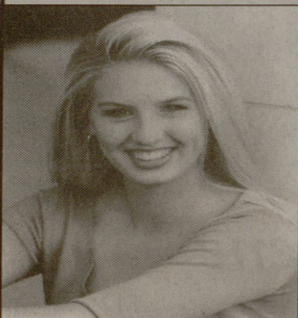


# OPEN TALENT CALL

## THE INTERNATIONAL MODEL & TALENT ASSOCIATIONS LOS ANGELES CONVENTION AND COMPETITIONS



**Ginger McDonald**  
Contract pending with Cosden Morgan Agency, LA  
Class of 2004

The Nikki Pederson Model & Talent Academy is pleased to announce it will be hosting a scouting event in Bryan on Tuesday, March 26, and Thursday, March 28 for the International Modeling & Talent Association Convention.

Actors, Actresses, Singers, Dancers and Models are encouraged to audition. The IMTA is a distinguished and legitimate avenue to meet agents and begin learning about a career outside the Brazos Valley Market. If you are selected to attend the LA Convention and Competitions you will have the opportunity to audition for and interview with scores of modeling and talent agents, you might never have the chance to meet otherwise. It is truly a once in a lifetime event for the aspiring model and talented individuals. Nikki Pederson Talent had an Outstanding 90% Agency callback rate at the last International Model & Talent Convention & Competitions.



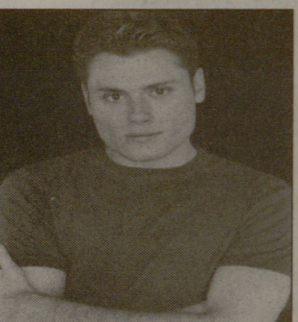
**Micheal Green**  
Signed with Talent Ink & The Osbrink Agency, LA

Stars like Katie Holmes, Elijah Wood, Jessica Biel & Cover Girl Model, Jessica White, along with many others were discovered at an IMTA Convention.

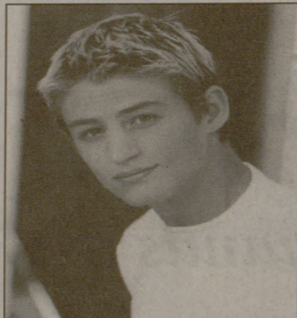
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**Kurt Swick**  
Signed with The Cosden Morgan Agency & Weston Talent Mgmt., LA  
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**Taylor Wolken**  
Signed with Kazarian, Spencer & Assoc. Inc. & GEM Entertainment Group, LA  
Class of 2005



**Sarah Sledge**  
Signed with Discover Inc. Mgmt, LA



**Jessica Schultz**  
LA contract pending. Jessica has been cast in the World Famous Palo Duro Canyon Musical - Texas

## Panel

Continued from page 1A

a close-minded and conservative University.

More than 70 percent of the student population is white, with less than 30 percent made up of Hispanic, African-American and international students, a proportion panelists said is unattractive and unwelcoming to minority students.

Mariano Castillo, editor in chief of *The Battalion*, said the lack of a strong liberal arts program also deters many minority students from attending the University.

Samecia Bloomfield, a representative of the MSC Diversity Council, said Aggies use the word "liberal" negatively because of the University's strong, conservative values.

"Liberal is a dirty word on this campus," Bloomfield said.

Panelists also voiced concerns about the use of the Confederate flag on T-shirts supporting the Southern Heritage Society on campus. They said the flag portrays a negative image of A&M to minority students.

Pablo Rodriguez, director of diversity with the Student Government Association, said he is offended by the Southern Heritage Society's use of the flag.

"It's a concern of many people on this campus," Rodriguez said. "People associate that flag with hate."

Tyler Dunman, a member of the Southern Heritage Society and Young Conservatives of Texas, said it is not the organization's intent to make people uncomfortable by using the flag. He said the Confederacy is a symbol of Southern culture and not one of hate.

Castillo pointed out the difficulty of defining the flag without explanation, but defended an individual's right to express their identity through symbols that are meaningful to them.

"If I see a [Confederate flag] sticker on a truck, I don't know whether that guy is a racist or just displaying his Southern heritage," Castillo said.

Dunman said each situation

## BATTALION RACE ISSUES PANEL

- Lyndon Pryor  
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENT COALITION PRESIDENT
- Samecia Bloomfield  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS COORDINATION
- Mariano Castillo  
EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE BATTALION
- Adrienne Aguirre  
COMMITTEE FOR THE AWARENESS OF MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURE CHAIR
- Schuyler Houser  
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
- Brandon Hepburn  
MSC BLACK AWARENESS COMMITTEE CHAIR
- Tyler Dunman  
YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS
- Pablo Rodriguez  
DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY ISSUES
- Jerry Ho  
MSC ASIAN CULTURES EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR
- Eberhard Laeppe  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE
- Máirtín ÓMuirghéasa  
CORPS OF CADETS REPRESENTATIVE
- Barry Hammond  
MSC EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Source: *The Battalion*

is different, and people should not equate one with the other.

"Just because someone is displaying the flag doesn't mean they are displaying it for the reasons the [Ku Klux Klan] did," Dunman said. "Instead of people drawing conclusions, they need to come in and talk to us."

Lyndon Pryor, president of the African-American Student Coalition, said A&M has a racial history that needs to be acknowledged for minority students to feel accepted on campus.

"Students judge A&M on the basis of its history," Pryor said. "The University seems to be proud of that history. It's like a slap in the face."

Adrienne Aguirre, chair of the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture, told other panelists a story about a Hispanic friend in the Corps of Cadets, who was recently a victim of racism.

Earlier this semester, Aguirre's friend returned to his room to find the words, "Go home spic" written on his mirror. She said the incident was never reported

but should have been. "Why was the person who was offended OK with that? Aguirre said. "Everyone should be offended by this."

Corps of Cadet representative Mairtin O'Muirghéasa agreed. "The whole organization should be offended by that," he said.

## Defining diversity

Some panelists said A&M strives to become more diverse, the word "diversity" being overused, and students are tired of hearing it.

Many students think of the word as referring only to minority students and excluding white students from definition, panelists said. They could not be further from truth, they said.

"When someone says, 'I'm not a part of the diversity dialogue because I'm white, they're wrong,' Rodriguez said. "Diversity is for everyone."

Rodriguez said just because he is a Hispanic student does not mean that he is more diverse than any other student.

"I believe diversity makes this University a better place," said Schuyler Houser, student body president. "I don't understand those who don't feel that way."

## Toward Vision 2020

Panelists said the administration is not doing a good job of promoting diversity on campus.

While they strive to recruit more minority students, panelists said administrators are increasing fees making it difficult to recruit those students.

"The administration is going about its Vision 2020 diversity initiative the wrong way with raising fees," Dunman said.

Panelists also said the administration's top 20 percent plan was met with disappointment because of a misconception about what the plan would do.

Students saw the plan as targeting poor inner-city minorities instead of helping all disadvantaged students in all areas.



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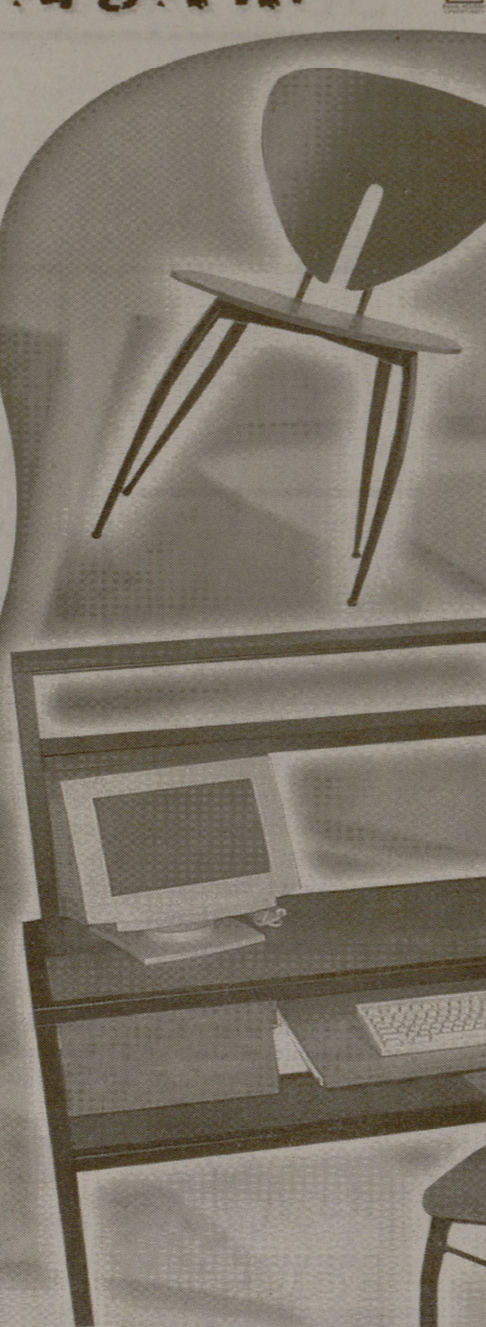
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## Andersen CEO resigns

CHICAGO (AP) — Arthur Andersen chief executive Joseph Berardino resigned Tuesday, bowing to mounting pressure as a result of the accounting firm's role in the Enron scandal.

His announcement came four days after former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker urged top management to step aside so he can install and head an independent board in a last-ditch plan to save the company.

Berardino disclosed his decision as Andersen partners, in internal company emails, stepped up pressure on him to quit. He said he would remain in charge until a successor is chosen.

"I felt I had to take this step today to put an exclamation point behind the voices of our people, to say that we are serious and we're a serious firm that deserves to continue here in the United States," Berardino told CNN.

Yet of the 89-year-old firm, he said: "We're in deep stress."

The key element of Volcker's plan is the dismissal of a federal indictment against Andersen alleging obstruction of justice for destroying Enron-related documents. The Justice Department has not said whether it would consider such a move.

Andersen has lost more than 70 clients this year and overseas affiliates have been bolting to rival firms. Industry experts are doubtful whether Volcker's plan or any other can prevent the firm from folding.

Volcker, who heads an oversight committee charged with making sweeping reforms at the

company, has said a cap must be placed on Andersen's financial liability from the Enron scandal if it is to survive.

The firm suffered another blow Tuesday as the Securities and Exchange Commission said in a ruling that Andersen was involved in a scheme that allowed former executives of Waste Management Inc. to inflate earnings by \$1.7 billion.

Last year, Andersen paid a \$7 million fine to settle an SEC suit accusing it of issuing false and misleading audit reports that inflated Waste Management's earnings from 1993 to 1996.

Andersen's 1,700 partners have been urged to resign, according to several partners interviewed Tuesday. Retired partners also have been pushing for his ouster in hopes it can help keep Andersen afloat.

His resignation, said Chicago-based partner Kathy Scherer, may be "the only way that the Justice Department might ease up" on Andersen.

"I'm not sure they would consider pulling the indictment," she said of federal prosecutors. "But to indict and try Paul Volcker would be difficult given the man's standing."

Berardino, the head of Andersen since January 2001, also is managing partner-chief executive of Andersen Worldwide, the legal parent of Arthur Andersen.

Before becoming CEO, Berardino was managing partner for the company's assurance and business advisory practice in North America. He has been with the firm since 1972.

**The voice of A&M... Is the voice of your vote.**

Wednesday, March 27  
Thursday, March 28  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Vote at: MSC, Evans, Commons, AgCafe, Blocker, RecCenter, or online at...

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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