



THE FREEDOM SESSIONS

Sarah McLachlan's new CD is a technological tour-de-force.

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VANITY UNFAIR

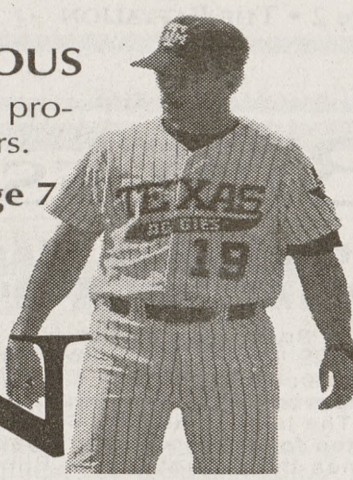
Editorial: Vanity Fair, a national magazine, attacks the credibility of Texas A&M University and its students.

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Coach Jim Lawler continues to produce outstanding Aggie pitchers.

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THE BATTALION

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

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Plan aims to raise minority graduation rates

□ The Access and Equity 2000 Plan's goal is to increase African-American and Hispanic graduation rates until they at least equal that of whites.

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University is focusing on increasing the graduation rates of minority undergraduate, graduate and professional students. A&M's Access and Equity 2000 plan intends to increase the graduation rates of African-Americans and Hispanics until the rates are at least equal to the graduation rates of whites. The plan began in September 1994 as a voluntary continuance of the Texas Plan, which was designed to end segregation of African-Americans and under-representation of Hispanics in Texas schools.

Part 2 of 3

Access and Equity 2000 will continue through August 2000. According to the University's executive summary of the plan, A&M is developing programs to attract and retain African-American and

Hispanic students. "It is critical that more emphasis be placed on better preparing and equipping students in the 15 to 19 age category to meet the challenges offered by institutions of higher learning," the summary stated. "Texas A&M University is committed to being a player in solving this statewide problem."

In Fall 1994, A&M enrolled 27,670 white undergraduates along with 1,077 African-Americans and 3,448 Hispanics.

Access and Equity's goal is to have the same number of white undergraduates enrolled in Fall 2000, but to increase the number of African-Americans to 1,278 and Hispanics to 5,700.

The summary states that competition between universities to attract minority students, Texas' population projections, A&M's enrollment management policy, A&M's location in a medium-sized town and the University's short history of admitting, enrolling and graduating minorities have prevented A&M from attracting large numbers of minority undergraduates.

A&M formed an Access and Equity 2000 Planning and Reporting Committee to work toward the strategies outlined in the plan.

Mary Broussard, coordinator for special projects and chairwoman of the subcommittee on increasing minority undergraduate graduation rates, said Access and Equity sets a higher goal than past plans did.

"Access and Equity is an outgrowth of the Texas Plan, but with those plans there was no assessment," Broussard said. "This plan is a little different. It requires you to do some evaluating."

"It's a living plan. It's not only about goals and how we accomplish them, but it also tracks the progress as you go."

She said the evaluation process would enable the University to make changes in the programs that are not succeeding.

"As we look at any program, the major component is asking whose needs must be met and are the programs meeting those needs," she said. "We have to figure out what programs we have currently and evaluate those programs."

"The other component is if we find throughout our evaluation that a program isn't successful, then we may need to redirect funds to other areas that are more successful."

In Fall 1994, 5,270 white students, 173 African-American students and 379 Hispanic students were enrolled in graduate and professional programs at A&M.

The 552 minority graduate and professional students in Fall 1994 represent slightly more than 7.1 percent of all graduate and professional students at A&M.

According to the Access and Equity plan, Fall 1994 was the first time in recent history that

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A&M faces budget cuts from Legislature

□ If passed, the proposed bills could cost A&M as much as \$29 million.

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Ray Bowen stressed the possibility of major budget cuts for the University Monday when he addressed the Faculty Senate.

The House and Senate bills are both being proposed in the state Legislature and could cost A&M as much as \$29 million from last year's \$619.5 million budget.

Bowen said both the bills are worst-case scenarios and the final decision could look much better.

"The short version is definitely not good news for the University," Bowen said. "We hope the long version will be better."

The legislature will discuss the budget possibilities until the end of the session in May, but discussions could continue into the summer.

Bowen said that currently, the House Bill proposes a cut of around \$29.5 million in the educational and general funding, the largest part of the Texas A&M budget. The Senate Bill proposes a \$16.5 million decrease.

The House Bill proposes taking away funds from such areas as the general revenue, doctoral programs, available University funds and a 1995 one-time money

See Budget, Page 14

Faculty Senate recommends expansion of fine arts classes

□ The Senate voted Monday to increase the number of classes offered in art, music, theater, and dance.

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

The Faculty Senate recommended Monday to remove limitations on the degree programs and courses that can be offered in the visual and performing arts.

The resolution would change the Texas A&M Table of Programs to allow programs in the arts to be developed as a part of the tradition of diverse academic disciplines at Texas A&M.

The resolution would also eliminate the limitation on the number of upper-level liberal arts classes that can be offered.

In 1990, the visual arts program offered 17 courses. Today the program offers eight courses.

The music program offers 15 courses, five of which are for a one-hour credit.

This semester, the music program also had three courses rejected by the Provost after the program had received approval from other levels.

Dr. Joseph Hutchinson, a senator from the College of Architecture, said the passage of this resolution would help solve many problems associated with liberal arts, while also accommodating the increasing interest that the University has shown for a fine arts program.

"One of the reasons top high school scholarship winners aren't choosing Texas A&M is partially because we don't have a program encompassing the arts," Hutchinson said. "We have received support University-wide in favor of such a program."

The resolution was encouraged after a Fine Arts Subcommittee investigated the University's

interest in a fine arts program.

The subcommittee also investigated reasons why Phi Beta Kappa, a national organization dealing with the arts, did not accept A&M's invitation to become a part of the campus.

The organization said it declined the offer partially because of the small number of fine arts classes offered at A&M.

Hutchinson said the subcommittee discovered that courses in art, music, theater and dance are in great demand on this campus.

"We are all working toward a common goal to improve Texas A&M," he said. "The Texas A&M Statement of Purpose and Missions clearly encourages the development of the arts, yet the arts have not been allowed to flourish."

"We hope this resolution will allow the arts to accomplish this task. Approval will be a milestone for the University."

The Senate also discussed last week's Faculty Senate elections. The senators will be announced May 8, at the senate's last meeting this session.

Dr. Carlton VanDoren, a recreation and parks professor and faculty senator, said 621 ballots were cast in this Senate election.

Although the ballot-counting ran relatively smoothly, VanDoren said the Senate should run things a little differently at the next election.

"Everyone was working hard to get the results out as soon as possible," he said. "But between counting the ballots for University committees and the ballots for senators, things got pretty hectic."

VanDoren suggested that at the next election, the Senate should count the committee results separately that day to avoid any added pressure.

Nominations for Faculty Senate officers open tomorrow and will continue until April 24. The results will be announced at the May meeting.

Cadet to represent A&M ROTC in Virginia

□ Shawn Powers will attend the George C. Marshall Awards Seminar this week.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

The Corps of Cadets brigade commander is representing Texas A&M's ROTC program at the 18th annual George C. Marshall ROTC Awards Seminar this week.

One cadet from each university's ROTC program receives the award and attends the seminar.

Shawn Powers, a senior biomedical science major, will accompany 270 cadets from across the nation April 11-14 for roundtable discussions on the national security of the United States.

Maj. George Brinegar, assistant professor of military science, said the cadets will discuss NATO, the Persian Gulf, the restructuring of U.S. forces, ethics, world economics and the profession of arms in the 21st century.

The seminar is held in Lexington, Va., at the Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University in honor of

Gen. George C. Marshall.

Marshall was a 1901 Virginia Military Institute graduate and served as Army Chief of Staff, Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense.

He is the author of the Marshall Plan and is the only career military officer to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Col. Daniel Ruiz, professor of military science, said he chose Powers to represent A&M's ROTC program because he best reflects their values.

"He's probably the most outstanding young man I've ever met in my life," Ruiz said. "He's really an example of what ROTC and the Corps is all about."

Powers holds the highest rank of an Army ROTC cadet, maintains a 3.4 grade-point ratio and is a member of the Ross Volunteers, Ruiz said.

"To do all this and maintain high grades, Shawn shows he is a level-headed, mature individual," he said.

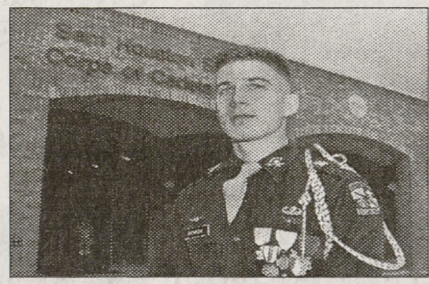
Brinegar said Powers is a cadet of high caliber and he predicts Powers will be successful in the medical field.

"As a brigade commander in the Corps of Cadets, his future is bright," Brinegar said. Powers

said he had no idea he would win the award and is not sure what to expect from the seminar.

"I was a little surprised and very excited when I found out," Powers said.

In addition to the roundtable discussions, the seminar will present guest speakers including Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff; Togo D. West, Jr., secretary of the army; Gen. William W. Hartzog, commander of the training and doctrine command; and Maj. Gen. James M. Lyle, commander of cadet command.



Tim Moog/THE BATTALION

Shawn Powers will travel to Virginia today to represent A&M at the George C. Marshall Awards Seminar.



Bart Mitchell/THE BATTALION

Boot-scootin' boogie

Jason Ashworth, a senior management major, prepares to flip Amy Carruba, a senior mechanical engineering major, into a double humiliation during an Aggie Wrangler Advanced Jitterbug class in G. Rollie White on Monday night. Both are members of the Aggie Wranglers.

Adviser Day brings students, advisers together

□ Students can meet their academic advisers Wednesday from 10-2 in the MSC.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

Students will have the chance to meet with academic advisers Wednesday when University Advisers and Counselors hold Adviser Day at the MSC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Advisers from A&M's 10 colleges will man tables in the MSC lobby to answer questions and introduce students to their

assigned advisers.

Mary Broussard, coordinator of special programs for the assistant provost for undergraduate studies, said the event will help students learn more about academic advisers.

"This is a chance for us to say, 'We're here and we're here to help you with your educational planning,'" Broussard said.

Samantha Leech, an undergraduate counselor for the College of Science, said that although every student is assigned an adviser, many forget them in the hodgepodge of college life.

"Every freshman is assigned an adviser during the summer freshmen orientation session,"

she said. "But between then and the beginning of their freshman year, students receive so much information that they forget who their adviser is."

Michelle Marek, UAC treasurer and former academic adviser, said students will benefit by actually meeting their advisers.

"Many people remember faces better than names," Marek said. "It's better for students to meet their advisers face to face, shake their hands and get a business card."

Measurement and Research Services recently released a study of A&M's learning

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