

September 29 & 30, 1994 8:00 p.m. Rudder Auditorium

MSC OPERA & PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY presents **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES**

MSC OPERA & PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY presents **OPAS 22**

Tickets are on sale at the MSC Box Office - TAMU, or charge by phone at 845-1234

Join us for a Pre-Performance Buffet on September 29 or 30. Dinner will be served from 6-7:30 p.m. Buffet tickets are \$10 per person and reservations must be made by Wednesday, September 28.

A&M focuses on student retention

By Susan Owen
THE BATTALION

Although the percentage of minority students at Texas A&M is increasing gradually, the rate of retention has not changed much over the last seven years.

According to A&M's Office of Admissions and Records, the total percentage of students who enrolled as freshmen at A&M in 1992 and returned in 1993 was 86 percent. For black students the number was 83 percent, and for Hispanic students it was 75 percent.

Overall freshmen retention increased to 81 percent in 1986, but the figures for black and Hispanic student retention did not change significantly between 1986 and 1993.

Don Wood, A&M's assistant director of planning and institutional research, said minority retention rates for large institutions rarely change dramatically.

"Even if you add a big program and try to improve the numbers, sometimes it's still very hard to improve them," he said.

Among Texas public universities, A&M and the University of Texas at Austin have the highest minority and total retention rates, according to a survey conducted in 1992.

Wood said the high retention rates could be due to higher ad-

mission standards at A&M and UT. Schools maintaining open admission policies often have lower student retention rates, he said.

The percentage of minority students enrolled at A&M over the last decade and a half has gradually increased from 6.6 percent in 1978 to 21.8 percent in 1993, according to the Office of Admissions and Records.

Kevin Carreathers, director of A&M's Department of Multicultural Services, said although things are improving, the University has a long way to go in recruitment and retention before the minority students attain a "critical mass," or comfort level in the student population.

He described a "critical mass" of minorities as a percentage that allows minority students to feel less isolated, to walk across campus and see other students like themselves.

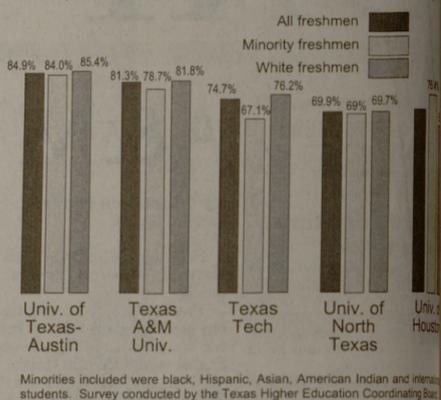
"Having a critical mass of (minority) students is important to retention," he said.

Carreathers said he would consider a critical mass at Texas A&M to be about 40 percent minority students.

Working toward a critical mass of minority students is only one way in which the University can improve its minority retention, Carreathers said.

Hanging on to freshmen

Percentages of freshmen who enrolled in college full-time Fall 1991 and returned for Fall 1992. The schools shown are Texas public universities whose retention rates were high.



Susan Owen

Computer theft plagues campus

By Stephanie Dube
THE BATTALION

In the past eight months, over \$65,000 in computers and computer equipment has been stolen on the Texas A&M campus.

Sgt. Betty LeMay, crime prevention specialist with the University Police Department, said there has been no pattern to the thefts.

"It could be anybody doing this; there are no fingers pointed in any particular direction," LeMay said. "It happens at all times of the day and night; there is no set pattern. It is very sporadic."

LeMay said the chances of recovering the lost items are slim, especially if someone decides to use the stolen items for personal use.

"Occasionally a suspect will appear when they try to sell or pawn the item," LeMay said. "But without a serial number, it's hard to get any lead. If an item is stolen with identification on it, you double your chances of getting it back."

LeMay said everyone who owns computer equipment should know his or her equipment's serial number. In addition, if the equipment is owned by A&M, it should have an A&M number on it. If the item is for personal use, it should be engraved

somehow for identification.

If someone steals an item and the item has no identification on it, a person will have a difficult time proving the item is stolen, she said.

William Newman, president and owner of Office Security Systems, said it is important for people to protect their computer equipment.

"Most of the people who steal equipment do so at the spur-of-the-moment," Newman said. "If they can't get away with it in a hurry, it will be a waste of time."

Security pads and cables must be secured, he said. Newman said the security pad sticks to the top of a desk and is locked to the computer. The pad has to be taken apart before the computer can then be removed. "They would have to take the top of the desk off before the computer could be removed," Newman said.

"Sometimes you can't secure a building and the equipment is in the open," he said. "But you can secure the desk and rest assured the computer will be there when you get back."

In addition, people can secure their computer equipment with cables, which are less expensive,

Please see Theft, Page 3

E-mail

Continued from Page 1

Through Texas A&M's computer services, students have access to many other forms of communication.

One such method is Relay Chat, or IRC.

IRC is comparable to a phone call. People talk to each other through the computer. Messages and files are immediate.

Vasquez-Ani said the people learn to use IRC are addicted.

"IRC is great for study but it can be addictive," she said. "New users get hooked fast."

Despite the convenience of electronic communication, said other forms of communication are still important.

"It does not replace mail or telephone conversations," she said. "It is simply an additional mode of communication."

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THURS. @ 8PM FRI. @ 7PM

THIS WEEK

FRI. @ 9:30PM SAT. @ 7 & 9:30PM

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The Garden District

Map showing location at Garden District, North Avenue, University Drive, Texas Ave.

WHOOPIING COUGH (Pertussis) VACCINE STUDY

We Are Beginning a New Whooping Cough Vaccine Study

Monday, September 19, 1994 & Monday, September 26, 1994
(First Come, First Served Until Study Is Filled)

For further information or to determine eligibility for the study Come To:

Beut Health Center, Room 233, 2nd Floor
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Dr. John Quarles
845-3678

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT IN THE REAL WORLD, SPEND A SEMESTER IN OURS.

Walt Disney World Co. representatives will be on campus to present an information session for Undergraduate Students on the WALT DISNEY WORLD Spring '95 College Program.

WHEN: MONDAY, SEPT. 19 AT 7:00PM
WHERE: ROOM 201 MSC

Attendance at this presentation is required to interview for the Spring '95 College Program.

Interviews will be Tuesday, September 20. All majors are encouraged to attend.

For more information Contact:
Coop Education
Phone: 845-7725

Walt Disney World Co.
Where students spend a semester getting ready for the rest of their lives.

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