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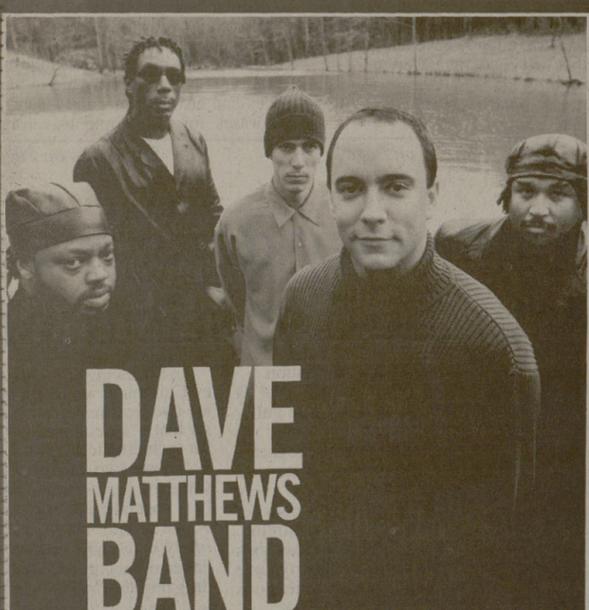
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FISH by R.DeLuna



How COME WHEN IT'S COLD, GUYS WALK WITH THEIR HANDS IN THEIR POCKETS BUT GIRLS WALK WITH THEIR ARMS FOLDED LIKE THIS?

I THINK IT'S BECAUSE WHENEVER GUYS WALK WITH THEIR ARMS FOLDED IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DECIDING WHO'S HOTTER, MATT DAMON OR BEN AFFLECK

WELL THAT'S KIND OF DUMB... THAT'S SOCIETY FOR YA

I MEAN, IT'S OBVIOUSLY MATT DAMON! LET'S PRETEND THIS CONVERSATION ENDED THIRTY SECONDS AGO...

the Wuss Cookie by Adrian



IT IS COOL THAT YOU ARE GIVING ME A TOUR OF ALL THE SHACKS OF SHACK-A-THON.

OK, WHICH ONE IS THAT ONE?

THAT IS THE MOTOR CLUB CAR-SHAPED SHACK

AND IT IS BEING TICKETED BY P.T.S. AS WE SPEAK... SOME PEOPLE WILL NEVER LEARN...

THAT'S FUNNY, OK LET'S GO SEE THE OTHER SHACKS... WHOA! WHOSE IS THAT ONE?

WHICH ONE?

OH, THAT'S A FRAT'S SHACK. WHY IS IT ROCKING? YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW

Panel speakers say love is colorblind
NABJ and ExCEL discuss interracial relationship stereotypes

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Charles Sippial, Texas A&M vice president for administration, said in a panel discussion that he does not believe love should be determined by color lines.

Sippial is a black man engaged to a white woman.

"Gretchen and I were friends for a long time. Out of that friendship grew love," he said. "When I see Gretchen, I see a woman I love. I do not even think about race. How others feel about our love in some cases is positive and in others negative. There are people in my family who are negative about the relationship. They have the problem. I don't have the problem."

In a panel discussion co-sponsored by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and Excellence Uniting Culture, Education and Leadership (ExCEL), students, faculty and staff discussed their experiences in interracial relationships.

Apryl Reid, NABJ vice president and a senior journalism major, said the purpose of the program is to defy some of the stereotypes attached to interracial dating.

"I feel like there is this taboo regarding interracial relationship dating in our society," Reid said. "We should look beyond the color lines and beyond the epidermis. We are trying to get individuals from various backgrounds to attend, but we do not want it to be a black or white thing."

Panel members included Ryan Beard, a senior psychology major; Tammie Preston-Cunningham, an A&M staff member; Dr. Kimberly Brown, an English professor; and Sippial.

April Young, NABJ president, executive director of ExCEL and a senior journalism major, opened the program with scenes from *Othello*, *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*, *Money Train* and *The Birth of a Nation*. All clips involved relationships between two races.

"It is important to understand interracial relationships are not just a black person or a white issue," Young said. "It is not just a white issue."

Preston-Cunningham said some people are changing their views on interracial relationships.

"You can't change everybody," Preston-Cunningham said. "Sometimes differences are a cultural thing, but the way you view what your family values are sometimes an issue."

Brown said her experience in interracial relationships and her own study of race have more attuned to racial issues.

"I think in terms of race more than anything else," Brown said. "But learning more about someone's culture and learning more about someone can be productive."

Randolph, the daughter of an interracial African-American couple, said she has identified more African-American culture, although she was raised in a predominantly white culture.

"I do not understand why interracial relationships are hard for people to understand. They bring up issues like that," Randolph said.

REPLANT
Continued from Page 1

"There seem to be a lot of people on campus who say that we are an 'anti-Bonfire' group. We're not. This is all about the trees and the environment. Since the beginning of Replant, there has been a strong bond between Bonfire leadership and Replant leadership," Salter said. "We wish that people would realize that Replant no longer has any official ties with Bonfire, and that there's no way that by moving it to the fall that we are trying to replace Bonfire in any way."

Rosen said Replant began in 1990 when Scott Hantman, former Environmental Issues Committee Chair, introduced the idea.

"Replant started out as an Environmental Issues Committee, but in 1994 we became a committee of our own in the Student Government Office due to our large numbers," Rosen said. "It was originally supposed to help counteract the effects of Bonfire, but now we are a separate environmental organization."

In Spring 2000, Replant volunteers planted trees at Lake Bryan and the Bryan Regional Athletic Complex.

Close to 1,500 students and faculty members have registered to participate in the planting, including first-time participants Alpha Delta Phi Sorority.

"We thought it would really be a great way to bring our goals of philanthropy home to the Bryan-College Station area," said Casey Kent, Alpha Delta Phi member. "This is a great opportunity for many groups to help out locally."

COSTS
Continued from Page 1

Mexico. Student Express charges \$93 per person to cover taxes and fees for all persons traveling to Mexico.

Sue Antrobus, an agent with ITS Cruises and Travel, said, to avoid spring break scams, students should make sure the company is reputable and book their trips early. Antrobus said that "a few years ago, there was a tour group that canceled at the last minute and did not reschedule a new trip for the customers."

Companies offering reduced rates for spring break trips can do so because of the huge group rate they can receive since they work with universities and schools all over the nation. Antrobus said reputable companies for student travel include Holiday

Express, Fun Jet, Go Go Continental.

Debbie Miller, a consultant with Executive Travel and Leisure, said that if students are using an air travel company, they should talk to other people who have used the company.

Miller also suggested students investigate companies by the Better Business Bureau in their community where the business is located. She also advised students to book spring break trips more than Thanksgiving in order to receive the best rates.

Miller said students should use a credit card whenever possible. This way students can cancel on trips that are canceled or delayed.

"Never send cash or check to a company or person whom you have never met," Miller said.

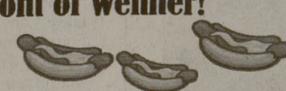
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THE BATTALION

Jeff Kempf, Editor in Chief

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