



Maya Angelou comes to A&M

By Sonia Moghe
THE BATTALION

Tiffany Johnson, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said that as a black female woman, she can relate to Maya Angelou's literary work.

"I think she's an incredible writer," Johnson said. "I've read some of her literature — she really

sends a positive message."

Angelou, an internationally-acclaimed poet, author, actress, playwright, civil rights activist, producer and director will share poems and experiences at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 in Rudder Auditorium. Memorial Student Center Diversity has put together "An Evening with Maya Angelou" as one of its Black History Month programs.

Leviathan D. Winn, a sophomore

finance major and MSC Diversity event coordinator, said the organization wanted Angelou to come to A&M because of her "diversified and unique" style of communication.

"(MSC Diversity) wanted to reinforce (not only) her presence here at A&M, but our add diversity initiatives as well," Winn said.

MSC Diversity offers a resource area for students to learn more about diversity located in the MSC,

as well as programs such as this.

Johnson said she believes that most students have heard of Angelou mostly because of her poetry, including the famous book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," but that many students may not realize she has written books and plays as well.

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Maya Angelou Speaks

Acclaimed author and civil rights activist Maya Angelou will speak on Saturday to wrap up Black History Month, courtesy of MSC Diversity.



6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 28
Rudder Auditorium

Doors open at 6 p.m.
Admission is free

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: LEVIATHAN WINN, MSC DIVERSITY

Close call



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Berry Husted hooks up chains to a 2002 Honda Civic on highway 2818 Thursday night. The Civic was traveling east when it was hit from behind. The car spun 360 degrees, then

traveled across the median and both west bound lanes before coming to a stop on a hill. No injuries were reported at the time of the accident.

Comic to perform for Aggie Nights

By Jimmy Hissong
THE BATTALION

Sometimes the best way to get ready for something big is to punch the air as wildly and rapidly as possible.

"Before I go on stage, I start shadow boxing really incredibly fast," said local comedian Kamran Hamid, Class of 2003. "Usually it's just too fast and too furious. I think it kind of freaks people out."

Hamid will perform in Rudder Auditorium at 9 p.m. Friday in a Memorial Student Center Aggie Nights production. The performance will feature the improvisational, stand-up and sketch comedy of the 2002 Laugh Across America title recipient.

As a medical student and a rising comedian, Hamid is frequently forced to weigh his time and interests carefully.

"I feel like I've been blessed with the intellect to get through medical school so far, but if I quit doing stand-up it would be a waste of that talent also. So I'm trying to find a good balance," Hamid said. "Comedy takes a lot more time than people think. There's a reason why there's not too many medical student comedians."

Despite his hectic schedule, Hamid said he manages to perform roughly every



HAMID

two weeks. Many of his shows are for charity organizations including the Make a Wish Foundation and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatrics AIDS Foundation.

Continual performances around the Bryan-

College Station area have earned Hamid a level of recognition, which has not come entirely without a cost. Although he tries to accommodate as many on-the-spot laughs as possible, he said it can get annoying.

"A lot of people will just walk up to me and ask me to tell a joke," Hamid said. "But if you have a friend that's a plumber and you greet him you don't say, 'Hey, can you come fix my drainage?'"

Despite moderate irritations from time to time, Hamid said he does not want to feel unapproachable as either a comedian or an individual. Even though they may grace the spotlight from time to time, Hamid stresses that comedians are no different than everyone else.

"I was backstage hanging with Mr. Cooper, and I realized these are just guys,"

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Student Senate opposes Hotard residence hall closure

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate opposed the proposal on Built Environment's decision to close Clifton Hotard Hall at its meeting Wednesday. A Senate resolution said it disagreed with Hotard's closing because students were not consulted in the decision-making process and residents were not given timely notice.

"It was basically a simple resolution saying we didn't approve of how the thing went down," said Chris Carlin, a senior physics major and student resident.

Student Body President Matt Josefy said he will

present the Student Senate resolution and the similar resolution passed by the Residence Hall Association earlier this week to A&M President Robert M. Gates Friday.

Josefy said he is concerned that the administration would make a big decision that affects students without their input.

"I believe in the students' empowerment here at this University," he said. "It's my hope to see what the possibilities are for students to have a better opportunity to express the value of a dorm like Hotard."

Josefy said the Senate had one major victory: David Prior, executive vice president and provost

agreed to have a student serve on the CBE.

Carlin said people of different races, backgrounds and academic interests get placed in the dorm.

"No one really decides to live here. They get placed in here by default when their first couple of choices their freshman year get taken up," he said. "So we have this kind of cross-section of different people."

However, Carlin said once people arrive at the Northside males-only dorm, that they love it and don't want to leave; it has the highest retention rate of any dorm on campus.

Travis Gadberry, a sophomore computer science major, said there are two reasons that his

home, Hotard, should remain a residence hall: tradition and spirit.

"It's not like it's that pretty of a building. And it's not like it's that comfortable to live in," he said, "but we love it, and we're not ready to give it up yet."

The resolution was passed by a vote of 42 to two.

The two people who voted against the resolution were graduate and professional Senators Cassandra Rutherford and Jackie Price.

"The main reason we voted against (the legislation) didn't specifically have to do with Hotard," Price said. "It had to do with coming from a graduate student's perspective: The campus master plan will (provide) space for more faculty members which means more space for graduate students."

Rebel leaders say fighters waiting to attack

By Ian James
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti — Rebels began moving toward Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince on Thursday and are awaiting the order to attack, a guerrilla leader told The Associated Press.

The leader, Guy Philippe, said their mission was to arrest President Jean-Bertrand Aristide if he did not resign, so he could be tried on charges ranging from corruption to murder.

"I don't want him to die. It would be too easy. He has to go for what he has done to the Haitian people," Philippe said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Pressure is mounting for Aristide to resign, with some blaming him for the 30-week-old rebellion and urging that he be replaced by a transitional government. The U.N. Security Council scheduled a meeting for later Thursday.

Foreigners are fleeing Haiti amid isolated shooting, and President Bush said the

United States is encouraging the international community to provide a strong "security presence."

Amid concerns of a refugee exodus toward Florida, the U.S. Coast Guard said it has intercepted about a dozen small vessels within

50 miles of the Haitian coast during the last three to four days. Coast Guard spokesman Luis Diaz said 546 Haitians have been brought onto Coast Guard cutters, where they were receiving food and water.

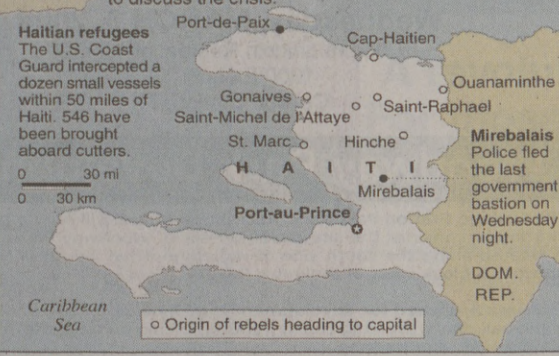
"We've decided to go toward Port-au-Prince. They're on their way," said Philippe, leader of the uprising that has overrun half of Haiti and killed at least 80 people. "They're taking their places. They know what to do."

Aristide, who has shown determination to keep power, has said a rebel attack on the capital could kill thousands.

Most of the barricades that had been erected by Aristide supporters in Port-au-Prince were removed Thursday and streets were

Rebels poised to take Port-au-Prince

Haitian rebels, who have overrun half of the country, moved closer to the capital Thursday as pressure mounted for President Aristide to resign. The U.N. Security Council and the Organization of American States held special meetings to discuss the crisis.



SOURCE: ESRI

empty, except for motorists lining up for dwindling supplies of gasoline.

The rebel movement already has sleeper cells in the capital but they would be reinforced by fighters from rebel groups moving in from variety of locations in the north, Philippe said.

Asked if an attack was imminent, he said: "It doesn't mean that we're going to attack today. We're just going to take our positions

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First WIN chapter established at A&M

By Elizabeth Knapp
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M will recognize its first student chapter of Women in Nuclear Engineering (WIN) this spring.

A&M is home to the largest nuclear engineering department in the nation and with the addition of this new organization, women in the field will have more opportunities to gain contacts and network for future careers.

Laura Strban, a senior radiological health engineering major, was one of the 13 American students who attended the annual WIN global meeting held in Las Vegas, last summer, where she got the idea of starting the local chapter. Strban said she hopes to have the first meeting sometime this semester, and about 20 to 30 people have already signed up to be a part of the organization.

Strban said she hopes to bring in speakers for next fall.

"I wanted to start a WIN

chapter at Texas A&M," Strban said. "I wanted our students to meet successful women in the field and make connections to open up internships and opportunities for women to become more experienced in the field of their interest."

Strban said it was moving to see so many women at the meeting holding leadership roles in the nuclear fields.

Currently, there are 278 students enrolled in the nuclear engineering department, and 73 are female, said Marvin Adams, a nuclear engineering professor and the faculty adviser of the new organization.

Strban said she hopes this chapter will bring speakers to the campus who will act as role models to women in the department.

Patricia Bryant, a member of the WIN Global Board, is also an executive committee member and director of Member Communications at

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