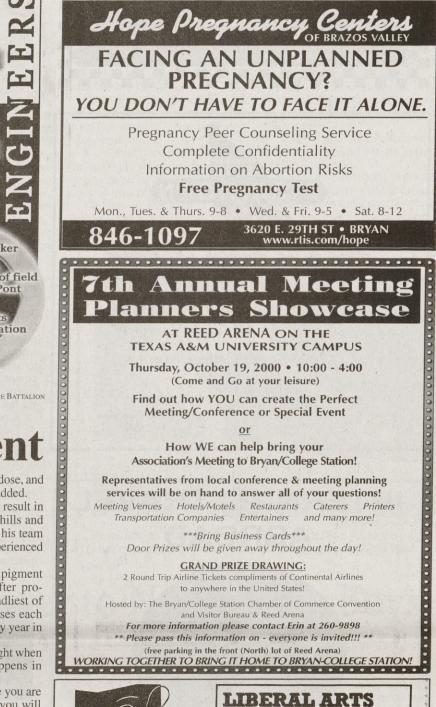
Conference 2000



Do you feel out of control when you are eating? Do you think you have problems with binge eating or bulimia?

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> For more information call Michelle at the Texas A&M Psychology Clinic - 845-8017





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Tuesday, October 17th

