

AGGIElife

THE BATTALION

Seeing Things In

BLACK

& WHITE



BY CINDY GALLEGOS

The Battalion

Today, hip-hop music caters to a large population and African-American athletes dominate the sports scene as some of the highest ranking athletes. The influences of black culture are evident in today's increasingly diverse society. However, some Texas A&M professors and students are still evaluating the cultural climate of this University and suggesting some necessary adjustments.

Dr. Albert Broussard, an associate professor of history, said he remembers when Nobel Prize-winning scientist William Shockley produced a theory that blacks were racially inferior. Broussard said this idea of racial inferiority was later proven to be a fallacy that many were aware of all along.

Broussard said he would never let racism become an obstacle in achieving his immediate goals or his ambition of becoming a professor. Although he was aware that racism was present, his parents instilled in him the necessity to work hard.

"We were aware that racism was present," Broussard said. "It was present in California. It's present at Texas A&M, but it wasn't ever going to be the obstacle to keep you from succeeding if you were willing to pay the price. The price, of course, was ... hard work. That if you worked hard enough, ultimately you could reach your goal."

Dr. Douglas Brooks, an assistant professor of English, said the major manifestation of inequality while he was in school was related to number ratios. Brooks also said he witnessed gender discrimination.

"Most of the schools I've attended have been largely upper-middle class and white," Brooks said. "Surely this can't

be and isn't reflective of this country's pool of intellect and talent. But I've also seen a lot of discrimination against women in my educational past, especially when I was in graduate school at an Ivy League institution."

The United States is becoming more diverse with time, Broussard said that in California, the white population is no longer the majority population and Texas is closely following its path.

"People don't want to accept that fact," Broussard said. "They don't want to discuss it, let alone accept it, because it has implications."

The University's minority population is not reflective of the state's minority population. According to some, this factor could be a major weakness for the University and a disservice to the students.

Assistant English professor Ahmed Siraj claims that the efforts of the University to promote multiculturalism, including multicultural days and requirements in the curriculum, are good, but these steps may encourage the University to become oblivious to the need for a more culturally diverse atmosphere.

"It can serve as a screen to stop the University from doing what it really has to do to make Texas A&M a first-class, comprehensive university," Siraj said. "Which is to make sure that the University represents the diversity of the state and its racial composition and also represent something of the international cultural of universities these days."

Siraj explains that among the students he has spoken to, especially minorities and students who have progressive political views, his general sense is that this campus is not their

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