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When: TODAY, THURSDAY 7 pm

Where: Bush School, Room 1097

Dr. Chuck Hermann,
Associate Dean of International Programs

Colonel Joe Cerami
U.S. Army retired, former head of the Department
of National Security Studies of the U.S. Army War College

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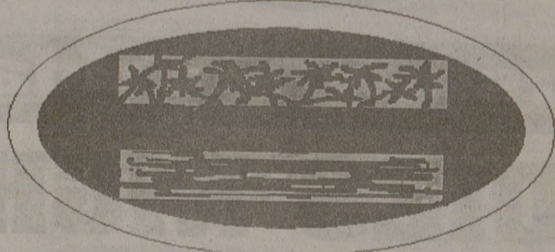
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Panel

Continued from page 1A

in minority and non-minority student activities.

"I don't need the administration to tell me they support my being here, but (it should) get more involved in some of my activities," she said. "Not just minority programs, but come to a (Student) Senate meeting."

Bloomfield also suggested some University money be spent to create a quality minority public relations campaign.

Castillo suggested the campaign have recruitment pamphlets featuring minority and other student leaders in positions other than with cultural organizations to show that A&M minorities are active and the campus welcomes the leadership of all students.

Individual effort, student leaders step up

Rodriguez said while the top-down technique is important to challenge administration to get involved, the bottom-up approach of students taking responsibility for their own sensitivity is also crucial.

"The most productive [public relations] campaign we could all do is talk about the environment that exists and stress that we are working to improve those issues," he said.

International Students Association representative Eberhard Laepple agreed.

"We need to show the value of having knowledge of different cultures," Laepple said. "We need to show our leadership perspective to students in our organizations and make it typical of the Aggie culture."

Corps of Cadets representative Mairtin O'Muirghreasa said, "Our job as leaders is to start that tradition and keep everybody working toward the same things."

Barry Hammond, MSC vice president for development, said student leaders can do that by creating the Fish Camp concept of an "unconditionally accepting environment" on campus and within student organizations.

Adrienne Aguirre, Chair of

BATTALION RACE ISSUES PANEL

- Lyndon Pryor
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENT COALITION PRESIDENT
- Samacia 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
- Jarry Ho
MSC ASIAN CULTURES EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR
- Eberhard Laepple
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE
- Mairtin O'Muirghreasa
CORPS OF CADETS REPRESENTATIVE
- Barry Hammond
MSC EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Source: The Battalion

the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture, said motives for diversity must be considered.

"Don't encourage diversity because it is politically correct, but because it makes us better people with better relationships with people different than us," Aguirre said.

Lessons from the Uncartoonist

Panelists discussed how they can shape the future of diversity based on what they learned through the campus uproar over the *Battalion* cartoon deemed racist by some.

Aguirre was upset by the amount of people who had no reaction to the issue.

"We need to look at the people who continue after this to still be ignorant and indifferent, and create dialogue with them," she said.

Castillo framed future steps in the aftermath of the cartoon.

"First, we need to make sure that never happens again," he said.

Next, Castillo said he hopes people will become educated through the situation so the next time they see the same stereotypes, they notice the wrongdoing immediately.

Acknowledge A&M's historical minority figures

Lyndon Prior, African American Student Coalition president, said the University should take responsibility for events where blacks played major roles in A&M history. He said more students should know about Matthew Gaines, former slave and Republican state senator in the 12th Legislature, who established free public education in the State of Texas and enabled the founding of TAMU.

Prior also said, "more students should realize that an African-American man like Kyle Field from the ground up

Integrate programs

Panelists said they were committed to integrating student programs in order to embrace diversity. For instance, instead of allowing the ExCel diversity weekend become coined "Fish Camp for Minorities," two programs should be together, Rodriguez said.

"We need our fish to get experiences, and they need to collaborate," Rodriguez said.

Tyler Dunman of the Young Conservatives of Texas agreed. "We are trying to unite, but we are dividing by setting up programs for only certain groups," he said.

Dunman said A&M Southern Heritage Society working with other student groups to include black culture in the history of the South.

Embrace change

Rodriguez said it is important not to get discouraged by efforts at diversity.

"We need to have a vision of where we need to go, but we have to be realistic in realizing it is not going to change overnight," he said.

Jarry Ho, MSC Asian Cultures Education Committee chair, said, "I offered an optimistic glimpse of the future of diversity issues, said in his six years at A&M, campus diversity environment has shown signs of hope."

"This type of dialogue is not happening six years ago," he said.

EPA requiring tougher air pollution standards

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency says it now has "a clear path" to requiring tougher air pollution health standards after winning a five-year legal fight over one of the most controversial Clinton-era environmental regulations.

A federal appeals court on Tuesday rejected the final industry challenges to regulations first issued in 1997 that require states and local governments to meet more stringent air quality standards.

The standards will require tougher controls on smog-causing chemicals and microscopic soot that the EPA considers harmful to small children, the elderly and people with respiratory problems.

"EPA now has a clear path to move forward to ensure that all Americans can breathe cleaner air," EPA Administrator Christie Whitman said after the ruling Tuesday by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

The tougher health standards have been in limbo for years after they were issued by the EPA during the Clinton administration. The regulations were quickly challenged by a wide range of business groups, utilities and the trucking industry, as well as three states.

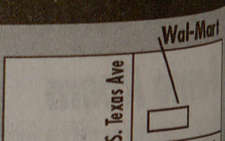
The legal fight made its way to the Supreme Court, which a year ago upheld the new EPA standards. But opponents raised yet another challenge, arguing the EPA had acted arbitrarily in setting the new standards — an argument the appeals court rejected on Tuesday.

The long legal fight shows "how industry can throw everything it has against a public health standard and in the course of doing so they managed to delay this process for many years," said Howard Fox, an attorney for Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, who represented the American Lung Association in the litigation.

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