

TEXAS A&M'S BLACK HERITAGE

Look for next week's series

The Battalion will begin a five-part series Monday in honor of Black History Month. The series will chronicle blacks at Texas A&M university: their history, their culture, and their future at a University that has always been stereotyped as a conservative, all-white, all-male institution.

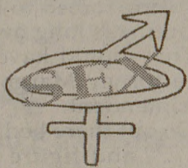
- **MONDAY:** Former slave and Texas senator who was instrumental in the founding of Texas A&M.
- **TUESDAY:** The struggle of a few students to become the first black Aggies at Texas A&M in the 1960s.
- **WEDNESDAY:** Local black churches and the importance of the church in the lives of black students at Texas A&M.
- **THURSDAY:** The social life of blacks at Texas A&M.
- **FRIDAY:** The number of blacks at Texas A&M today and their future at the University.

This month's events



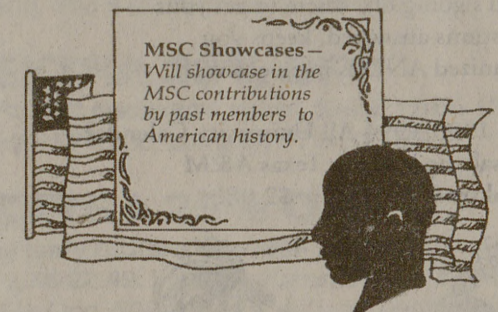
FEB. 8
 Alpha Kappa Alpha & Kappa Alpha Psi
 - Will sponsor Black History Jeopardy at 8:30 p.m. in 292 MSC.

FEB. 10
 Black Awareness Committee (BAC)
 - Will sponsor "Sex in the 90s: AIDS Awareness in the Black Community" at 8:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.



FEB. 16
 Delta Sigma Theta & Alpha Phi Alpha
 - Will sponsor Tribute to the Black Arts at 8:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

FEB. 16-23
 All TAMU Black Greek-letter organizations



MSC Showcases
 - Will showcase in the MSC contributions by past members to American history.

FEB. 17
 NAACP
 - Carl Cauley, president of the local chapter of the NAACP will discuss the relevance and importance of black history at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder. "Soul Food" will available to sample.



FEB. 21
 The Griot Society
 - Will sponsor a poetry/prose reading session that will highlight African-American cultural expressions. All are encouraged to submit entries. Call 764-4399 for location and time.

FEB. 23
 Sigma Gamma Rho & Omega Psi Phi
 - Will sponsor a program. For more information call Debbie Williams at 764-1825.



FEB. 24
 Black Awareness Committee (BAC)
 - Will sponsor Unity Fest. Rooms and time will be announced at a later time. Call 845-1515.

FEB. 26
 Kappa Alpha Psi
 - Will sponsor the fifth annual Greek Olympiad. Black fraternities and sororities around the state will come to perform their latest dance steps. The contest will begin 7:30 p.m. at Rudder auditorium.

College suffers lack of funding

Liberal Arts reports uneven distribution of money affects departments

By Laurel Mosley

THE BATTALION

The College of Liberal Arts is the second largest college on the A&M campus, but monetarily this statistic may be deceiving.

Becky Silloway, a Student Government representative from liberal arts and a political science major, said it seems as if funds are not equally distributed to all colleges.

Silloway, a member of the Legislative Student Group, said her group presented a report to the state legislature showing how funds at Texas A&M are not distributed equally.

"The liberal arts department definitely receives less money than some other departments," she said. "My lower level classes are extremely large, and it's because just about every major is required to take core curriculum classes in liberal arts."

"I'm not required to go over and take a class from engineering, but they take classes in liberal arts, and we seem to get less money than them."

She also said student government can pass a res-

olution or bill to ask the administration to give more funds to the college, but no move has been made to do this.

Dr. Julie Blackwelder, head of the history department, said her department has a very limited amount of money to spend.

"We do not have enough money to cover all of our needs, but I don't feel we are being discriminated against," Blackwelder said.

The history department had to limit the amount of extra copies professors can make this semester, excluding tests and syllabi. Last semester, the history professors were not allowed to make any extra copies at all unless they paid for them out of their own pocket.

Dr. Paul Parrish, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said the college does not have sufficient funds to do what they want to do, but he understands Texas A&M is not getting the level of support it got previously.

"We have been treated fairly by the University, but we need additional funding," said Parrish. "These are tight economic times and higher education is worse off in terms of increases in funding."

Parrish said he does not think the lack of funds is adversely affecting the students.

"I don't think the students are getting a bad education, I just think it is a different kind of education," said Parrish. "We have more students and we can't afford to hire more teachers, so we have to make classes larger. You can do certain kinds of things in a small class that you can't do in a larger class."

Dr. Woodrow Jones, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said the department does not have the money to do everything it wants, but it is doing fine.

"My view is I want to do more than I am able to do now, but we're doing okay. There is no reason to be alarmed," said Jones.

He said he realizes his department will not receive the same kind of funds as other colleges, such as the College of Engineering, because the college has not been around as long. But, he said the University has been as helpful as they can.

"The University is very supportive of the college," said Jones. "They understand our budget and our needs. There are other departments worse off than we are."

Students bike cross-country for charity

By Juli Rhoden

THE BATTALION

It could be called the summer of extremes - one night sleeping in a four-star hotel and the next on the ground. But it's all in the name of charity.

Four Texas A&M students are planning to ride 3,000 miles on bicycles from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. in 62 days for PUSH America, a charity organization that benefits children and adults with disabilities.

Andrew Paparella, Shane Luther, Jim Degnan and Kenneth Martinec, all members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, are riding their bicycles in what PUSH America calls the "Journey of Hope." During the ride, beginning June 13 at the Golden Gate Bridge, the team will stay in 99 different cities until the ride ends on Aug. 12 at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

In addition to riding 80 miles each day, the team members will participate in workshops, give speeches and go through empathy training.

Degnan, a junior speech communications major, said the activities they do after the daily ride is what is most important.

"We have to understand who we're riding for," Degnan said. "Sometimes in our empathy training sessions, we eat with tape on our hands or blindfolded to make us understand what disabled people deal with every day."

PUSH America is a charity organization that was started by Pi Kappa Phi as a national outreach program in 1977. So far, the organization has raised \$3 million.

Luther, a senior journalism and political science major, said the Journey of Hope is special because of what it provides and what it teaches the team members.

"We are raising the money for Journey of Hope to provide disabled persons with some necessities," Luther said. "In the Brazos Valley, we've been working with the Brenham State School for the Deaf."

There are 60 members of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity from all over the nation who raise money for PUSH America and ride during the summer.

Paparella, a junior marketing major, said this year is different from previous years because of the Pi Kappa Phi A&M chapter's involvement.

"This is the first year the A&M chapter has been involved in the bike ride," Paparella said. "And our chapter is the only one out of the seven chapters in Texas to participate. With all four riders going, that's the most riders out of all the chapters in the nation."

Each team member must raise \$4,000 to ride in the Journey of Hope. Donations from merchants and individuals have helped each member come closer to that goal.

"If we don't raise all \$4,000, we don't ride," Paparella said. "It's that simple."

The application process for team members was formal and voluntary. Personal interviews and letters of recommendation were just two of the requirements. The A&M members were selected around Thanksgiving.

Luther said although the process



Tim Moog/The Battalion

Members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity (from left) Andrew Paparella, Jim Degnan and Shane Luther will be biking across the United States this summer with PUSH. PUSH is an organization to help the disabled.

was lengthy, it was worth being a member of the team.

"This is an annual event for Pi Kappa Phi and it's important to participate," Luther said. "And since this is

the first year for A&M to ride in the Journey of Hope, I think that makes it special."

All donations to PUSH America's Journey of Hope are tax deductible.

Branch Davidian cuts deal in exchange for leniency

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO - Branch Davidian Kathryn Schroeder acknowledged Thursday she cut deals with prosecutors and moviemakers in hopes of winning her freedom from prison sooner and reuniting with her four children.

"You desperately wanted to get out and be with the children, isn't that right?" asked defense attorney Jeff Kearney.

"Yes," replied Schroeder, whose youngest child is 3.

A beaming Schroeder said under defense questioning in the murder-conspiracy trial of 11 Branch Davidians, that she signed a movie contract and used some of the money to pay her lawyer for civil court cases involving her children.

She acknowledged she could earn "big money" later if a movie is made. Her attorney, Scott Peterson, said outside of court that Schroeder has been paid \$12,000.

Schroeder, 31, the prosecution's star witness, also said she agreed to plead guilty to a lesser charge of forcibly resisting federal agents and to testify against the other Davidians.

Eight of the defendants had guns during or immediately after a shootout Feb. 28, 1993, with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Schroeder testified.

Like the Davidians on trial, Schroeder also was charged with murder in the agents' deaths and could have faced life in prison if convicted.

With the lesser charge, the most Schroeder can face is 10 years during her upcoming sentencing. Prosecutors have agreed to ask for less if they are satisfied with her "performance," she acknowledged.

Outside the presence of the jury, Schroeder said part of her decision to plead guilty was based on warnings that prosecution witnesses would testify that she had a gun and may have fired it during the battle. She said she had no gun at that time.

On Wednesday, Schroeder said all 11 defendants were followers of doomsday prophet David Koresh and his "message" that the world would end in a violent "final confrontation" with authorities.

"If you can't kill for God, you can't die for God," Koresh was quoted as telling his disciples as the Davidians stockpiled weapons and prepared for "war."

On Thursday, however, defense attorney Douglas Tinker asked Schroeder if she conspired or intended to kill federal agents.

"Not in those words," she said.

Later, prosecutor Ray Jahn questioned her again about a conspiracy.

"Killing the agents was not something that I thought about," she said.

"Would you have done it?" Jahn asked.

"If I was told to, yes," Schroeder said.

As for her testimony about specific Davidians, Schroeder admitted under cross-examination that "it was probably an assumption on my part" when she said defendant Renos Avraam fired a .50-caliber rifle during the shootout.

Gold-seeking professor cleared of allegations

The committee conducting an official inquiry into allegations of scientific misconduct against Dr. John Bockris, a professor of chemistry at Texas A&M, has unanimously reported it did not find any evidence to sustain the charges.

Allegations of scientific misconduct were made against Bockris last fall relating to the Philadelphia Project, a research project that involved solid state reactions and allegedly an attempt to turn mercury into gold.

The report of this inquiry committee represents only one of three efforts initiated by Texas A&M University to examine issues raised by the Philadelphia Project. The others include an internal audit of accounts related to the project and an ad hoc committee that is reviewing policies and procedures for gifts and grants at Texas A&M and other universities.

Dr. Benton Cocanougher, interim senior vice president and provost, said a full appraisal of the situation and the related policies and procedures will be made after all reports have been completed, received and reviewed.

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