

The Academic Excellence/Academic Incentive Scholarship Applications will be available online beginning February 1st!!

AGGIELIFE THE BATTALION

New book tells female role in Houston's history

HOUSTON — On Jan. 2, 1839, the Rufus Putnam landed at the foot of Houston's Main Street after a hazardous journey up Buffalo Bayou.

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Among the passengers were Millie Gray and her six children, traveling from the more civilized state of Virginia to a small, primitive town. Gray was not happy.

This is how the pioneer woman recorded her feelings in her diary that day: "Although everything looks better than I had expected, my heart feels oppressed and it requires an effort to wear the appearance of cheerfulness: I could (if I were a weeping character) sit down and fairly weep.

Luckily, Gray was not the weepy type, according to historian Betty Trapp Chapman. In Houston Women: Invisible Threads in the Tapestry, Chapman writes that Gray went on to become a mainstay of the young community.

Her diary, according to Chapman, is a treasure trove of life in early Houston, from the perspective of wife, mother, neighbor, churchwoman and citizen.

Gray is one of more than 300 women and groups whose lives Chapman documents in her latest book

She looks at the famous and not so famous who helped make Houston the city it is today — known for its oil and business successes, but also for its rich arts scene.

The book is divided into chapters: settling Texas, defining women's sphere, building community institutions, going to work, expanding education, cultivating the arts, enriching the community and opening new doors.

It's not a comprehensive survey, but it is a fascinating look at a side of Houston history that has been largely ignored. The 275 pictures that illustrate the book are particularly special.

Chapman begins with the first

lay!

women believed to be indigenous to the area — the Karankawas. Though the individual lives and names of these American Indian women have been lost to history, their roles were not. A Spanish explorer described involved in nursing and fund-raising their strictly defined, gender-related division of labor, Chapman said.

"Their women toil incessantly," noted Alvar Munez Cabeza de Vaca, the earliest of the Spanish explorers to interact with the Karankawas.

Most land grants were given to men, but exceptions were made by Stephen F. Austin to women who

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- Millie Gray

Jane Wilkins, who owned land where the George R. Brown Convention Center is now located.

Pioneer women had no schools or churches to support them. Household duties, including family health, rested on their shoulders and was timeconsuming. It took two weeks of steady labor to spin enough thread for a dress.

What women did was not deemed worthy enough to document, Chapman said.

One of her favorite women from that time is Obedience Fort Smith, a 64-year-old widow who immigrated to Texas in 1835. She was granted 3,370 acres of land in Houston that encompasses much of the present-day Fourth Ward, Montrose and Rice University. It's still called Obedience.

Smith's survey, and Smith's descendants still live in Houston.

Outside home, churches were the only other places of activity for women, but the Civil War got them activities.

The Civil War, Chapman writes, radically changed the lives of African-American women by giving them freedom and legalizing their marriages.

After the Civil War, more women began teaching, the only profession open to black women at that time. In the last quarter of the 19th

century, Houston women started clubs such as the Ladies Reading Club (still in existence). Kezia Depelchin founded a home for children in need. When she died in 1893, club women, friends and church members got together and continued her work. The board was all-female for 40 years.

In 1904, women's efforts resulted in Houston's first public library. In 1900, the Public School Art League was founded, and artist Emma Richardson Cherry provided strong leadership. Its mission was completed in 1924, when the Museum of Fine Arts opened.

This was also a time when many women got involved in the fight for suffrage. A local leader was Annette Finnigan, who graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts in 1894, a time when only two percent of the country's women attended college.

When she returned to Houston, Finnigan and her sisters founded the Houston Equal Suffrage League and later the Women's Political Union. She became state president of both organizations.

Chapman tried to make her book as diverse as possible — including photos of well-known local African-American women like pianist Jessie Covington, whose mother, Jennie, founded an all-woman orchestra.

Bodyguard Puffy did not have gu

Thursday, February

NEW YORK (AP) - A for corrections officer who mo lighted as a bodyguard for & "Puffy" Combs testified Wedge day that he had never once seen rap impresario carrying a weap

Prosecution witness Leon Curtis Howard said he we BY STE never have associated him The Ba with Combs if the defendant carried a firearm.

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"If he is going to carry and a prese gal firearm, there is no reason ing eve me to be there," Howard said der cross-examination. "Im cine be going to put my job in jeopardy Mr. Combs.'

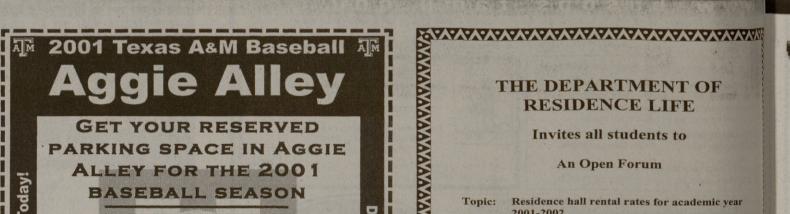
The rapper and hip-hoph nessman was arrested on Dec. 1999, after he fled a nigh near Times Square with his friend, actress-singer Jen Lopez. Combs, 31, was cha with gun possession and brit for allegedly offering hisd \$50,000 to take the rap for

ing a gun found in their vel He faces up to 15 years in phi if convicted of bribery. Earlier Wednesday, defens torney Benjamin Brafman

moved unsuccessfully for an trial because he was upset b sistant District Attorney Man Bogdanos' use of Howard'sg Unlike jury testimony to contradicthist al testimony.

Howard told the grand jury he had never seen Combs search and a r in that situation - an important Medici tinction, since prosecutors claim that co Grammy-winning rapper can wheels gun into the nightclub and fi shot on the night of his arrest.

"When a witness lies as e giously as Mr. Howarddid, it is cumbent upon the (question attorney to point that out to jury," Bogdanos said.

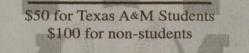


were heads of households. One was

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Deadline is March 1, 2001 at 5:00 PM!

For more information, please contact: Department of Student Financial Aid **Scholarship Office** PO Box 30016 Room 220, The Pavilion College Station TX 77842 (979)845-3982



Aggie Alley

GET YOUR RESERVED

PARKING SPACE IN AGGIE

ALLEY FOR THE 2001

BASEBALL SEASON

Lottery drawing will take place Thursday evening, Feb. 1, at 6:30 inside G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Applications Due Applications may be picked up at the G. Rollie White ticket office and must be returned by the start of the lottery drawing on Thursday.

2001 Texas A&M Baseball

Archer Daniels Midland

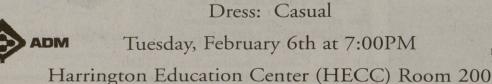
ADM will be hosting an information night to discuss internships and career opportunities!

Careers Highlighted: Commodity Trading

Majors Welcome: Agricultural Business, Agricutural Economics

Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors are all welcome!

Refreshments will be served - Door prizes will be given





Topic: Residence hall rental rates for academic year 2001-2002.
When: Monday, January 29, 2001
Brursday, February 1, 2001
Time: 6:30-8:00pm
Where: Room 146 in the MSC

Mays College of Business Spring Career Fair Feb. 20-22

Host A Company

Mandatory Meeting

If you are hosting a company, you MUST attend one of the meetings:

Tuesday, Feb. 6 7:00-7:30 p.m. Wehner 132

Wednesday, Feb 7 9:00-9:30 p.m. Wehner 130

Career Fair Website: http://wehner.tamu.edu/bsc.