

The Battalion

Vol. 92 No. 55 (10 pages)

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

Friday, November 13, 1992

Class of '93 hopes to change Elephant Walk

Senior officers seek return to solemn format of 'dying' tradition

By CHERYL HELLER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Class of '93 hopes to change this year's Elephant Walk from the egg-throwing, whipped cream-spraying food fight it has become in recent years.

"In the distant past, Elephant Walk was a solemn tradition and a special time for the seniors, but in the last 10 years it has become a big brawl," said Jennifer Cheatham, president of the Class of '93. "Current students think of Elephant Walk as a joke, but it shouldn't be."

In the past few years, Elephant Walk has damaged the campus with food, mud fights and fights

between the juniors and seniors.

Cheatham and Mecca Howard, Class of '93 special activities chair, said they hope the original tradition of Elephant Walk will be re-

clean."

"A lot of people don't think about it, but in trying to preserve the tradition they've ruined it," Cheatham said.

"In the distant past, Elephant Walk was a solemn tradition and a special time for the seniors, but in the last 10 years it has become a big brawl."

- Jennifer Cheatham, president, Class of '93

stored this year.

The class is distributing fliers and pamphlets to educate students about the tradition, and the slogan for this year's Walk is "Preserve the tradition - keep it

The Class of '92 did clean up Elephant Walk somewhat, and the administration was pleased with the progress, Howard said.

"They (the administration) think we're on the right track, and

we want to stay on that track," she said. "We want to return Elephant Walk to the solemn tradition it used to be."

Both Cheatham and Howard said they feel that Texas A&M students should respect Elephant Walk as a senior tradition.

"We want the seniors to be respected, and we want a chance to have our own tradition," Cheatham said.

"We want the juniors and upperclassmen to respect our tradition, because they'll have their chance later," Howard said.

This year, the juniors will hold their own activities during Elephant Walk to prevent tension between the juniors and seniors, Howard said.



FILE PHOTO/The Battalion

Over the years, Elephant Walk has evolved into a food fight. The Class of '93 hopes to return the tradition to its original solemnity.

Safe sex: Not an American practice

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Americans are not practicing "safe sex," leaving millions at risk of infection by the AIDS virus, according to authors of the largest national sexual survey in more than 40 years.

The survey results, to be published Friday in the journal *Science*, indicate that heterosexual Americans are not taking seriously the risk of AIDS and that the vast majority with multiple partners are engaging in sexual intercourse without condoms.

AIDS has been most prevalent in the United States among homosexuals and intravenous drug users. But Joseph Catania, a University of California, San Francisco researcher and an author of the study, said that with so many people not using condoms or other protection, "it is just a matter of time before it will spread widely into the heterosexual community."

For the survey, more than 10,000 Americans were questioned by telephone about their sexual practices. Respondents were selected by a random digit dialing system and represented people between the ages of 18 and 75, married and single, living in major cities and in rural areas.

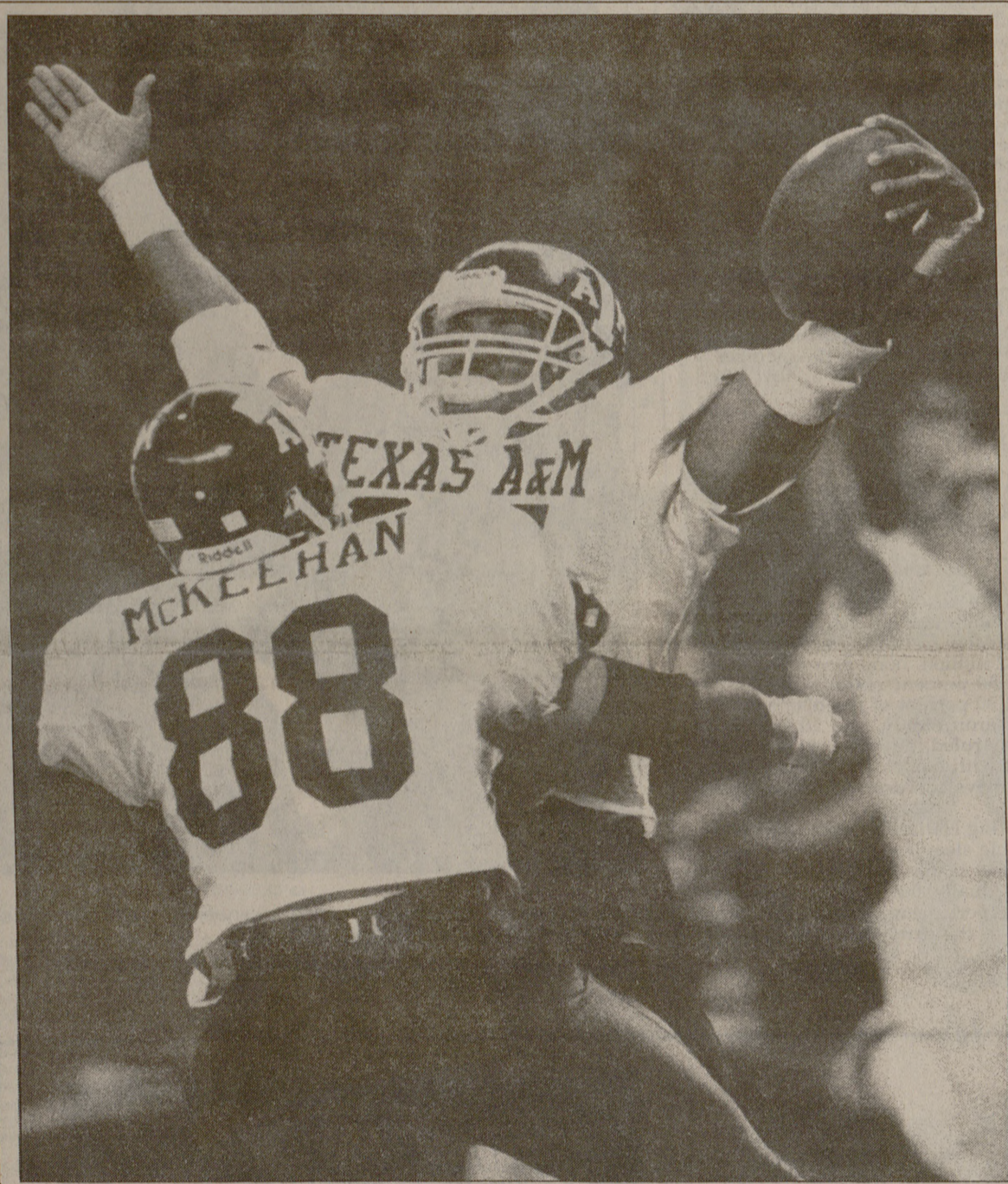
Among the findings:

- Seven percent of respondents said they had had multiple sex partners in the previous year. Ten percent of those with added AIDS risk factors said they had had multiple partners.

- Among heterosexual adults with two or more sex partners in the last five years, 31 percent were at some level of risk of contracting the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, which causes AIDS.
- Among those with multiple sex partners, 17 percent used condoms all of the time. Among those with high risk sexual partners, the condom use was only 13 percent.

- People with multiple sexual partners are more likely to be male, African-American or white (in comparison to Hispanic), unmarried, highly educated and young adults. Whites and blacks were essentially the same in the number of sexual partners.

- Women and low-income people were most likely to have risky sexual partners and about 71 percent of those with such partners reported not using condoms.



KARL A. STOLLEIS/The Battalion

A&M running back Greg Hill celebrates his 2nd 30 win over U of H in the Astrodome Thursday touchdown with James McKeenan in A&M's 38- night. See Page 7 for complete game coverage.

A&M students favor franchises

By BRANDI JORDAN

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Nearly half of Texas A&M students find the idea of a food court with brand-name, or franchise restaurants, "very favorable," according to a survey commissioned by the Office of Finance and Administration.

Mary Miller, assistant to Finance and Administration Vice President Robert Smith, told the Student Senate Wednesday that the proposed privatized food court would not have a negative impact on food services at A&M.

"We don't want a food court versus food services," Miller said. "I guarantee them (food services) that we're only talking about Sbsa Underground, and that's all."

Miller said food services personnel had objected to the food court proposal because they were poorly informed and unsure of the impact it would have on food service's business.

"We feel it's just moving business from one part of the opera-

tions to another part of the operations," she said. "If you had a monopoly, you'd be scared of change, too."

According to the survey, 38 percent of students would choose to have a food court instead of existing facilities, 13 percent would choose to keep the present food services and 26 percent would choose to have both.

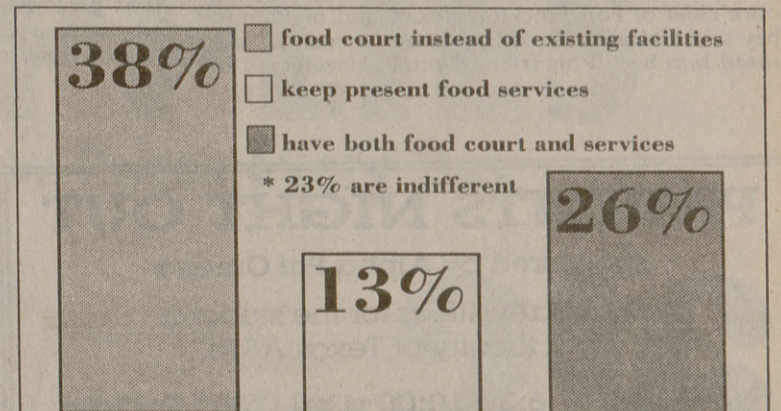
Competition among the various businesses will help to keep prices reasonable, Miller said.

"We assume the market will drive the prices," Miller said. "If they (the food court) jack up their prices, people won't shop there."

Although 42 percent of the students surveyed expressed fears that a privately-owned food court will lead to total privatization of food services on campus, Miller said the students themselves — not the administration — will make that decision.

"If all of the students prefer to eat there (at the food court) and food services goes out of business, then that's because of choice," Miller said.

WHAT TEXAS A&M STUDENTS ARE IN FAVOR...



Survey by Texas A&M's Office of Finance and Administration

ANAS BEN-MUSA/The Battalion

United States ranks high in violence, study shows

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The United States leads industrialized nations in murders, sexual assaults and other attacks, and the fear of violence has permeated American life, the authors of a new study say.

The specter of violence has degraded American life, left people afraid to walk their neighbor-

hoods at night, put children in danger in school and caused many to barricade themselves behind locked doors, according to a report released Thursday by the National Research Council.

The United States, the study found, is generally more violent than other societies.

Despite this, the study said U.S. violence is not the worst it has

ever been. The homicide rate peaked in the early 1930s and then dropped for the next 30 years, the study said. The rate rose again between 1979 and 1981, then declined, only to rise again in the late 1980s.

Both victims and perpetrators of violent crime are more likely to be male and come from ethnic or racial minorities, the study said. The most likely to commit vio-

lence are men in the age range of 25 to 29. In the majority of assaults, rapes and homicides, the perpetrator was an acquaintance of the victim.

Homicide rates are five times higher among blacks than among whites, and the rate among Native Americans is almost double that of the rest of the population.

Victims most often are minori-

ties, with blacks 41 percent and Hispanics 32 percent more likely to be victims than are whites.

The cost to society of violence is high, the report said. It estimated these average costs per violent incident: rape, \$54,000; robbery, \$19,200, and assault, \$16,000. This loss includes a value given to pain, suffering, psychological damage and the loss in quality of life.

Universities handle multiculturalism differently

This is the last in a four-part series that examines the possibilities of a required multicultural curriculum and opinions of people on the University campus. The series will focus on faculty and student opinions regarding multiculturalism at Texas A&M as well as multiculturalism on other university campuses.

By TANYA WILLIAMS

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University is not alone in experiencing insensitive actions against minorities, such as the incident A&M recently experienced involving a fraternity theme party which depicted African-Americans negatively.

Across the nation, other universities have experienced the same insensitivity against minorities. But, these universities have already taken steps to make students more aware of sensitivity issues involving other races.

Stanford University, in California, offers an American Studies program in its Department of Humanities which requires students to take a course in race and ethnicity. The class that students are required to take,

"Race and Ethnicity in the American Experience," is listed in the catalog as "required by all majors" but does not

"I think it would be to the best interest to the University, and to the students, that we educate to have a required multicultural course as well as to infuse multiculturalism throughout the regular academic course requirement for particular majors."

- Kevin Carreathers, director Department of Multicultural Services

count towards a student's major.

The class focuses on "how factors of race and ethnicity influenced the Ameri-

can experience, and how prevailing attitudes about racial and ethnic groups over time have affected the historical and contemporary reality of the nation's major minority populations."

Other universities have dealt with the multicultural question in similar ways. Syracuse University offers a course entitled, "Ethnic Minorities/Intergroup Relationships" as a part of its College of Arts and Sciences

Program. New York University offers a similar program as a part of its Peace and Global studies minor.

But how close is Texas A&M to getting a curriculum change that includes multiculturalism?

Pierce Cantrell, chair of the curriculum oversight committee of the A&M's Faculty Senate, said that the committee sent out a survey last spring to take recommendations for establishing a multicultural curriculum.

The survey was sent to the different colleges at A&M and requested opinions on the addition of a multicultural class as recommended by the Committee for a