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FORECAST
Tuesday
 Partly Cloudy
 High near 80

OPINION
 "There are a few things you can do to battle bugs without using dangerous pesticides. I collected a few suggestions that you might find helpful."
 — Ellen Hobbs
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SPORTS
Sweet Sweep
 Billy Harlan's clutch single gives Aggies a sweep of Texas and a share of league lead
page 5

INSIDE
Mid-East Conflict
 Baker supports international talks to solve Arab-Israeli conflicts
page 9

The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 136 USPS 045360 10 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Monday, April 22, 1991

Fewer supporters take part in local Earth Day celebration

By Katherine Coffey
The Battalion

Despite a smaller turnout at this year's Earth Day celebration, the president of the Texas Environmental Action Coalition said local residents still support environmental concerns.

"We didn't need to invest as much time as last year, but the community still came out and supported us," said Charles Al-

bert, also an A&M physics graduate student.

Albert said TEAC organized the local events at Hensel Park for the national celebration of Earth Day, which is today.

The environmental committee, however, hopes to get other student organizations and local businesses involved next year, he said.

"I think we are seeing the purpose of Earth Day is changing to be mainly a celebration for peo-

ple already involved in the protection of the environment," Albert said.

Sunday's celebration had about 30 organizations ranging from the Texas Populist Alliance, Aggies Against Bonfire and Bryan Iron and Metal Co., the organization responsible for the Bryan-College Station recycling project.

Earth Day celebrations included numerous speakers discussing issues such as dolphin

survival, low-cost energy efficiency and A&M's work with a Louisiana wildlife refuge.

Other groups had booths set up in the park concerning similar environmental issues.

Wendee Finley, a junior wildlife and ecology major from Dallas and a TEAC member, said she believes it is good to see people come out and support issues like conservation and recycling.

"It is nice to have so many

people show up," Finley said. "It's great to give things away to kids. They are the next generation and are most important to our future."

Finley, who studied abroad in Australia, said she eventually wants to research the conservation of animals and the environment.

Albert said he became involved in TEAC because he be-

lieved the student group could impact the local area.

"We don't try to shock people," he said. "We're not saying that everyone should stop driving their cars or anything."

"We realize this is how society is, and we are finding ways as to what we can do to make it better," Albert said. "We want to approach people not like enemies of the environment but like fellow citizens who should be concerned."

Volunteers offer time, love

A&M groups participate in annual Special Olympics

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion

More than 1,000 volunteers, mostly Texas A&M students, contributed time and love this weekend to turn ordinary competition into Special Olympics for about 500 disabled people.

Many A&M groups, including Alpha Phi Omega, the Aggie Men's Club, Aggie Alliance, Omega Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Psi and the Corps of Cadets contributed volunteers to the games Friday and Saturday at Tiger Stadium in College Station.

These were the Area 6 olympics. Area 6 is composed of 15 counties in Texas, including Brazos County, where the games have been for the past six years.

Leslie May, Area 6 director, said events included bicycling, for the first time, gymnastics and, of course, track and field, which is the main competition.

In other areas of Texas, special athletes compete in bowling, basketball and aquatics.

May said the games are a family event that benefit everyone involved — athletes, volunteers, organizers, coaches and relatives.

"I think the gist of this event and the gist of Special Olympics is to participate and share with other people," she said. "It enriches a lot of lives."

She said athletes and coaches take the events seriously, with training starting

nine to 12 weeks before the games. The top three winners in each event advance to state competition, and the best at state go on to international competition.

Events are divided into categories according to disability, age and intelligence level. The track and field events are similar to the Olympics version but with special categories for wheelchairs.

Most of the participants are mentally retarded, but some have other disabilities, such as muscular dystrophy.

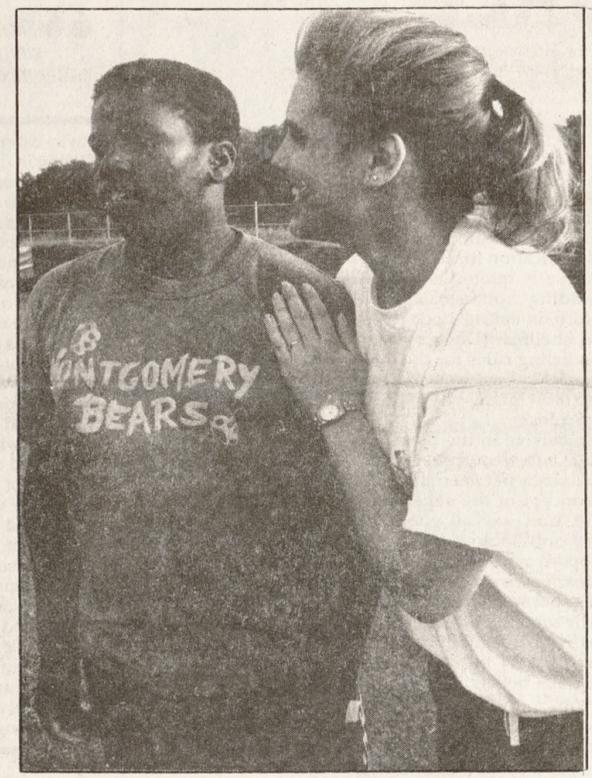
Sar Lewis, pledgmaster of Alpha Phi Omega, said APO supplied many volunteers and coordinated all the other volunteers.

"I've been doing this for three years, and no matter what I'm doing, it just feels good to be helping," Lewis said.

Many of the volunteers served as "buddies" to athletes. Buddies make sure athletes arrive to their events on time, and coach and encourage athletes during the competition.

"You go out there not knowing what to expect, and once you get there and see all the athletes' excitement and emotion, you realize how trivial your own problems are," said Heather Barnes, a buddy for a young boy in a wheelchair suffering from muscular dystrophy.

Another volunteer, Greg



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Jennifer Rieck congratulates Demond Linton, of Montgomery, on his second-place finish in the 400-meter run Friday in the Area 6 Special Olympics. More than 1,000 volunteers helped with the annual event.

Johnson of the Aggie Men's Club, echoed this sentiment.

"You realize how special everything you have is," he said. "When you go there and see kids doing so much with so little, your own problems seem so small."

Becky Parker, assistant field director for track and field, said it is more than the Special Olympics to the children.

"It's like the real Olympics to the special kids," she said.

'Softly call the Muster'

Loved ones pay honor to deceased

By Troy Hall
The Battalion

Family, friends, Aggies and former students mustered around the world Sunday to honor more than 100 deceased comrades, including three former students killed in Operation Desert Storm, during A&M's most solemn tradition — Aggie Muster.

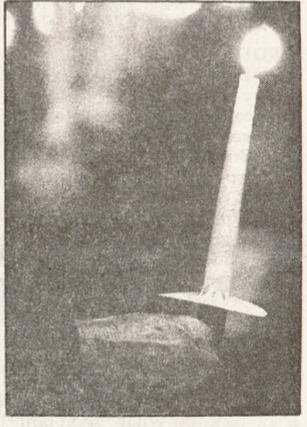
Over 8,000 people attended the largest Aggie Muster, held in G. Rollie White Coliseum at Texas A&M University. But Aggies around the world "celebrated the tradition and shared the spirit" of this year's Muster Day.

Candle-lighting ceremonies were held in over 200 Texas locations, in 43 states, 26 countries and at seven Operation Desert Storm locations, Bill Youngkin, Class of '69 and president of the former student's association, said.

"The tradition of Aggie Muster is our richest, most beautiful, our best," he said while welcoming friends, family and former students to the University.

The Muster tradition began June 26, 1883, as a celebration by alumni to remember all the good times of the past.

Muster originated for the pur-



A comrade lights a candle during Muster in memory of an Aggie.

pose of "living over again our college days, the victories and defeats won and lost upon drill-ground and classroom. Let every alumni answer a roll call," wrote the former students in 1883.

Danica Milios, sub-committee chair for Muster awareness, said the A&M Muster committee is trying to renew the origin of the first Muster.

"Muster is a celebration, a time to get together and renew our faith in A&M," she said.

Adm. Jerome Johnson, Class of '56 and vice chief of naval operations for the U.S. Navy, complemented Aggies serving in Operation Desert Shield and all times of the past.

See Muster/Page 10

Residents rally to save duplexes

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

Residents of the University-owned duplexes adjacent to the Skagg's shopping center rallied Sunday in an effort to bring public awareness to Texas A&M's plan to demolish the duplexes.

Christy Claxton, graduate student in English, said the rally was a chance for the "human side" of the issue to be presented.

Claxton said the residents invited University and state officials to the rally but received no response.

"The University needs to recognize the student factor in this issue," she said.

The residents have been trying to discuss the issue with University officials for three weeks, but officials aren't returning residents' phone calls, Claxton said.

"We were let down that none of them (University officials) could stop by," she said. "We were out here for four hours, and nobody could stop by."

Claxton said she no longer wears her Aggie ring because it

"doesn't represent what the school says it does."

The residents are trying to get the issue on the agenda for the Board of Regents meeting May 17 but have been unsuccessful.

"We just want an opportunity to present our case," Claxton said.

Vicki Smith, a resident whose husband is an electrical engineering major, said she has made at least 40 phone calls to University, city and state officials to make them aware that families and students will be losing their homes.

"The University isn't showing any concern," Smith said. "But it has a responsibility to its students."

In a previous interview, Donald Powell, director of Business Services, said the duplexes were an "embarrassment to the University." Smith said in response, "Some people just moved in during March. Was the University not embarrassed enough then to tear them down?"

Smith said even though there are housing programs to help the residents, the programs are

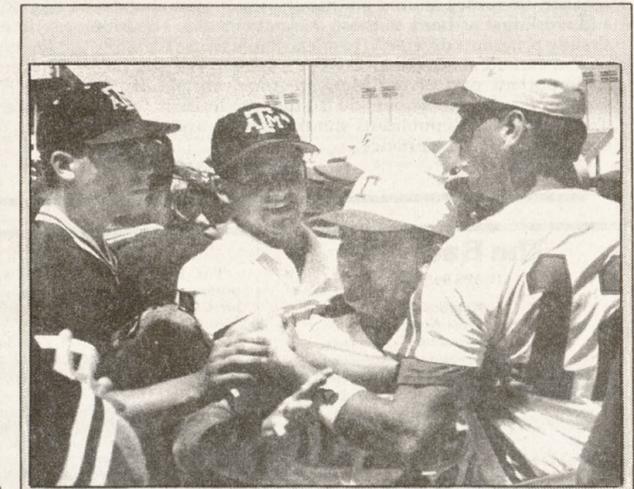


Kris Fredericksen and John Mollenhauer, provide entertainment at an open house to raise awareness about A&M's plans to destroy 55 duplexes.

limited, and they can't help all the families at once.

"And they only offer you trucks to help you move if you're moving into married student housing," she said.

Several residents said rent throughout College Station is increasing, and it may be because the rental agencies know that about 100 families will soon be



HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

AGGIES SWEEP LONGHORNS

Texas coach Tommy Harmon (center) is restrained by Texas A&M and UT players during a fight in the first game of Saturday's baseball double-header at Olsen Field. Both benches cleared during the fight. A&M swept the three-game series over the Longhorns — only the second time UT had been swept since 1972 — and moved into first place in the South-west Conference standings. See page 5.

See Residents/Page 4