

The Battalion (USPS 045 360)

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The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Texas A&M student body, administrators, faculty or the A&M Board of Regents.

Comments, questions or complaints about any of the editorial content of the newspaper should be directed to either associate editor at 845-3313.

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BATTIPS 845-3315

The Battalion encourages its readers to contribute story ideas and suggestions by calling BATTIPS. The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.

ALOT targets Fish SCONA gears up for spring

Program prepares freshman for leadership

By Troy D. Hall
The Battalion

At least one MSC organization is working to end the problem of a lack of freshman involvement in student organizations and to help incoming students get a head start developing leadership skills.

The MSC Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow program (ALOT) offers a unique opportunity to freshmen, says Gayle Bittiker, ALOT assistant director and a senior English major from Fort Worth.

"ALOT offers freshmen the potential to become leaders and make a difference at A&M," she says.

Bittiker adds that because the MSC sponsors most campus organizations, ALOT has an advantage when developing freshmen into leaders.

"We offer freshmen the tools and resources needed to become a leader at A&M," Bittiker says.

Sixty-three freshmen will participate in the program this year. The program is made up of a committee of freshmen led by 18 upperclassmen advisers and three directors.

Freshmen will be divided into 12 different subcommittees. These subcommittees teach the members how committees work through practical experiences, she says.

Freshmen are taught the traditions of A&M and what it means to be an Aggie, as well as leadership qualities that will help them at A&M and even after they graduate, Bittiker says.

"Speakers provide members with insight into leadership skills useful at A&M, Texas or anywhere," she says.

Freshmen participating in the program will meet University officials and other influential leaders while learning the workings of the MSC, she says.

ALOT is open to all freshmen. Applications will be available at MSC Open House on Sunday or at the ALOT informational meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in 601 Rudder.

SCONA gears up for spring

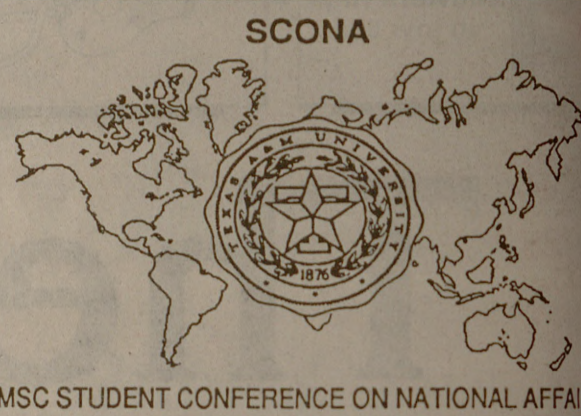
By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

February always seems to come a lot sooner for the members of the Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA) than for other Texas A&M students.

SCONA host only one event a year, but its conference Feb. 12-15 takes a year's worth of work, a SCONA officer said.

Kathy Roller, SCONA's vice-president for public relations, said about 150- to 200 student delegates attend the three-and-a-half day conference.

"The conference is run almost entirely by students," Roller said. "We raise our entire \$90,000 budget ourselves each year. As soon as the conference is over, we start working on the next one. It's such a big event, we really have to focus all of our energy on it."



MSC STUDENT CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Roller said the conference, which centers on one specific topic each year, consists of five presentations, usually including three speeches and two panel discussions.

Committee members then break down into smaller groups for round-table discussions led by selected discussion leaders.

"The leaders are usually from the business world and academia," she said. "They are there to help guide the discussions and ask pertinent questions when they need to be raised."

Next spring's topic will be "The U.S.: Facing the Challenges of a New World."

"We will be discussing the collapse of the Soviet Union and the

end of the Cold War," Roller said. "We will focus on what we need to do to keep the U.S. competitive in education and economics in a new world order."

Roller said the closing speaker for next year's conference will be Fred McClure, President Bush's legislative aide.

"We are chasing down several other options right now also," she said. "But nothing else is definite at this point."

Roller said all of the events open to the public, except for the round-tables.

"We always encourage parents to send their students," she said. "A lot of the speeches con-

See SCONA/Page 1

Attendance at ExCel surges beyond expectations

By Sandra Medina
Special to The Battalion

The turnout at Texas A&M's fourth annual minority program more than surpassed University officials' expectations, said Bonne Bejarano-Sandars, adviser for the program.

More than 300 minority students attended Excellence uniting Culture, Education and Leadership (ExCEL). The program was

planned and run by A&M student leaders. "Together we did it," Bejarano-Sandars said.

The theme for ExCEL - Together We Can - emphasized the importance of establishing a well-organized liaison with all organizations on campus.

ExCEL sponsored sessions designed to heighten incoming minority students' and their parents' awareness on many topics, Bejarano-Sandars said.

Students learned about time and money

management, A&M traditions and high school vs. college expectations.

Parents took crash courses on being a first-time college parent, financial planning and the changes students undergo while in college.

Though many of the programs provided help with problems every college student faces, the minority students also attended courses designed to help them preserve their cultural identity and deal with ethnic conflict, Bejarano-Sandars said.

"ExCEL was a lot of fun," said Grace Saenz, a freshman English major from Grande City. "I met new friends and learned a lot from the workshops and speakers."

Bejarano-Sandars said the work done by the student leaders, paid off.

Special guest speakers were Dr. E. De Gage, provost and senior vice president of A&M, and Dr. John Koldus, A&M's vice president for student services.

Center offers healthful advice

Editor's note: The Battalion will run a health-related column each week provided by the A.P. Beutel Health Education Center.

By Andrea Beshara
Special to The Battalion

With the fall semester finally beginning, everyone is meeting new people, studying for upcoming exams and getting into a new routine for the year.

With all the excitement and rushing around, do not forget to take care of your health. If you eat nutritious meals, take part in regular physical activity, get plenty of rest and control your stress, you will be on your way to a successful semester.

If you do happen to get ill, however, the A.P. Beutel Health Center has some healthful tips so you can

receive the care you need.

If you are ill, first call the health center to make an appointment. The center's hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arrive 20 minutes before your appointment to insure that you see a physician at your scheduled time. If you do not have an appointment, you might have a longer wait.

Every student should have a medical history form on file at the health center. If you are a new student or a transfer student and have not turned in a form, you should do so as soon as possible. Stop by the health center if you need an additional form.

Next, you should prepare for your examination. You and your physician are partners in your health care. Your doctor depends on you as the patient for the basic information about your health.

See Beutel/Page 12

In Advance

Human Resources Dept. will host job fair

Texas A&M's Department of Human Resources will host a "Saturday Morning Special" job fair from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the University's employment center in the Westgate Center, at 4309 Wellborn Road.

Saturday morning specials provide opportunities for individuals who are seeking employment at A&M and are unable to visit the employment center during regular business hours.

Prospective employees attending the job fair will be able to view detailed job descriptions of available positions, complete applications, take typing tests and meet with office interviewers.

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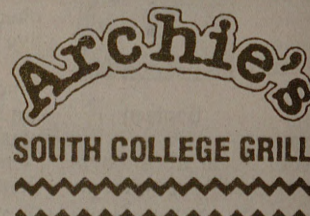
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