

The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

Friday, November 20, 1992

Student leaders hold forum

PTTS allegations center of attention in discussion

By JULIE CHELKOWSKI

Reporter for THE BATTALION

Student Body President Steve Beller and other student leaders met Thursday night to discuss problems around campus at a presidential forum.

Much of the discussion focused on allegations made against A&M's Parking Transit and Traffic Services for allegedly charging the



Beller

wrong people for tickets. The parking situation is not as bad as some students might think, one student senator said.

The facts (as reported in The Battalion) were misconstrued and incomplete, Student Senator Jeff Erler said.

"That's why there's been such a big publicity push lately," Erler said. "Basically that whole story was a miscommunication of the facts."

Erler said parking at A&M is actually better than at most schools around the country with 23,000 parking spaces — more than any university in the United States.

With all of the negative publicity some people don't recognize the positive efforts PTTS is making to safeguard students and efforts, he said.

PTTS tries to cross-check information before sending tickets to an individual and parking officials are making more of an effort to find the owner of an illegally parked vehicle before

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A&M changes Elephant Walk

University tries to clean up tradition

By CHERYL HELLER

Reporter for THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University Classes of '93 and '94 are combining their efforts to keep this year's Elephant Walk under control.

In recent years, Elephant Walk has caused damage to student property, led to fighting between students, and left garbage and debris in its wake.

Class members from the Classes of '93 and '94 are

working to preserve the tradition of Elephant Walk, which has deteriorated in recent years from a special tradition for seniors to a food fight and brawl for juniors and undergrads.

In an effort to restore solemnity to the tradition, the junior class has been planning activities to keep juniors occupied during Elephant Walk on Mon-

day. "We're going to have a yell practice at bonfire site, with the two junior yell leaders, Mark Rollins and Steve Scanlon, leading from stack," said Chad King, president of the Class of '94. "We'll also give the juniors a chance to have their picture taken with the elephants."

From the bonfire site, the juniors will head to Kyle Field and form a human '94 on the field.

"Our main purpose is to keep Elephant Walk clean while at the same time preserving class unity."

- Chad King, president, Class of '94

clean while at the same time preserving class unity," King said.

The juniors have been working closely with the seniors to get Elephant Walk back to the solemn tradition it used to be, said Elizabeth Burns, service chair for the Class of '94.

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Stroke kills president's mother

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENWICH, Conn. — Dorothy Bush, a senator's wife who taught her son George with "generous measures of both love and discipline" and lived to see him elected to the White House, died Thursday, the White House said. She was 91.

Mrs. Bush, who had suffered a stroke, died shortly after 5 p.m. at the family home here, said spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. President Bush had flown here from Washington on Thursday morning but was back in the Capitol when his mother died.

After her son was elected in 1988, Mrs. Bush said: "I've been ready to have him be president, since he chose to work for it, but I pray to God for him because it's the toughest job in the world."

President Bush said his mother and father, the late Sen. Prescott Bush, were the most important people in his life. His 1987 autobiography, "Looking Forward," is dedicated to both parents.

"They believed in an old-fashioned way of bring up the family — generous measures of both love and discipline," he wrote.

"Dad taught about us about duty and service," Bush wrote. "Mother taught us about dealing with life on a personal basis, relating to other people."

Fitzwater said private funeral services for Mrs. Bush will be held Monday morning in Greenwich. The president will attend.

U.N. to halt shipments to Liberian insurgents

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council on Thursday authorized the use of force to cut off shipments of military supplies to rebel fighters in the war-ravaged West African nation of Liberia.

In a unanimous vote, the 15-member council approved an embargo under the same U.N. provisions used to punish Yugoslavia and Iraq. The purpose of the measure is to bolster efforts by a seven-nation West African force to defeat guerrilla leader Charles Taylor.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed or have starved

to death in Liberia since Taylor invaded from Ivory Coast in December 1989.

The resolution calls for all belligerents in Liberia to observe a cease-fire and honor a peace process leading to disarmament and free elections for a new government.

The resolution is the first major U.N. effort to promote peacekeeping by a regional organization.

The U.N. system has been overtaxed by huge commitments to peacekeeping in Cambodia and former Yugoslavia, and is seeking ways to shift some of the burden. Western governments fear being drawn into the Liberian conflict.

UH researchers praise Malcolm X film

'X' may have powerful effect

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — The movie "Malcolm X" may have a powerful effect on black Americans' attitudes toward government and political activism, two University of Houston researchers say.

Political science professor Christian Davenport and doctoral candidate Darren Davis are conducting a survey on the film's impact. They hypothesize that blacks who are exposed to Malcolm X's philosophies through the movie will become more politically aware, Davis said Wednesday.

"I think the movie has a great potential to increase the self-esteem among African-Americans, increase racial solidarity and racial consciousness. And I think on a broader level, the movie will also start very significant discussions about democratic principles, basic underlying principles upon which the United States was founded," Davis said.

"I think people will trust government less, they will become more cynical about government and what government can do for them," he said. "I also



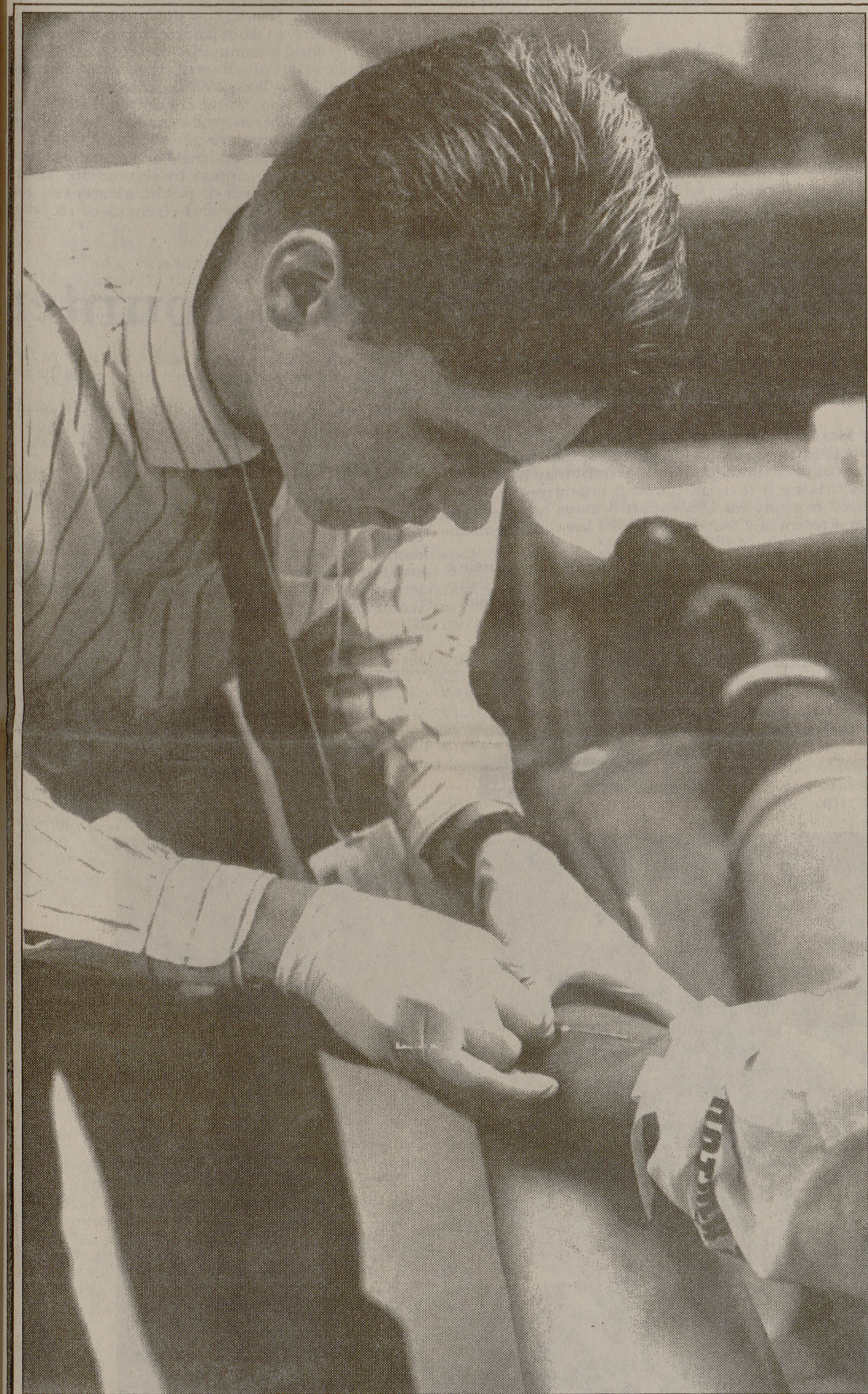
Denzel Washington as Malcolm X

feel that African-Americans will feel they have a greater stake in the political system and it is within their power to impact change."

Director Spike Lee's film, which opened Wednesday at 1,200 theaters nationwide, is based on "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" by Alex Haley.

It follows Malcolm X's evolution from a drug abuser, petty thief and convict into a disciple of the

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RANDY NICHOLS/The Battalion

Chris Wright, a phlebotomist working for the Wadley Blood Center, starts to draw blood from Brian Smith, a sophomore microbiology major from Houston, Thursday afternoon. The blood drive will continue through Friday at 4 p.m. with donation centers at Sbis, the Commons and the MSC. Donations for the blood drive are currently lower than usual.

Cartoon, letter upset lawmaker

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — A lawmaker said Thursday he got a threatening letter and was the object of a racist cartoon in the Texas A&M University student newspaper after urging strong action against a fraternity whose pledges wore blackface at a party.

Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, who is black, gave reporters copies of a cartoon that ran in The Battalion portraying him as a small, black, yapping dog.

Atlantis Tillman, editor-in-chief of The Battalion, said the cartoon wasn't intended to be racist. After what she described as a "friendly" meeting with Texas A&M President William Mobley, she said the newspaper would invite Wilson to express his views on the editorial

page. Mobley called the cartoon "inappropriate and subject to misinterpretation" in a memo to Tillman.

"To imply that a state representative does not have the right and responsibility to comment on any activity on a public university campus is totally misguided," he said.

At a Capitol news conference, Wilson also distributed copies of a letter addressed to him that was signed only, "Your friends at Texas A&M."

The letter, which he said he received in the mail with a copy of the cartoon, said in part, "As this cartoon . . . demonstrates, you are nothing but a little black dog yelping at our heels. If you want a war, we'll give you one that you

won't believe."

Wilson said he considered the letter a threat. He said he would give a copy to the Texas A&M police in Bryan-College Station, and likely to the FBI and Texas Department of Public Safety.

He said he also has asked Speaker Gib Lewis for permission to address the House on the issue Monday. Such personal privilege speeches are rare, and Wilson said he's never requested one before in his 15 years in the House.

"This is very disturbing to me," Wilson said.

Wilson said he wouldn't have wanted the cartoon censored, but that he considered it a racial slur condoning what happened at the fraternity party.

Pledges at the Oct. 3 "jungle" theme party conducted by Sigma

Alpha Epsilon wore blackface paint and grass skirts. They were chased by fraternity members in hunting garb. The fraternity president has apologized and said members "did not intend to have a racially motivated party."

Tillman said the cartoon accompanied a newspaper editorial supporting the way the university handled the incident. She said the newspaper did not support the "jungle" theme party.

University officials approved sanctions including \$1,000 in fines and disciplinary probation for the fraternity, along with a ban on social events by the fraternity with sororities in 1993. The fine money will be used to create an educational seminar on cultural sensi-

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You Won't Want To Miss It

Pick one up Saturday, November 21