

# The Battalion

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## Unity Fest '93 urges alternative to KKK

By GINA HOWARD

The Battalion

Ten Texas A&M University student organizations are banding together to provide the community with an alternative to protesting the local Ku Klux Klan rally April 24.

Whoopstock Unity Fest '93 is a non-discriminatory event to keep people away from the rally, said Michael Deen, co-coordinator of the festival.

"When we read the KKK was coming to town, we realized the need for an alternative event to celebrate the unity of Bryan-College Station and A&M," Deen said. "We wanted to put on an event everyone could participate in regardless of religion, sex or color. The festival is for all people."

He said he hopes people participate in Whoopstock to keep publicity away from the Klan rally.

"We don't want to see anyone protest because it would only give them publicity they don't deserve," Deen said. "Some groups who planned to protest are now part of the Unity Festival."

Even if people are offended and angry at the Klan's activities, the best protest is to not go to the rally, he said.

"We want to show the Klan the Aggie Spirit," Deen said.

The festival will provide music and entertainment at no charge. Deen said financial support will come from Texas A&M's student services department and donations.

Entertainment will include local bands, and possibly celebrities, but nothing has been confirmed yet. The yell leaders will be on hand to conduct yell practice.

The Department of Food Services will provide food at a minimal cost.

"For somewhere around a buck you will be able to buy a coke and a hot dog," Deen said.

Ric Gonzalez, MSC Black Awareness Committee member, said he would like to see the festival continued in the future.

"This (the Klan rally) may be the reason to unify, but we need to keep it going and show we don't need a reason to come together," Gonzalez said.

Deen said as many as 2,000 people are expected to attend.

Student organizations sponsoring the program include Student Government Association, Interfraternity Council, MSC Black Awareness Committee, Off Campus Aggies, NAACP, Pan-Hellenic Council, Panhellenic Council, Fish Camp, and University Awareness for Cultural Togetherness (U-ACT).

Whoopstock Unity Fest '93 will be April 24 from noon to 5 p.m. on the Polo Fields.

## NOW rally stresses campus safety

By JULIE CHELKOWSKI

The Battalion

Texas A&M's chapter of the National Organization for Women banded together with other students Wednesday night to promote a safer campus for women and children during the second annual Take Back the Night rally.

Poor weather prevented a high turnout, but it did not stop NOW from communicating its message - violence against women is a serious problem, and it needs to stop.

Jennifer Adams, NOW treasurer, said the purpose of the annual

rally is to raise awareness that violence is a problem on campus, and help is available for victims.

"People aren't aware that rapes occur on campus," she said.

NOW and the Brazos Valley Rape Crisis Center submitted a list of suggestions to A&M officials for increasing campus safety. The list included increased lighting, increased publicity for escort services and the rape crisis center, convenient night parking for women, and rape awareness forums for all incoming freshmen.

"These freshman girls are sitting ducks," said Dr. Wendy Stock, professor of psychology

and NOW adviser. "They come to school, go to a party, get drunk, and then get raped."

The rally featured a local folk singer, Stacy Lieder, who wrote a song specifically for the Take Back the Night and summarized the goal of the rally with the following passage: "Daughters of the night, born in the shadows of the night. Join your hands and show your might for now is the time to Take Back the Night."

Take Back the Night began in the late 1970s at the University of California and continues today nationwide sponsored by various feminist groups.

Jim Kuboviak, Bryan county attorney, praised Take Back the Night and other programs like it because they have a positive impact. He said that even though reports to the Bryan Police of family violence have increased from 500 in 1985 to 666 in 1992, it does not mean that violence has increased - just awareness.

"It is no worse than it has ever been, it's things like this that help to educate people about violence," Kuboviak said.

Stock presented an explicit slide show of pornography and

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## Rain or shine?



RICHARD DIXON/The Battalion

Students try to keep dry Wednesday afternoon outside of Harrington Education Center. About 10 minutes later the sun was shining and the rain had quit. Much of Texas was under a tornado watch

Wednesday afternoon and night, but the heaviest storms moved east into Louisiana late in the afternoon. The line of thunderstorms was associated with a cold front that was moving across the region.

## Communication breakdown

## Linguistic barriers hurt education, dean says

By STEPHANIE PATTILLO

The Battalion

One of the greatest obstacles to learning in the classroom is a lack of communication between students and instructors - especially foreign instructors, said Dr. William Perry, dean of faculties and associate provost Tuesday.

But although Texas A&M has taken measures to alleviate this problem, it still exists.

Dr. John J. Koldus III, vice president of student services, frequently holds student luncheons to discuss student concerns.

"I ask students if they could change one thing about Texas A&M, what would it be," Koldus said. "Often the concern of a great number of students is the difficulty of understanding some members of the faculty."

Brian Walker, Student Senate speaker and student body president-elect said the fact that professors are foreign is not the problem. "A lot of students have voiced concern when they have a professor whose English isn't easily understood," he said.

But, Larry Greshom, director for the Center for Teaching Enhancement, said not all classroom

communication problems are language differences, some may be traced back to cultural differences.

"In many foreign countries the profs are seen as gods," he said. "Here in America, students don't buy that. Foreign professors demand more respect than the A&M student population gives them."

To give students an opportunity to voice their concerns and complaints about their instructors, the Classroom Communication Enhancement Program was formed more than three years ago.

Dr. E. Dean Gage, senior vice president and provost, said the program was started to investigate and handle scattered complaints among students. Fewer than 10 students register complaints each term about their instructors because of communication problems, he said.

"Rather than deal with the rumor, we decided to put in place a procedure in which legitimate concerns could be expressed by students and addressed by the University," Gage said.

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## Mobley to make A&M smoke-free by summer

By GINA HOWARD

The Battalion

Texas A&M University will become a smoke-free campus this summer under the order of University President Dr. William Mobley.

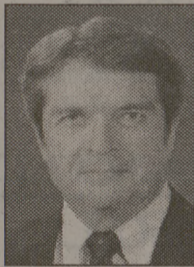
Dr. E. Dean Gage, senior vice president and provost, said Mobley's order is an extension of current University guidelines.

"A&M is already an almost smoke-free campus," Gage said. "This will just carry it a little further as is being done in many other cases throughout the country."

Last week, Mobley released a memorandum outlining extended restrictions on A&M's present smoking policy, including a smoking ban inside all University facilities and vehicles. The prohibition extends to all public seating in outdoor arenas such as Kyle Field and Olsen Field.

The order, which originated in the Faculty Senate, will go into effect June 1.

In a survey requested by Mobley in January, building proctors



Gage

reported 145 of 190 buildings are presently smoke-free. Thirty-three percent permit smoking in designated areas only, and 12 restrict smoking to individual offices.

Gage said he has heard only good responses about the new policy. In the memorandum, Mobley cited scientific findings by the U. S. Surgeon General and the Environmental Protection Agency which indicate the separation of buildings into smoking and non-smoking sections does not necessarily eliminate tobacco smoke health risks.

"Such evidence leads me to conclude that a more beneficial policy would require all facilities to be smoke-free," Mobley stated in the memo.

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## Senate committee OKs new power plant for University

By JULI PHILLIPS

The Battalion

AUSTIN - The state Senate Education Committee unanimously approved a bill Wednesday that would allow Texas A&M University to build a power plant to cover its increasing energy needs.

"This plan has the potential to be an incredible model to others in the state and country," Univer-

sity President Dr. William Mobley told committee members Wednesday. "We need to find a cost-effective way to meet our energy needs."

Sen. Jim Turner, R-Crockett, the bill's sponsor, told the committee that the new facility would be environmentally sound because it would burn natural gas to

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## Campus gears up for annual Parents' Weekend, activities

By SHELIA VELA

The Battalion

Texas A&M University will serve as host for its annual 1993 Parents' Weekend this week with activities including campus tours, awards ceremonies, social events such as Casino Night and a Fish Drill Team performance.

"It is an opportunity for us to show our parents what we do and what traditions exist at Texas

A&M, as well as giving them a big welcome," said Ashley Mathews, Parents' Weekend Chair and senior marketing major.

Parents' Weekend originated in 1919 and was originally called Parents' Day. In the past 20 years, it has become a weekend event held every year in the spring.

"Parents' Weekend is a way to show off everything about A&M in one weekend and thank parents

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## A&M, SACS meet to discuss re-accreditation

By JENNIFER SMITH

The Battalion

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which has been visiting the Texas A&M campus since Monday, will meet with University President William Mobley today to re-accredit the University.

Members of the SACS have been interviewing faculty, staff and students in an attempt to review University services. A&M participates in the accreditation process every 10 years.

To prepare for this process, the University has conducted a self-study for the past two years. The

self-study was completed about a month ago and was given to the SACS before representatives came to A&M.

Dr. Lee Blank, director of the self-study, said after the study was completed, the University compiled a list of recommendations for A&M's future.

"Our basic recommendation is that this University become much more involved and serve as a facilitator for continuous improvement," Blank said.

Dr. E. Dean Gage, provost and senior vice president, said A&M will surely be re-accredited. "It is essential for A&M to be accredited," he said.

The self-study has assisted

A&M officials in evaluating performance, Gage said.

"It's a process that is helpful to us," he said. "They (the SACS) always makes recommendations based on their findings."

But, Gage said, the SACS does more than point out areas needing improvement. "They also point out good things A&M is doing," he said.

Blank said three of the 33 members of SACS are visiting A&M at Galveston to assess its services. The Galveston campus had not been included in previous accreditation processes was studied this time because it is now a part of the A&M campus.

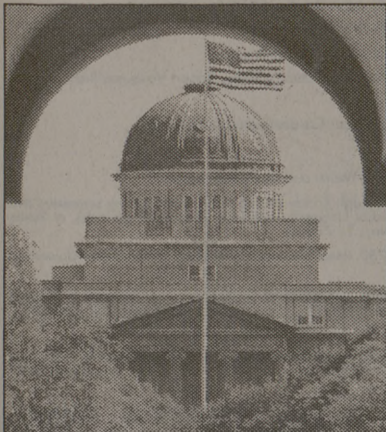
The SACS has been in continu-

ous contact with students since they arrived on campus.

"They are asking questions about programs the University provides to the student, and how they feel about their input in the future," Blank said.

SACS' fundamental goal is to decide whether A&M is meeting its mission and purpose. Gage said this involves academics, research, faculty policies, student programs, foundations and many other services.

"They've been meeting since Monday with all the different colleges looking at all the academic programs," Gage said. "The criteria for accreditation involves the entire University."



Academic Building

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