

by R. DeLuca

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Fish



Hernandez

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When dealing with cultural and ethnic differences among people, many try to abide by the maxim to judge people by their character rather than their appearance. The problem with this color-blind approach, Hernandez said, is that we should be taught not to judge at all, but seek to understand differences that exist.

"We've gone wrong by saying, 'be colorblind,'" he said. "Ignoring differences leads to tolerance, which leads to indifference, which leads to ignorance and finally conflict and misunderstanding." Understanding is reached by listening, mediating, facilitating and negotiating, Hernandez said, but communication can be hindered by an individual's "nacio" — one's biases, fears, status and power. By stepping out of this preconceived mind-frame, differences can be acknowledged and understood, Hernandez said. He gave an example of how a person responds to an insult. Rather than immediately defending oneself, it is more constructive to ask why a person thought or said what he or she did, Hernandez said.

"We should learn to enjoy a world that is becoming more complicated," he said. "We need more facilitators of relationships, because everything is about relationships."

While a student, Hernandez was a founding member of the Committee on Awareness of Mexican-American Culture at A&M. He practiced employment and product liability law in Bryan and was a litigation lawyer for A&M before becoming associate vice chancellor. Hernandez also teaches international negotiation in the College of Business.

Band

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field. During the final tryout rounds, candidates conducted the band playing "The National Anthem," "The Spirit of Aggieland" and a musical selection of their choice. They also led the band through another drill. Selzer said the tryout process and his experience as a band member prepared him for his new leadership position.

"Looking back, it all makes sense," he said. "The funny way the Corps works ... It's all in perspective why we did everything we did. You need the experience you had as a fish in order to lead the band as a senior."

Lt. Colonel Jay Brewer, associate director of the Aggie Band, said the band has used the same selection process since 1946. He said it is a good indicator of the candidate's capability to lead the band during actual half-time performances.

"It's a lot of pressure to lead 400 band members during tryouts," he said. "The pressure is even greater when leading the band in front of 80,000 people during halftime."

Dominy said he enjoyed his time as head drum major, but will not miss the pressure that came along with it.

"I am going to medical school next year," he said. "I anticipate having less pressure as a medical student than as a drum major."

Morrison said he looks forward to being a drum major despite the stress it will bring. He said he understands the commitment he must have to carry on the band's traditions.

"There is more to the band than positions," he said. "To have a great band, everybody has to work together and try their hardest for each other. None of this could have happened without my buddies' support. I plan to support them as their drum major."

Chilifest

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enforcement agencies will help to incorporate some of the problems.

Last year, the department issued more than 400 minor in possession of citations and arrested approximately 70 people. Barber said the arrests exceeded the county jail's capacity.

Arrests occur when people are shown identification, use false information or give drinks to a driver, Barber said.

"My jail only holds 38 people, so I can't hold them all," Barber said. TABC will help this year. We want to look at more people, rather than just want to deter arrests."

Each year, crowds grow and congestion increases, along with the incidents. Barber said two years ago there were eight traffic accidents, but this year could not respond to the accidents in a timely manner due to heavy traffic. Barber added that all eight accidents were related to drinking, and tickets for driving while intoxicated were issued.

"If you are drunk, leave your car. There will be a large number of officers out this year giving citations for everything, even seat belts," Barber said.

Barber said the enormous amount of trash at the festival site should be alleviated by more trash bins on the grounds and parking and a park-and-ride option to alleviate congestion.

"We will have enough enforcement to ensure a clean and safe event," Barber said.

Anthony Gola, a junior agricultural major, said he will have a team of five for the cookout. He attended last year, but said he is more excited about the shows on Saturday and happy about more security.

"It is such a fun time, but you do have good and bad (incidents) at events like these," Gola said. "Anything that helps is good, you don't want to see low Aggies get hurt."

Despite safety concerns, many students said they plan on attending the festival. Brandon Welch, a junior economics major, will make a special trip for his co-op job at International Paper. Dallas for the festival and said he is looking forward to the food and bus.

"I really do not think [safety] will be too much of an issue this year. I've heard they are stepping up security, but I don't think there will be any major problems," Welch said.

Trevino said most students agreed on putting safety first to improve the event and hopes students become part of the solution and not the problem.

"I've been involved 3 years and it's the most comprehensive security I've ever seen," Trevino said. "We have a foundation for our expectations of future."



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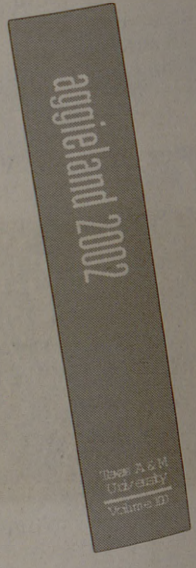
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