



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

The Alpha Phi Alpha Stepping Team performs at the MSC Open House on Sunday. Stepping was brought to the United States by black servicemen after World War I. Members stress that the stepping shows represent only about 2 percent of what their fraternity does, with service projects representing the other 98 percent.

Lack of profits become Superman's kryptonite

D.C. Comics to kill superhero after more than 50 years

By REAGON CLAMON

Reporter of THE BATTALION

He may be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. He may even be faster than a speeding bullet. But, even the "man of steel" can't battle the almighty dollar and win.

According to sources in D.C. Comics, Superman may have captured his last bad guy. In Issue number 75, they say, Superman will die.

George Comits, manager of B-CS Comics, is skeptical, to say the least. He believes that D.C. Comics is trying to bring interest back to the character because sales of the comic have been slow in the last few years.

"If they truly write a fantastic story of Superman dying while he was saving something, that would be impressive," Comits said. "But at this point I think it's 90 percent gimmick."

The 75th issue of Superman will be specially bagged and will also contain a black arm band with a single white "s".

Comits said orders for advanced copies have been

tremendous.

"I am predicting phenomenal sales for that issue," Comits said. "People who hate Superman — who think he's stupid — are asking me for multiple copies." Comits said. "It's almost like a feeding frenzy of collectors."

Comits said if they kill off Superman, the increasingly violent and senseless comic book industry will lose one of its true heroes.

"I think if he died, a lot of people that didn't realize they cared would miss him," Comits said.

"A lot of people got into comics because it's another way they can dream. A lot of people would realize a piece of that world would be gone."

Comits said he knew at least one person that was very upset over the possibility of the end of the Superman series.

"He said, 'I want you to know that if they kill him I will probably drop all my D.C. comics,'" Comits said.

"And I asked him about Batman, because he really likes Batman, and he said, 'If they kill Superman how do I know they won't go after Batman next?'"

Industrial engineering professor earns honor for A&M department

By BRANDI JORDAN

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Dr. Don T. Phillips, a professor in Texas A&M University's Department of Industrial Engineering has been appointed the inaugural holder of the Chevron Professorship in Engineering.

The endowed position is one of two engineering professorships established at Texas A&M by the Chevron Corp.

"It's quite an honor for me, but it's really more of a departmental honor," Phillips said. "It was a competitive situation. They (Chevron) looked at departments from lots of different colleges before they chose the one department to honor."

The department will use the endowment to augment its travel funds and to buy some new equipment for the labs," said Phillips.

Phillips is also the director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station's (TEES) Program

for Automation in Manufacturing.

Phillips came to Texas A&M in 1975. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees in industrial engineering from the University of Arkansas.

His teaching and research is focused on manufacturing systems engineering and includes manufacturing systems simulation, statistical quality control and applications of operations research.

Phillips has authored or co-authored more than 14 textbooks and monographs, as well as more than 50 research articles.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees and a Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE). Phillips received a David F. Baker distinguished Research Award from IIE.

He is a TEES Fellow and has received the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in Research from the Texas A&M Association of Former Students.

Miss Black and Gold wins national title

By TANYA WILLIAMS

Reporter of THE BATTALION

When Erica Davis applied to be considered as a contestant for the Texas A&M chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha's Miss Black and Gold pageant, she didn't realize that her application would lead to a national title.

"This year has been overwhelming," Davis said. "When I applied for Miss Black and Gold, I was just hoping to be in the contest, not to win it all."

Erica Davis, a sophomore from Houston, won the campus contest in February. She won the state and regional competitions in the spring which carried her to the national competition held in Anaheim, Calif. last month where she won the national title.

Erica considers herself blessed to have been a participant in the pageants and even more blessed that she was allowed to achieve the victories.

"I can only achieve what God allows for me to achieve," Davis said. "But I also believe that faith without work is dead."

With her 19th birthday approaching September 20, Davis was the youngest contestant to win the national title, and the first freshman to win the title here on campus. Being a freshman when she won, Davis felt that just entering the competition would help her develop a place



KARL A. STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Miss Black and Gold, Erica Davis, at a reception last Thursday.

on campus.

"I didn't want to be overwhelmed by the university," Davis said. "It was a good way to make a statement."

Davis considered that entering the pageant would be a good opportunity to get her face around the campus and the community as well as use a gown that she had previously used in a pageant.

"I already had a gown I used

in the Miss Black Houston Metroplex pageant," Davis said. "And it was expensive."

Being a journalism major, Davis felt that the character improvements and networking she was able to do through all four pageants was valuable to her and her career plans as a broadcast journalist.

"Being in journalism, pageantry helps with your air and attitude," Davis said. "Both

"I can only achieve what God allows for me to achieve. But I also believe that faith without work is dead."

-Erica Davis, Miss Black and Gold

things are necessary to come across on television well."

In between regional and national competition, Davis participated in two other pageants, Miss Black Houston Metroplex and Miss Black Texas where she placed 1st runner-up winning a \$1,000 scholarship and 2nd runner-up, respectively.

"Participating in each of these pageants helped me prepare for nationals," Davis said. "As well as participation in the state and regional Black and Gold pageants helped me prepare for the Houston and Texas pageants."

Through her wins, Davis has had the opportunity to attend Athletes for Athletes Golf Tournament and other community functions as a guest and role model.

Davis hopes her wins encourage freshmen on this campus as well as other students to take steps to succeed.

"Freshmen shouldn't let anyone discourage them," Davis said. "If they take pertinent steps toward their goals, classification or age has no bearing on ability."

Graduate student dies of tumor

29-year-old Yong-Hun Lee from Seoul, Korea, died Aug. 31 of a brain tumor. Lee was a graduate student working toward his Ph.D. in electrical engineering.

The Battalion

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 776-1417

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Hope to *ski* you at our informational meeting

Tuesday Sept. 8th
 8:30 p.m.

Rm. 301 Rudder Tower

for more information please call

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