



AGGIE CULTURE IN PRINT

From good bull to Muster, Aggie authors show tradition through books.

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EXPRESS YOURSELF

Robbins and Clark: The Battalion provides many opportunities for students at A&M.

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SWC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Texas A&M tennis teams vie for the conference titles this weekend.

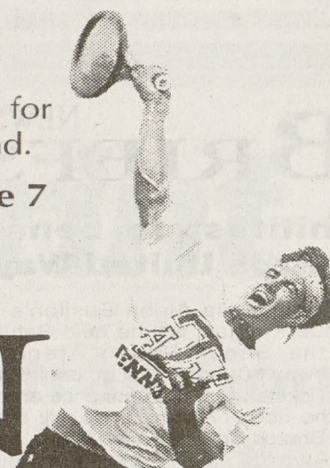
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THE BATTALION

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House votes to expand Aggie Bucks to off-campus use

□ If the Texas Senate passes the bill, students will be able to purchase books, souvenirs, and food from off-campus vendors.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

The Texas House of Representatives passed a bill Thursday to expand the Aggie Bucks system to off-campus use.

House Bill 3122, sponsored by Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, gives the Texas A&M Board of Regents the ability to create a debit card system provided that such cards shall not be limited exclusively to on-campus use for essentially

the same merchandise or services."

The bill will now be sent to the Texas Senate.

Before the vote, Ogden said that he saw little opposition to the bill.

"This is not a controversial bill," Ogden said Wednesday. "I expect very little opposition."

John Haney, owner of Texas Aggie Bookstores, said he supported the bill and knew no reason to oppose it.

"I think it's wonderful," Haney said. "I don't see why anybody would oppose something that's good for the University and the students. I'm looking forward to seeing it pass through the Senate."

Although expansion may cause funds to be diverted from the University to other businesses, Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vice president for finance and administration, said the University has

no reservations about the bill.

"The issue here is that Aggie Bucks serve the students," Gaston said. "If the students wish to spend their Aggie Bucks off-campus, they should be able to do so."

Haney said that although he was not sure which products or services would be eligible for Aggie Bucks purchase, the University has expressed some concerns.

"The only concern the University has expressed to local businesses is that alcohol could not be purchased," Haney said. "But I feel certain that restaurants that do not sell alcohol will be included."

Ogden said that "the same merchandise or services" clause should be interpreted on a practical basis.

"The clause will be interpreted like a reasonable person would understand it," Ogden said. "It is not meant to be

excessively narrow."

Gaston said he expects students will be able to purchase items like books, souvenirs and food. He said that although details are not ready, there are plans for selecting which vendors will be given the Aggie Bucks option.

"Businesses will have to apply," Gaston said.

Gaston said he hopes to add the off-campus vendors quickly, but noted that the present exclusive contract with Barnes and Noble, Inc., who owns and operates the bookstore in the MSC, must be renegotiated.

"We have to renegotiate first," Gaston said. "Obviously they paid for the option. But, I think the renegotiations will go smoothly."

Ogden said he expected the vendors to pay for any expansion costs.

"This bill does not imply that any costs for setting up the expansion will be borne by the University," Ogden said. "In fact, I expect most of that cost to go to the vendors who use Aggie Bucks."

The Aggie Bucks System came under question amid concerns that universities could profit from the interest earned from the money in debit card accounts.

Last April, Texas Banking Commissioner Catherine Ghiglieri sent a letter to state Attorney General Dan Morales asking for a decision on whether debit card systems at universities should be regulated.

Earlier this winter local businessmen and the University agreed to have House Bill 3122 filed and voted on by the state Legislature.

ARF proposes ways to diversify MSC artwork

□ The Appropriate Representation of Facilities task force recommended the changes to make the artwork more representative of the A&M student body.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

The Memorial Student Center artwork may be updated to represent A&M's diverse student body, if recommendations made by the MSC Appropriate Representation of Facilities task force are implemented.

The ARF task force has drafted 12 recommendations and will finalize the plan April 29.

The recommendations will go to the MSC Council for approval and then to the University Center for approval of funding and implementation.

The MSC Council created the task

force in March in response to campus-wide discussion on diversity issues.

The 28-member group represents various MSC and campus minority organizations.

Kevin Carreathers, director for the Department of Multicultural Services, said the task force was needed because of the historical changes in minority representation at A&M.

"There was no need to have a representation of a diverse student body in the past, because there wasn't one," Carreathers said. "Now there is. Problems can be managed better if people feel part of an inclusive atmosphere."

Carreathers said no single recommendation is more important than the others.

Jimmy Charney, ARF chairman, said the major recommendations deal with the artwork in the meeting rooms and throughout the complex.

"Some of the artwork in the MSC is significant to the building or was

donated, but a lot of the artwork is not," Charney said. "So these are the things we are looking at."

Charney said the artwork is behind the times at A&M because of the changes the school has been through over the years.

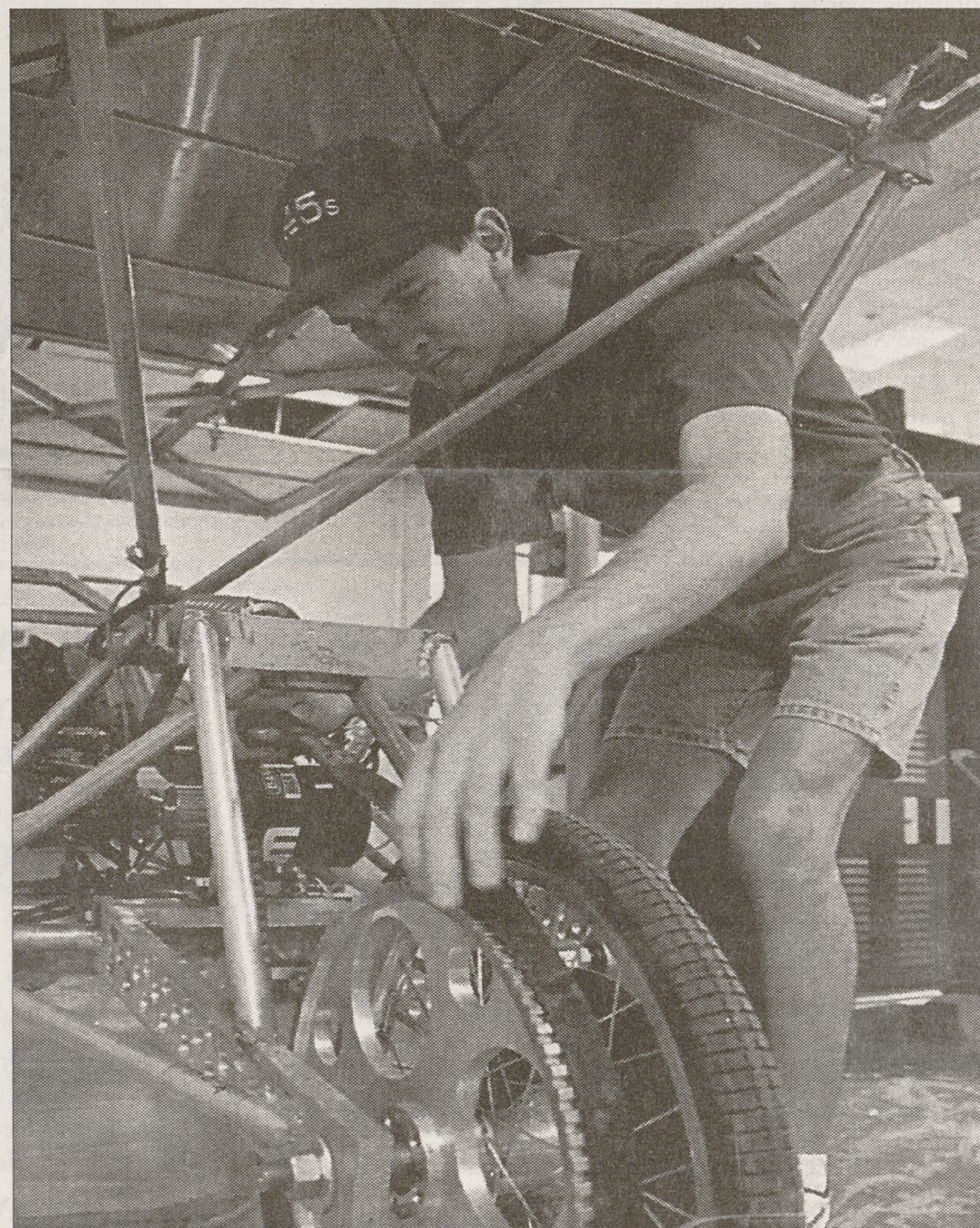
"The whole university was once a military institution, but has exploded into something different," Charney said. "Students are no longer all cadets and more diverse cultures are represented in the student body."

"The College of Liberal Arts is expanding and the University has moved from an agricultural and mechanical curriculum to a full university."

The recommendations include creating another wood carving in addition to the carvings in the first floor hallway next to the Flag Room.

The ARF recommendations suggest that the carvings are not up-to-date and should represent the diverse student life and cultures at A&M.

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Nick Rodnicki/THE BATTALION

Raycing to the top

David Briner, a senior electrical engineering major, attaches one of the drive belts on his team's sunracer in Thompson hall on Thursday afternoon. When complete, the sunracer will compete in Sunrayce '95 in June and will travel 1,100 miles from Indianapolis, Indiana to Golden, Colorado.

Cadets gear up for March to the Brazos

□ The Corps hopes to raise \$50,000 for the March of Dimes as a result of march to and from the Brazos River Saturday.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

The Corps of Cadets will march 15 miles to and from the Brazos River Saturday to support the Bryan-College Station March of Dimes.

The cadets started collecting donations for the March of Dimes in December to reach a goal of \$50,000.

As of Wednesday, the Corps had almost reached its goal with \$40,000 collected.

The money goes toward a \$1,000 scholarship for a medical student and research for the March of Dimes, which provides support to children with birth defects.

Ashley Coleman, Bryan-College Station division director for the March of Dimes, said working with the Corps has been wonderful because the Corps is so organized.

Each outfit is sponsoring an Ambassador Child who has benefited from the March of Dimes, she said, and the Ambassador Children met with cadets for dinner at Duncan Dining Hall.

"Most of the children are handicapped in some way," Coleman said. "It was interesting to see the reactions from the Corps."

Kyle Hendrick, chairman for the March to the Brazos, said the children took a tour of the Corps Center and met with the Corps leaders.

"The kids and parents loved it," Hendrick said. "A lot of cadets aren't familiar with what the March of Dimes does."

"The dinner helped put a name and a face to the cause."

Brennan Dobbs, first sergeant for the March to the Brazos committee, said working with the children helped him see how important the march was to them and their families.

Dobbs has raised the most money individually for the past two years. He raised \$1,200 his freshman year and \$1,400 last year.

Hendrick said the March to the Brazos is an annual event that began in old Army days.

"It originally was held on April Fool's Day," Hendrick said. "To keep the cadets from getting into trouble and playing pranks, they would be marched out to the river."

The event was restarted in 1972 as a fundraiser for the March of Dimes.

The cadets will step off from the Quad at 7:30 Saturday morning and head down Joe Routh and across West Campus. From there they will take FM 60 all the way to the river.

When they reach the river, the cadets will pass on the new positions for next year, Hendrick said.

"The seniors give positions to the juniors, the juniors to the sophomores and so on," he said. "The seniors ride back on buses and the Corps marches back with the new leaders in position."

Hendrick said this, like Elephant Walk, signifies the seniors' last days as cadet leaders.

Two men sought in Oklahoma bombing

□ Governor tells of discovery that would double the death toll to more than 100.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — "Upwards of 50" more bodies were found in just one area of the bombed-out federal building, the governor said today, a number that would double the death toll to more than 100.

"And this is not an area that they anticipated finding this number of individuals," Gov. Frank Keating told ABC's "Good Morning America."

Earlier, Jon Hansen, assistant fire chief, had said that in addition to the 52 confirmed dead in Wednesday's blast, rescuers were "working in areas now where we've got a significant amount of fatalities."

"We didn't expect that many in that location ... upwards of 50," Keating said.

"Unfortunately, the news is not real good this morning," the governor said.

Late Thursday, the confirmed death toll

rose to 52, and officials said 150 more were still missing in the tangled rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. More than 400 people were injured, many slashed by flying glass or buried helplessly under doors, walls and concrete beams.

Investigators, scouring the heartland and far beyond, issued warrants for two John Doe suspects.

A tattoo and a crew cut were about all that distinguished sketches of the suspects from countless other medium-build white men. They were believed to have rented the truck that carried the half-ton homemade bomb, FBI Agent Weldon Kennedy said.

Their identities — and their motive — were unknown, Kennedy said. He speculated they may have wanted "some revenge on the federal government as an entity or one of the agencies housed in that building."

As President Clinton promised "swift and certain and severe" justice, Attorney General Janet Reno announced a \$2 million reward for

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Aggies to call Muster tonight

□ Aggies from around the world will gather to remember those who have passed on.

By Kasie Byers
THE BATTALION

Students and former students will call the Muster tonight at 7 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum and around the world.

Muster began in 1883 as a track and field day for students and alumni and as a celebration of Texas' victory at the Battle of San Jacinto April 21.

In later years, because more Aggie students and alumni were unable to attend the event because of the wars, roll call was taken for the absent.

Today the Aggie Muster ceremony recognizes the Aggies who have died

during the past year by conducting roll call for them.

Fellow Aggies in attendance answer "here" to the call.

This year's Muster will include a barbecue at the Academic Plaza grounds in front of the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross.

Kim Greebon, sub-chair for development with the Aggie Muster Committee, said the barbecue is a fairly new event that has been a part of the Muster tradition for about five years.

"The barbecue helps to re-establish the camaraderie among Aggies, which was the purpose of the first Musters," she said. "The barbecue reinforces that Muster is not only a reverence for the dead, but a celebration of life as well."

The barbecue, which will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. today,

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Roger Hsieh/THE BATTALION

Corps members fire a twenty-one gun salute at Aggie Muster 1994.