

# The Battalion

Vol. 92 No. 138 (8 pages)

1893 - A Century of Service to Texas A&M - 1993

Monday, April 26, 1993

## Shut out of G. Rollie White

### Fire code enforcement restricts number of Muster guests

By HEATHER WINCH

The Battalion

Last Wednesday's Muster ceremony left some students out in the cold.

As many as 2,000 people were unable to attend the annual memorial as G. Rollie White filled to capacity with about 7,800 participants, said Muster Programs Subchair Greg Johnson.

People began showing up for Muster at 4:45 p.m., and doors were opened at 5:30 p.m. By 6:15 p.m. the coliseum was full, and the doors were locked.

Fire codes were enforced for this year's Muster in G. Rollie White, allowing only so many people per square foot of exit

space.

Because of the limited space, many students, who wanted to honor friends who had died, were turned away.

"I was disappointed but I understood that when it fills up, it fills up," said Kelly Eoff, sophomore biology major. "I know that they had to go by the fire codes."

Eoff wanted to attend Muster to honor her friend, Ashley Turner Class of '95, but instead, she watched the ceremony at the MSC Flagroom. Eoff said she could not arrive early because of late classes.

"It was frustrating because we wanted to be there so bad, but we couldn't do anything

about it," she said.

In past years, people sat in the aisles, on the floor, and dangled over the rails, Johnson said. Fire code enforcement has also prompted the University to allot only six tickets to graduating seniors for commencement ceremonies.

"The state fire marshal has been strict on the number of people let in," Johnson said. "In years past, they would put in as many as possible. But this year we went by the guidelines."

Some people assumed that Muster attendance had increased because many students wanted a glimpse of Former President

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A vote of confidence

## Yeltsin wins national referendum

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin won a vote of confidence in a key referendum Sunday but was likely to fall short in his push to force new parliamentary elections, according to exit polls and partial official results.

In a surprise development, most voters backed Yeltsin's market reforms despite the hardships they have brought, a result that may partially mute Yeltsin's critics in the hard-line Congress of People's Deputies.



Yeltsin

But the turnout of about 65 percent was too low to enable Yeltsin to force elections. Approval for new elections required a majority of Russia's 105.5 million registered voters, not just of those casting ballots.

Yet while voter support was strong for new elections, it did not tally up to a majority of the electorate, one poll showed.

Such a result would also mean that Yeltsin would not have the mandate to push through a new constitution to replace the Congress with a two-chamber, U.S.-style legislature. He had hinted that he would take a "yes" vote on elections as a voter approval for a new constitution.

Yeltsin sought a mandate for change from the referendum so that he could overcome the Communist-era parliament that has

tried to thwart his reforms and curb his powers.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, a close Yeltsin aide, said early returns were encouraging, but he did not give specifics.

Across 11 time zones, from snowy Kamchatka to the balmy Black Sea, millions of Russians voted by dropping a paper ballot into a wooden box.

Many of the ballot boxes still bore the hammer-and-sickle seal of the Soviet Union.

Well-stocked buffets at polling places did a brisk trade in imported cigarettes, coffee, beer, tomato sauce, and other items — at market prices.

The 62-year-old leader also made a raft of promises to special interest groups, raising pensions

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## Rally attracts 200 onlookers

By REAGON CLAMON

The Battalion

Approximately 200 curious, but mostly calm spectators and a roughly equal number of law enforcement officials listened to members of the Texas Ku Klux Klan preach their message of "white power" at a College Station rally Saturday.

James Stroud, KKK exalted cyclops from Spring, told the crowd, "Negroes have been given so much in aid, they should get down on their knees and thank the good Lord they live in this county."

"True hatred lies in the hearts of these ungrateful Negroes," he said.

Maj. Mason Newton of the College Station Police Department, who organized the law enforcement operation at the rally, said there was roughly one officer for every person that attended the rally.

The Oaks Park pavilion, where the Klan held its rally, was surrounded by members of several local law enforcement agencies, including a line of officers in riot gear who stood between the pavilion and the crowd.

"Our position is public safety," Newton said. "We're here to protect everybody and the show of force has worked."

A small number of College Station residents held signs protesting the KKK's message, despite pleas by Texas A&M student organizations to protest by simply not attending the rally.

Sabina Zenker, a senior political science major at Texas A&M, protested the rally with a group of students holding signs reading "You can't have a rainbow without any colors" and "Increase the Peace."

Zenker said she and her fellow protesters had been criticized for coming to the KKK rally instead of the Whoopstock rally held on campus.

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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Judy Locklin, a Ku Klux Klan member from Rockdale, holds a Texas A&M flag in one hand while waving a confederate flag with the other.

## Split decision on size of law enforcement

By REAGON CLAMON

The Battalion

More than 200 officers from local law enforcement agencies came together in a "show of force" at the Ku Klux Klan rally held Saturday in College Station.

Lt. Corkey Sandel, public information officer for the event, said because so many organizations had pitched in to help, he wasn't sure how many different agencies were present.

Sandel said the Texas A&M University, Bryan and College Station police departments participated, as well as the Brazos County Sheriff's office, Department of Public Safety, and officers from the Texas Department of Corrections. Sandel said

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CRAIG FOX/The Battalion

Members of the Bryan Police Department, wearing riot gear, stand in between the Ku Klux Klan and onlookers at a rally Saturday.

## Whoopstock Unity Fest '93

### Forty-eight campus organizations celebrate diversity

By SHELIA VELA

The Battalion

Hundreds of Texas A&M students, faculty and staff along with their friends, spouses and children gathered Saturday afternoon to celebrate campus diversity at Whoopstock Unity Fest '93 at the A&M polo fields.

Sheri Schmidt, co-coordinator

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of Whoopstock and staff member of the multicultural services office, said it was a time to celebrate the differences that exist at Texas A&M.

"The fact that so many people came together to organize this event in only two weeks is the biggest success of Whoopstock," Schmidt said.

The purpose of Whoopstock was to encourage the public to ignore rather than protest a Ku

Klux Klan rally held Saturday in College Station. Whoopstock was organized in two weeks and provided entertainment, music

and fun at no charge.

Student organizers from 48

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BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Mark Casanova and Michelle Hilkemier watch the Voices of Praise gospel choir Saturday afternoon at Whoopstock Unity Fest '93.

## Student Government looks to save Aggies money with book exchange

By GENEEN PIPHER

The Battalion

The Texas A&M University Student Government plans to unveil Wednesday its latest project, the Book Exchange — a project designed to save students money on used textbooks.

The book exchange will create a networking system linking students who want to sell their old books with students who want to buy them.

Warren Talbot, Student Government chief of staff and senior

accounting major, said the Student Government plans to set up tables in either the MSC or near Rudder Fountain Wednesday through Friday.

"At the tables, the students will fill out a form telling us what books they want to buy or sell," Talbot said.

This weekend, Student Government volunteers will use a database to match buyers and sellers, and the list will be posted at central locations around campus Monday.

"We are also working to get a

copy of the list of books that will be used next year, so no one will buy a book that they do not need," Talbot said.

David Hall, special assistant to the chief of staff and junior economics major, said the Student Government will not profit from the book exchange. It is just providing a service that will enable students to negotiate prices among themselves without dealing with bookstores.

"This program is the same as

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## Gay community takes to capital for march

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Throngs of gay men and women spilled across the historic Mall on Sunday demanding acceptance and equal rights from a society that often scorns their community. "A simple matter of justice" was their rallying cry.

In brilliant, summery sunshine, they came by the tens of thousands to tell America who they are and what they want, and hoping to shatter the stereotypes that dominate many people's percep-

tions of the gay community.

Organizers hoped for a million marchers, and predicted that in size, their crowd would rival the great civil rights and anti-war marches of the past quarter-century.

President Clinton, who invited gay leaders to a White House meeting earlier this month, lent support from a distance.

"I stand with you in the struggle for equality for all Americans, including gay men and lesbians," a letter to march organizers read.

Some marchers said they were angered by his absence.