

# THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## International Week offers diversity

By Sarah Szuminski  
THE BATTALION

International Week festivities begin today and will include a series of events sponsored by international students to celebrate cultural differences at A&M and promote unity and inclusiveness. Cultural displays will be available for viewing in the Memorial Student Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday. The displays will represent various cultures across the world through artifacts, pictures and music from approximately 32 different student organizations, said Ashish Chitale, spokesperson for the International Students Association and a graduate engineering student. Also, culture booklets containing interesting facts about many countries will be distributed at the cultural displays. Approximately 3,000 copies were printed and will be distributed to students. "It is a good place for students to go that are interested in other cultures and want to get informed," Chitale said. Many students became interested in other cultures after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he said, and that is one reason International Week has greater importance this year. The theme of this year's event, "Unity and Diversity," is intended to emphasize unity among the A&M community while embracing the diversity of its students, Chitale said. "We want to let students know that this is a University-wide

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### Lion dance



Patty Sun (right), of Dallas, assists 9-year-old Andrew White with the motions of the Lion Dance, a Chinese celebration of the new year, at an exhibition of Chinese culture at the MSC Friday. Sun and other members of the Chin Woo professional dance group were on campus to demonstrate their skill as well as teach volunteers the art of Chinese dance.

STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

## INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2002

<b>Opening Ceremonies</b>
Today 11 a.m., MSC Flagroom
<b>Cultural Displays</b>
Today 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>International Buffet</b>
Wednesday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., \$10 admission fee
<b>International Talent Show and Traditional Dress Parade</b>
Rudder Auditorium Friday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., \$5 admission fee
<b>Party and Awards Presentations</b>
Friday, immediately following the talent show, place to be announced

Source: The International Students Association  
CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

## Senate deals with low turnout

By C.E. Walters  
THE BATTALION

With 16 absences at the Feb. 20 meeting, the Student Senate is facing larger numbers of absences this semester than normal, said Kimberly Schell, senate speaker pro tempore and a junior biomedical science major. Schell said that at the beginning of the semester, many senators have busy schedules or simply forget about meetings. However, representation of the student body, Schell said, is not hampered by the high degree of absences. "I think that all of our senators take their constituency's concerns first," Schell said. Most absences come from off-campus senators, who hold 20 positions in the senate. The absence problem is mainly with the older senators, said Morgan Howard, residency whip and a sophomore political science major.

Newly elected senators are more energetic, he said. "Senators are ready to graduate," said Lara Pringle, academic affairs chair and a junior finance major. "I think that's true for any organization." Jack Long, senate speaker and a senior political science major, said senators are allowed four unexcused absences before they are removed from their positions. At senate meetings one half of an absence is deducted for missing the roll call vote at the beginning of the meeting, and an additional one half is deducted for missing the adjournment vote. Thirty-two senators must be present to constitute a quorum. "We set up a system at the beginning of the year to determine whether or not an absence is excusable," Long said. "Most of them relate to illness or school related activities."

## Advisory board allows student input at University system level

By Tanya Nading  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System a sprawling entity comprised of nine schools and tens of thousands of students, but the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board (CSAB) enables student leaders from each campus to voice

students' concerns to System officials. "We are a part of a large University system," said Schuyler Houser, student body president and CSAB representative for Texas A&M. "Most students don't realize that. I think it's important for them to know, learn and recognize the relationships we have with the other universities in our system."

Comprised of student government leaders in the different schools within the Texas A&M System, A&M's student representatives include the student body president, another student representative and an alternate, who the student body president appoints. "We come together to bridge communication through the University system to address common problems that we all face," Houser said. "We meet at different campuses throughout the year to discuss the problems the students are facing there."

The CSAB was created in 1982 by Chancellor Arthur E. Hansen, in response to student calls for representation at the system level. At the time there were only four universities represented in the system; today there are 10. Out of several different mission goals, the main objective of the CSAB is to advise the chancellor about pressing student issues, said Brent Burgess, chairman of CSAB and a

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### 2002 ELECTION

## 7 candidates vie for District 31 seat

An open congressional seat in an overwhelmingly Republican district is too good for local GOP politicians to pass up, and seven candidates are vying for the Republican nomination. The district, which stretches from West Houston to Round Rock, is one of two new congressional districts given to Texas following the 2000 Census. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes in the March 12 primary, the top two finishers will compete in an April 9 runoff. Early voting is underway. The winner will face Democrat David Bagley in November. As a service to our readers, each candidate will be profiled this week. *The Battalion* will also endorse a candidate.

By Rolando Garcia  
THE BATTALION

### Peter Wareing



WAREING

Peter Wareing's wealthy River Oaks neighborhood in Houston is a far cry from the rural and suburban central Texas district he recently moved to in order to run for Congress, but Wareing said he shares the values of the people he wants to represent. "These are conservative, God-fearing people and those are my values," Wareing said.

Wareing, a Houston businessman, rented an apartment in Bryan to campaign for the open congressional seat, and said he will buy a home there if elected. Although not required by law to live in the district he is running in, Wareing said he chose to move to Bryan to get to know the people he could represent. Wareing said his top priorities will be tax relief and improving the district's transportation infrastructure. Letting people keep more of what they earn will stimulate the economy and generate more revenue for the

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### Eric Whitfield



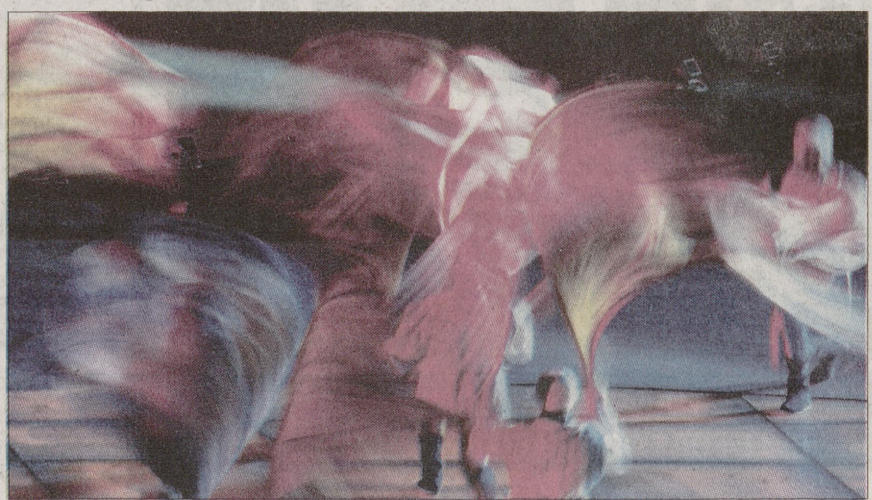
WHITFIELD

Like other Republican candidates, his mantra is tax cuts, but Eric Whitfield said he is the only candidate in the District 31 race who has actually cut taxes. During his two terms on the Round Rock school board, Whitfield said he was able to increase efficiency, improve school quality and give tax payers a break.

"It's one thing to talk about cutting taxes, it's another to actually do it," Whitfield said. In addition to accelerating the implementation of President Bush's tax cuts, Whitfield said he wants to permanently eliminate the estate tax and lower the capital gains tax. Rather than ballooning the budget deficit, Whitfield said tax cuts would increase government revenues by stimulating the economy. Whitfield, 51, a Round Rock businessman, said he would like to replace the federal income tax with a national sales tax. This would encourage saving and

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### Closing ceremonies



KRT CAMPUS

Dancers perform during the closing ceremonies in Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium in Salt Lake City, Utah. See final medal count on page 7.

### INSIDE



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**Aggies earn second at Big 12 meet**

Battalion News Radio

**Exhibit shows science behind risk**

Listen on KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m.

### WEATHER

<b>TODAY</b>	HIGH 78° F
	LOW 46° F
<b>TUESDAY</b>	HIGH 48° F
	LOW 32° F