

The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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Father-son duo to lead Aggie reunion band

By CHERYL HELLER
Reporter of THE BATTALION

A father-son drum major team will lead the Texas Aggie Band Association's Reunion Band in its annual performance during this Saturday's football game against Tulsa at Kyle Field.

Richard Alexander of the Texas A&M University Class of '65 and Chris, Class of '91, will lead more than 150 members of the reunion band when they march from the Quadrangle down Joe Routh Blvd. to Kyle Field and around the track to perform from the stands.

Jonathan Alexander, Class of '93, will perform with the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band as a member of

the bugle rank.

The reunion band, which represents band members from 61 of the 98 years of the Aggie Band's history, and will include a performance from H. Durwood Thompson, Class of '32, will perform the Aggie War Hymn, the Ballad of the Green Berets, and probably The Noble Men of Kyle, according to reunion band drum major Chris Alexander.

The reunion band has performed during the annual reunion of the Texas Aggie Band Association every two years from 1983 to 1987, and every year since then. This year's band will have a new feature.

"The reunion band doesn't have a bugle rank like the Aggie

Band," said Dr. Donald Powell, vice-president and acting executive secretary of the Texas Aggie Band Association. "I wanted this year's reunion bugle rank to really stand out.

"This year I had special bugle banners made in the style of the bugle banners of the 1940s for the reunion band's bugles. They're brand new and haven't been unveiled yet, and should really be an attraction to the band."

The band association's 1,300 members and guests will meet for a luncheon at Duncan Dining Hall Saturday at 11 a.m. when Texas A&M President William H. Mobley and Coach R.C. Slocum will speak to the group.

After the luncheon, reunion

band members will meet outside the E.V. Adams Band Hall for a rehearsal.

"It's surprising to see how well the reunion band members play after only about an hour of rehearsal," Powell said, "but anyone who has ever been a Texas Aggie Band member never really forgets how to perform."

Powell believes that the band members who return to play for the reunion have a lot of pride in the band due in part to the close friendships formed while attending A&M.

"The Texas Aggie Band is different than the bands at other colleges," Powell said. "Our band members live together, as opposed to members at other col-

leges, and therefore we have a camaraderie that other colleges don't possess."

Powell said that the Alexander father-son team isn't all that unusual for the reunion band.

"We have a lot of second- and third-generation reunion band members," Powell said.

"The Alexanders aren't the only family group we have playing in the band this year," he said. "I think the amount of family members we have playing in the band shows the pride that the band members possess."

Chris Alexander isn't sure how he and his dad were chosen as drum majors for the reunion band.

"I think it's because of

Jonathan," Chris said.

"When I was a senior in 1990-91, my dad was one of the drum majors for the reunion band, and I think the Association wanted to give us a chance to perform together during Jonathan's last year," Chris said.

The reunion band's performance is the most visible part of the Texas Aggie Band Association's annual reunion. Reunion events will begin Friday with registration and a reception in Room 201 of the Memorial Student Center.

Registration continues Saturday morning outside the E.V. Adams Band Hall, and events continue with the luncheon at 11 a.m. in Duncan Dining Hall.

Positions open for freshmen

Class of '96 elections start Monday

By MARK EVANS
Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

Six class council and seven Student Senate positions will be up for grabs as registration for freshmen elections opens Monday.

Registration for the Class of '96 officers and freshman senators will take place Sept. 14-18. Election Commission co-chairman Michelle Cook expects 120-125 students to sign-up as candidates. Last year, approximately 100 freshmen participated.

"We're hoping that we got the word across to people a little bit better this year," she said.

Serving on class council or in the Senate offers freshmen networking opportunities among current student leaders as well as exposure to leadership skills which can be used throughout life, Cook said.

Michelle Campbell, Election Commission co-chairman, agrees.

"These kind of leadership roles gear them (freshmen) for the future," Campbell said. "It's a great opportunity for the freshmen."

"A key thing we need to do with the freshmen is get them involved because they're the leaders of this university in the future."

As a member of the class council, freshmen will work on the class ball, a freshman awareness week and service projects. Freshman senators will have a voice in the goings-on at A&M and the areas in which Student Government is involved.

Though the primary role of freshmen is one of learning the ropes and watching how things are done, Campbell said.

"They're in a learning stage at the freshman level," she said. "Their freshman year is more of an opportunity for them to develop leadership skills. Their duties will grow as the years pass."

"Being a member of the Senate is just a great way to get involved with the whole university," Cook said.

Freshmen can register to run for office in room 139 of the Student Services Building across from Rudder Tower between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. There is a small filing fee to offset the costs of running the election.

In addition, candidates must obtain student signatures in order to be placed on the ballot. The number of signatures needed ranges from 25-100, depending on the office for which the student is running.



JEN LOCKARD/The Battalion

Chris Craig, a freshman biomedical science major, gives Wendi Seitchik, a freshman biology major, information on the A&M skydiving club. The club meets every Saturday and Sunday at Colter Field.

Institute supports multiculturalism

By TANYA WILLIAMS
Reporter of The Battalion

As we approach the 21st century, the changes in demographics include the increase of various ethnic groups. And according to S.T.E.P. O.N.E., for students to be fully prepared for the workforce, it is important for them to relate to other cultures and ethnic groups as well as understand them.

The S.T.E.P. O.N.E. Institute, Starting to Eliminate Prejudice while Offering New Experiences, wants to assist students in doing so.

S.T.E.P. O.N.E., formerly R.A.P. - Racial Awareness Program, lists its purpose as the need to increase interaction between students from diverse ethnic backgrounds while decreasing myths and stereotypes through awareness and education.

The institute, which is sponsored by the Department of Multicultural Services, is operated entirely by students.

In the spring of 1989, the Department of Multicultural Services felt a program should exist for students of different ethnic backgrounds to assemble and address racial and ethnic concerns.

In the fall of 1991, R.A.P. was converted to S.T.E.P. O.N.E. to further explain the program's goals.

The institute includes five training sessions including

speakers, games, and discussions over a ten week period, with one session every other Sunday in the University Center Complex. The first one will be held this Sunday, Sept. 13.

"This will be a positive experience for students to learn about one another in a safe and neutral environment," said Dr. Emily Santiago, adviser to the program.

Some of the topics that will be discussed include awareness of other cultures, prejudice, and the University's stance on cultural issues.

The executive director, Patricia Hollis, hopes that students will gain useful information from the institute.

"S.T.E.P. O.N.E. should have a positive affect on all of its participants,"

Hollis said. "Students will benefit by gaining knowledge." Hollis also says such a program is necessary on college campuses.

"An organization such as S.T.E.P. O.N.E. is necessary because it allows for diversity at Texas A&M," Hollis said. "It indicates that we are a world-class institution that is willing to explore different cultural issues."

There are still spaces available to take part in the program and if interested, students should call the Department of Multicultural Services at 845-4551, or stop by Room 137 in the Memorial Student Center.

Bush's economic plan offers tax reduction

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — President Bush on Thursday laid out a repackaged economic manifesto less

than two months before Election Day, suggesting a 1 percent across-the-board tax cut would be possible if Congress followed his spending recommendations.

Bush also proposed cutting the pay of federal officials making over \$75,000 a year by 5 percent, saying "Americans have tightened their belts and so should better-paid federal workers."

And he promised to slash spending at the White House by a third. Bush set as "a grand goal" the nearly doubling of the nation's \$6 trillion economy, to \$10 trillion, "by the early years of the next century."

"I know that times have been difficult, very

difficult, for many Americans," Bush told the Detroit Economic Club.

He suggested his "agenda for change" was superior to that of Democratic challenger Bill Clinton.

"The world that we knew as children, no matter your age, will never be the same," Bush said. "America will change. How it will change will soon be decided."

During a question-and-answer period, he said he would debate Clinton although the Bush campaign so far has refused to accept a bipartisan committee's proposal for three presidential debates.

"I'm not a professional debater. I'm not an Oxford man," chuckled the president. He gently mocked Clinton's debating style, saying, "I think he is good at that. I mean, he's got more statistics than there are problems."

Bush's economic speech was accompanied by release of a 29-page booklet entitled "Agenda for American Renewal." The booklet was to be offered free to Americans by Bush in a five-minute campaign ad focusing on the economy.



Bush

Off-Campus Aggies plan social

JULI PHILLIPS
Reporter of THE BATTALION

The Off-Campus Aggies will sponsor a welcoming party at the Cain pool this Sunday from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., hoping to get off-campus students off to a semester start in a socially, relaxing setting.

Teri Heimer, OCA's social affairs director, said the party is aimed at all off-campus students, and is a good ice-breaker for freshman and transfer students.

"Many of the off-campus stu-

dents, especially transfer and freshmen students, need this type of opportunity to meet people," Heimer said. "It's harder for off-campus students to meet people since they can't just walk across a hall."

Heimer said the OCA has abandoned their usual Fajita Fest for this year in favor of this party because the pool party offers more activities in which the students can involve themselves, and meet more people.

Warren Talbot, president of OCA, said OCA is more than just

a social organization, although a lot of the activities the organization takes part in are social.

Since its inception in the spring of 1979, OCA has made it a tradition to take part in the Aggie Blood Drive, Big Event, food drives, Special Olympics, Big Brother and Big Sister programs for elementary school children, and lobbying for improved apartment conditions.

The organization also puts together intramural teams and a haunted house. They have socials before home football games

and also help build Bonfire.

"Mardi Gras will also be a big party we will continue with this year," Talbot said.

A live band will provide entertainment, and swimming, volleyball are other activities the OCA officers have planned during the pool party.

Refreshments and hamburgers will be served for a \$5 donation.

For more information visit the OCA office in the Student Services Building, Suite 130, or call 845-0688.