



ROBERT J. REED/The Battalion

Academic visions

The Albritton Bell Tower, in the foreground, outlines the Academic Building, which was built on the former site of Old Main, the first building constructed on the Texas A&M campus.

Corps prepares for 14-mile trek

By Gina Howard
The Battalion

Texas A&M Corps of Cadets is set once again to hold the largest student organization fund-raising event in the nation.

The March to the Brazos is an annual event conducted by the Corps to benefit the March of Dimes and will take place April 4. The march will begin at the Quad and travel down Highway 60 to the Brazos River.

Carolyn Fish, March of Dimes

Official calls 'March to the Brazos' largest student fundraiser in U.S.

division director, said it is the single largest student organization fund-raising event in the nation, but the Corps has never received a lot of praise for their work.

"The March to the Brazos has been going on for 15 years," Fish said. "It's been going on quietly, steadily and with little or no fanfare. The students haven't been looking for pats on the back."

The march, which first began in 1911, was originally called the Hike to the Brazos, said Jim Shelton, corps public relations committee chairman.

"It was first used as a military exercise that lasted for three days," said Shelton, a junior biomedical science major. "They tried to put it on April Fools' Day to get the students off campus and

to stop pranks. When World War II began, it stopped."

In 1977, the Corps of Cadets brought back the idea, but decided to affiliate it with the March of Dimes, he said.

"Since 1977 we have raised over \$500,000 for MD, and this year is \$60,000," Shelton said. "So far we have raised \$26,000. I'm sure we will reach our goal."

The March to the Brazos is just a fundraiser, he said.

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Student Senate passes 'Free Speech' bill

By John Lose
The Battalion

In its last session before student elections, the Texas A&M Student Senate last night approved a new clause for the University Rules and Regulations handbook which would prohibit intimidation and harassment in the classroom because of political views.

The "Free Speech" bill is in response to the "political correctness" movement currently affecting some college campuses on the east and west coasts.

"The purpose of the bill is to make the statement that A&M will not tolerate this type of behavior from student groups, faculty or whatever," said senator Ty Clevenger, who intro-

duced the bill.

At a previous session of the Senate, he read aloud examples of students at other universities who have experienced harassment because their actions or views were not considered politically correct by employees of their respective universities.

One example was that of a student who was refused a change in roommates because his disagreement with his current roommate's homosexuality was not considered politically correct by the university he attended.

Senator Hobby Benavides, however, disagreed with the bill, saying it disregards a fundamental of the political correctness movement.

"The idea behind PC is to stop harassment. It is an anti-harassment movement," he said.

"I think it is kind of hypocritical to accuse them of harassment."

In support of the bill, senator Kerdy Brooks said what the bill actually is doing is striking out against people who push their views on others.

"I don't see what's wrong with that," he said.

The bill will now be subject to review by the Texas A&M Faculty Senate and the University administration.

The Senate also approved a list of recommendations outlining lighting problems around campus, including areas not sufficiently lit at night, as well as areas where the lighting needs to be repaired.

The list now will be forwarded to the Texas A&M Physical Plant.

State bans unauthorized roads signs

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

The Texas Department of Transportation is enforcing a state law passed several months ago which prohibits signs along public roads unless they are authorized by state law.

The department always has had some problems with signs because they interfere with highway department signs, said George

Boriskie, maintenance engineer for the Bryan district office of the Department of Transportation.

"It's quite easy to put signs up along the highway directing people to events," he said. "We have to put up signs for safety and directing traffic. People are reading all kinds of stuff, and it's distracting."

Boriskie said the department has just started sending notices to people violating the law, and they will have 30 days to remove the

signs themselves. If they fail to do so, the department will remove the sign and bill the sign owner for labor and transportation costs.

"If people don't comply, law enforcement can issue a citation," he said. "All we (the department) can do is issue a notice."

An offense under the law is a class C misdemeanor, which carries a maximum fine up to \$200.

The law defines a sign as being

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Cepheid Variable sponsors 23rd annual AggieCon science fiction convention

By Sharon Gilmore
The Battalion

Texas A&M students can escape into the world of science fiction and fantasy this weekend at the 23rd annual AggieCon.

"AggieCon is a science fiction fantasy and horror convention that deals with literature,

comics, movies, art and anything that has to do with creativity," said Cynthia Seitz, co-director of this year's AggieCon.

Sponsored by the MSC Cepheid Variable, the convention is the largest of its kind in the Southwestern United States. About 1200 to 2000 people usually attend the event, she said.

Thirty professional guests are

invited, including Julius Schwartz, former editor of the Superman comic books at DC Comics; David Drake, author of Hammer's Slammer's series; Barbara Hambly, author of the *Rainbow Abyss* and *Those Who Hunt the Night*; Real Musgrave, former Texas Renaissance Festival

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