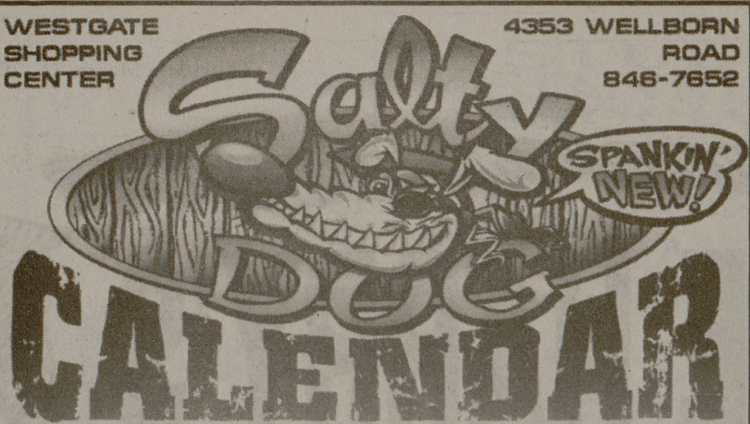


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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mississippi company recalls fireplace screens

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Mississippi company is recalling about 600 fireplace screens sold in Wal-Mart stores because the metal mesh is coated with paint that can ignite and start fires.

Pascal Products Co., of Jackson, has not received any reports of fires or injuries, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Wednesday. The recalled screens are Wal-Mart Home Trends 2-Paneled Fireplace Screens with model number 500RR.

Sci-fi

Continued from page 1A

The convention begins Thursday at 2 p.m. in the dealer's room, said Fletcher Comstock, a sophomore computer science major. Businesses will sell items such as swords, artwork and fantasy jewelry.

The charity auction will consist of similar paraphernalia. All of the money raised will be donated to Scotty's House, a place for children who are victims of sexual and physical abuse, he said.

Comstock said attendees seeking action can compete against each other for prizes in the gaming room. They can participate in board games, computer games and role-playing games.

A 24-hour anime room will be open for those wanting to kick back and watch cartoons.

Sullivan said science-fiction pervades several aspects of American culture.

"Science-fiction has something for everyone and so does AggieCon," she said. "People are starting to figure out that the genre of science fiction is not just for geeks, it can be enjoyable."

Throughout the convention, guest speakers such as Neil Gaiman and Charles Keegan will

hold panels on how to create scientific characters and worlds.

Sarah Koeing, a sophomore biology major, said AggieCon's relaxed environment provides a lot of personal interaction with the guests. During events such as the masquerade ball, it is easy to have a casual conversation with a guest speaker, she said.

"When you pick up a science fiction book, you get to leave the rules of this world behind," she said.

Kate Ward, a senior environmental design major and spokesperson for Cephied Variable, said AggieCon's relaxed environment provides a lot of personal interaction with the guests. During events such as the masquerade ball, it is easy to have a casual conversation with a guest speaker, she said.

A free showing of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* will start at 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights. The show encourages audience participation.

Other movies will also show during the convention.

Sarah Fremgen, a sophomore molecular cell biology major, said science-fiction movies reveal themes in society.

"Some of the things that happen in science fiction movies, I would like to see in real life," she said. "Some of the themes they reveal could make our society more functional."

Priorities

Continued from page 1A

provide feedback on what information is lacking.

Increasing the outreach program from the student government is another goal for Pringle as student body president. She plans to target residence halls and student organizations in an effort to involve the student body.

"There are ways we can improve: utilizing neo accounts, *The Battalion*, round tables, forums, things like that," she said.

The current Corps of Cadets chaplain and SBP candidate Zac Coventry's number one reason for campaigning lies in unity.

"This is a critical time for

"This is a critical time for Texas A&M University,"

— Zac Coventry
SBP candidate

Texas A&M University," he said. "It is essential for the student body to come together and have a unified voice ... about who we are, what we represent and where we're going."

Students' struggles with academics can be attributed to lack of quality advising, Coventry said. He said it is an adviser's job to present students, especially incoming freshmen, with the "big picture" of how academics will fall into their goals for the future.

Like Pringle, he plans to propose a system of adviser evaluation by students. Coventry's idea involves a type of 360-degree feedback that would include adviser evaluation from supervisors, peers and most importantly, students.

Coventry addressed communication as a major problem in the past year between the student government and the student body — an area he plans to improve on.

"Student government was doing great things that were well aligned with the values of the student body, but the problem was that the students didn't realize this," he said.

Transitions are another major focus for Coventry, due to the immense changes in store for the coming year, including new university president, Vision 2020 and Bonfire.

He will also lobby for a "Traditions 101" course, a history course outlining the history of Texas A&M and including historical ties to the University such as WWII hero General Earl Rudder's key role in the D-day victory.

Interests

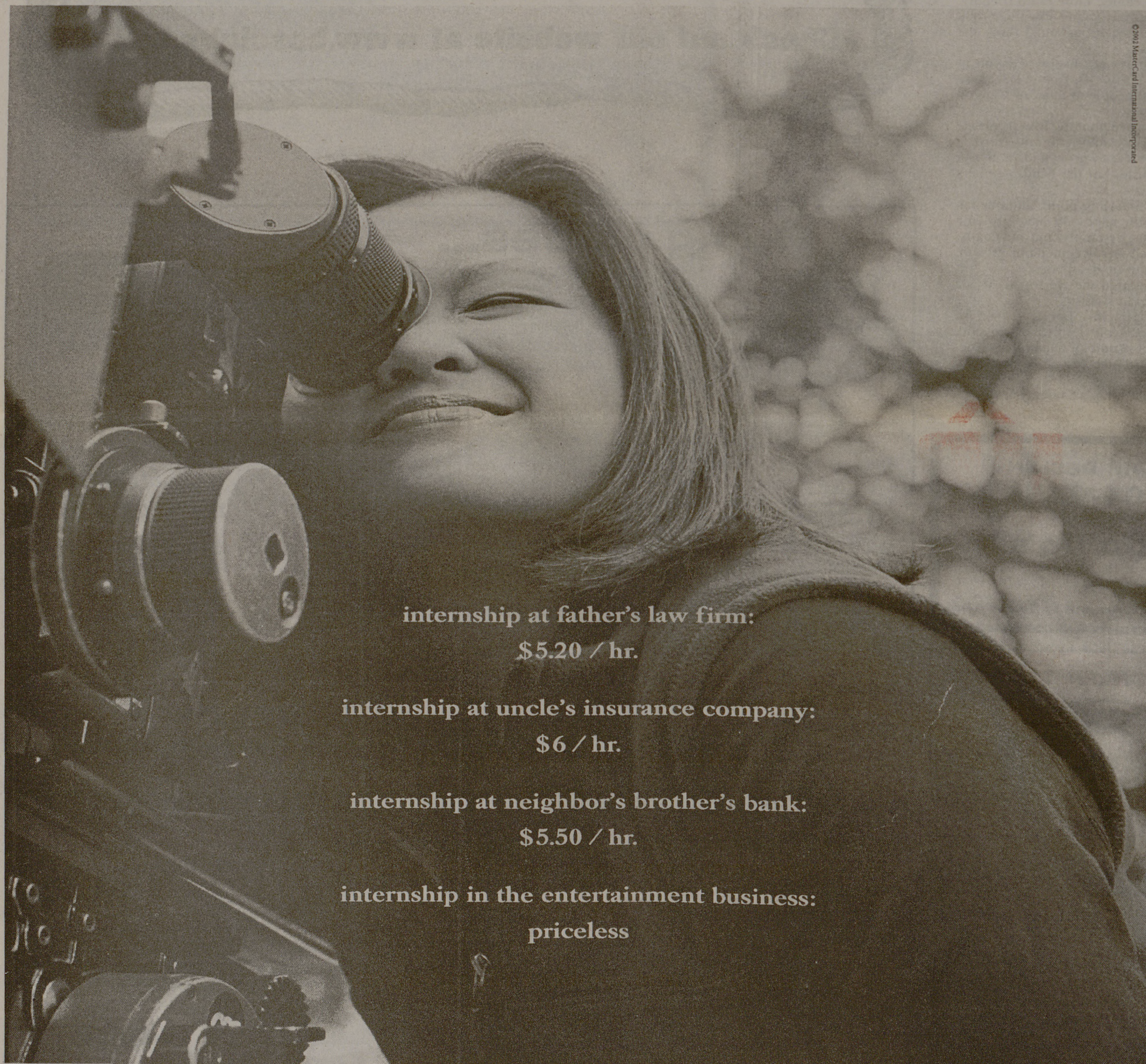
Continued from page 1A

to the A&M homepage that will allow students to directly contact the student government.

He hopes increased accessibility will encourage student feedback and involvement.

Coventry said visibility will also be obtained through following the philosophy of "management by walking around" and getting to know the student body by spending time on campus, eating meals at the dining halls and being actively involved in campus activities.

"If you're going to serve as student body president, you'd better be visible," he said. "You better seek to communicate with those student groups on their turf."



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Abbreviated Contest Rules. No Purchase Necessary to Enter or Win. Void Where Prohibited. Open to legal residents of the 50 U.S. & the District of Columbia between the ages of 18 & 25 who are enrolled as full or part-time undergraduate students in a U.S. Department of Education accredited 2-year or 4-year college/university as of 2/26/02 & at the time of winner selection & notification. To enter: 1) visit www.mastercard.com, click on the MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ icon between 5:00:01 PM Central Time (CT) on 2/26/02 & 4:59:59 PM CT on 4/23/02 ("promotion period"), & follow the instructions provided; & 2) Submit your essay of no more than [250] words answering the following question: *If you could start your own entertainment company, what would it do & how would it be different?* Essays will be judged based on the following criteria: 1.) Originality: 0-40 points; 2.) Creativity: 0-30 points; & 3.) Relevance to the theme: 0-30 points. [50] winners will be selected for the duration of the promotion period in accordance with three Entry Periods ("EP"), beginning at 5:00:01 PM CT, and ending at 4:59:59 PM CT respectively: [16] EP #1 Winners: 2/26/02-3/16/02; [16] EP #2 Winners: 3/17/02-4/4/02 and [18] EP #3 & 6/28/02. Prize includes round-trip coach air transportation from major airport nearest to winner's residence in the U.S., standard room/board on Belmont University's campus, on-campus meal plan designated by Sponsor, ground transportation to/from off-campus excursions, \$1,000 which may be used toward spending money, & the opportunity to compete for one of twelve select invitations to join the *Music in High Places* production internship team & participate in a 10-week, on-location internship at the *Music in High Places* production offices in Los Angeles, CA & at the *Music in High Places* shoot starting an artist to be determined solely by Sponsor (ARV-\$6,700). Taxes & any other expenses are winners' sole responsibility. Subject to the Official Rules available online at www.mastercard.com. For the winners' names, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be received by 6/7/02 to: MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ Winners, P.O. Box 13106, Bridgeport, CT 06673-3106. ©2002 MasterCard International Incorporated. All Rights Reserved. Sponsor: MasterCard International Incorporated, 2000 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY 10577. Promoter: Project Support Team, Inc., 100 Mill Plain Road, Danbury, CT 06811.

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