



FIELD OF DREAMS

Texas A&M softball pitcher wears out opposition.

Sports, Page 11

TAKING THE REIGNS

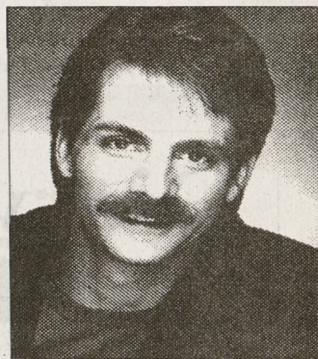
Guest Column: The Republicans have made many achievements in the first 100 days.

Opinion, Page 15

JEFF FOXWORTHY

Comedian brings redneck humor to Bryan-College Station.

Aggielife, Page 3



THE BATTALION

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

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Panel discusses race relations at A&M Quantum cosmology expert speaks to filled lecture hall

The conference examined ways for students to improve race-related situations.

By Eleanor Colvin
THE BATTALION

Participants in the Texas A&M Conference on Improving Race Relations Thursday said educating students on the importance of diversity and ethnicity is the solution to race-related problems at Texas A&M.

Dr. Gail Thomas, director of the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute, said the conference was organized by RESI and the students in the Sociology of Minority Groups class so that students, faculty, staff and the Bryan-College Station community could talk candidly about race relations.

"We encourage participants to

assume ownership of the issues presented here," she said, "and work hard to find solutions."

Panelists discussed interracial relationships, student leadership and the future of race relations at Texas A&M and the United States.

Dr. Patricia Larke, associate professor of multicultural education, said that as people educate themselves, they become more tolerant of interracial relationships.

"When speaking of interracial relationships, I couldn't just speak of the male and female aspects of it," she said. "I have to get to the core of the is-



Eddy Wylie/The Battalion

Panelist discuss diversity Thursday.

sue — what causes us to think differently and not appreciate one another. We must learn to accept, respect and understand one another."

Larke said education is the only way to reach the core of the issue and improve race relations.

"We must learn to be critical thinkers," she said. "We take so

much information for granted, and thus have no knowledge base of other ethnic groups. Researching issues and other ethnic groups is a part of one's educational responsibility."

Panelist Ivan Palacios emphasized the importance of respect.

"Texas A&M is far from a world-class university in terms of race relations," he said. "We won't be, until we can look to the person on the right and left and honestly not stereotype them."

Several student panelists discussed the importance of remembering one's cultural identity.

Panelist Chris Alvarado said his heritage is an important part of how he defines himself.

"I prefer to call myself a Chicano, not a Hispanic, because it is more reflective of my culture," he said. "I say Chicano to show that I am not Spanish

Dr. Stephen Hawking from Cambridge University discussed quantum cosmology and black holes.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

More than 380 people filled the main lecture hall of the Chemistry Building Thursday to learn about quantum cosmology from the field expert.

Dr. Stephen Hawking, professor of physics at Cambridge University, England, presented technical information on quantum cosmology and black holes. Hawking holds the same chair at Cambridge that was held by Isaac Newton.

Hawking is the author of the

best-selling book "A Brief History of Time." The book is also the subject and title of a recent motion picture.

Ronald Allen, professor of physics, said Hawking is one of four great scientists: Galileo, Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

"That's why there is so much excitement about him speaking here," Allen said. "He's the foremost in his field and there are a lot of intelligent people studying quantum cosmology."

Hawking said he pursued the subject of cosmology and black holes because of the lack on information on them.

"Until the 1920s, the only important cosmological observation was that the sky at night is dark," he said. "But people didn't appreciate the significance of this."

See Expert, Page 14

Parents' Weekend begins today

Parents' Weekend is designed to show parents how important A&M is to their children.

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

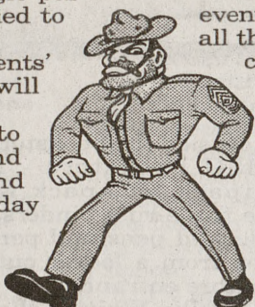
During Parents' Weekend, which kicks off Friday, A&M parents will get the chance to see why their children chose A&M with programs geared toward educating parents about A&M traditions.

Liz Bennon, an elementary education major, said events will be held throughout the weekend. She said most of the activities will show Aggie parents why their sons and daughters decided to attend Texas A&M.

Hope Siegele, chairwoman of the Parents' Weekend committee, said the weekend will let parents experience life at A&M.

"The main purpose of the weekend is to let Aggies bring their parents to A&M and let them get a feel for the traditions and spirit that Aggies hold," she said. "One day would not fulfill that need."

A variety show will start the weekend on Friday, followed by a Yell Practice and the RHA Casino Night in the MSC.



Siegele said the yell practice usually has a large turn-out.

"The Q1 Army-style Yell Practice is one of the most heavily attended events," Siegele said. "It shows the tradition of yell practice and lets parents see the Corps do a short performance."

Siegele said the yell practice is the first time that the newly elected yell leaders will perform. The practice also brings 20 former yell leaders from as far back as 1945, she said.

Saturday, the Bevo Barbecue kicks off at 11 a.m. and continues throughout the afternoon, with A&M organizations such as the Aggie Wranglers performing for parents and students.

"The barbecue is probably the most popular event we have planned," Bennon said. "But overall the whole weekend usually proves to be a success. A relaxing weekend for the students and parents is what we have planned."

The Aggie Moms' craft show in Duncan Hall will be Friday and Saturday. Buffets will be served in the Commons and Sbis Dining Centers Sunday.

The weekend will end with the All-University Awards Banquet in Rudder Auditorium. Corps awards, academic awards and A&M spirit awards will be given at the banquet.

Bombing destroys faith in U.S. security, speakers say

The survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing are showing signs of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building last week will dramatically change the way Americans think about their safety, two experts on terrorism said during a lecture in Rudder Tower Thursday.

Gene Blackwell, a consultant on security and terrorism, and Dr. M. Paige Powell, an assistant professor of educational psychology at Texas A&M, discussed how the terrorist attack shattered the

security of Americans.

Blackwell called the attack the biggest tragedy in the United States, and said it will fundamentally change Americans' view of safety in their homeland.

"We have a war zone in the United States, for the first time since the Civil War," he said.

Powell said the bombing has destroyed Americans' security and faith.

"This shows us that bad things can happen to good people," Powell said. "This happened in the heart of America. We can see this happening in New York. We can see this happening in California. We can maybe even see this hap-

pening in Houston. But not in Oklahoma City."

Powell said that no previous terrorist acts impacted Americans the way this recent attack has.

She explained that the recent

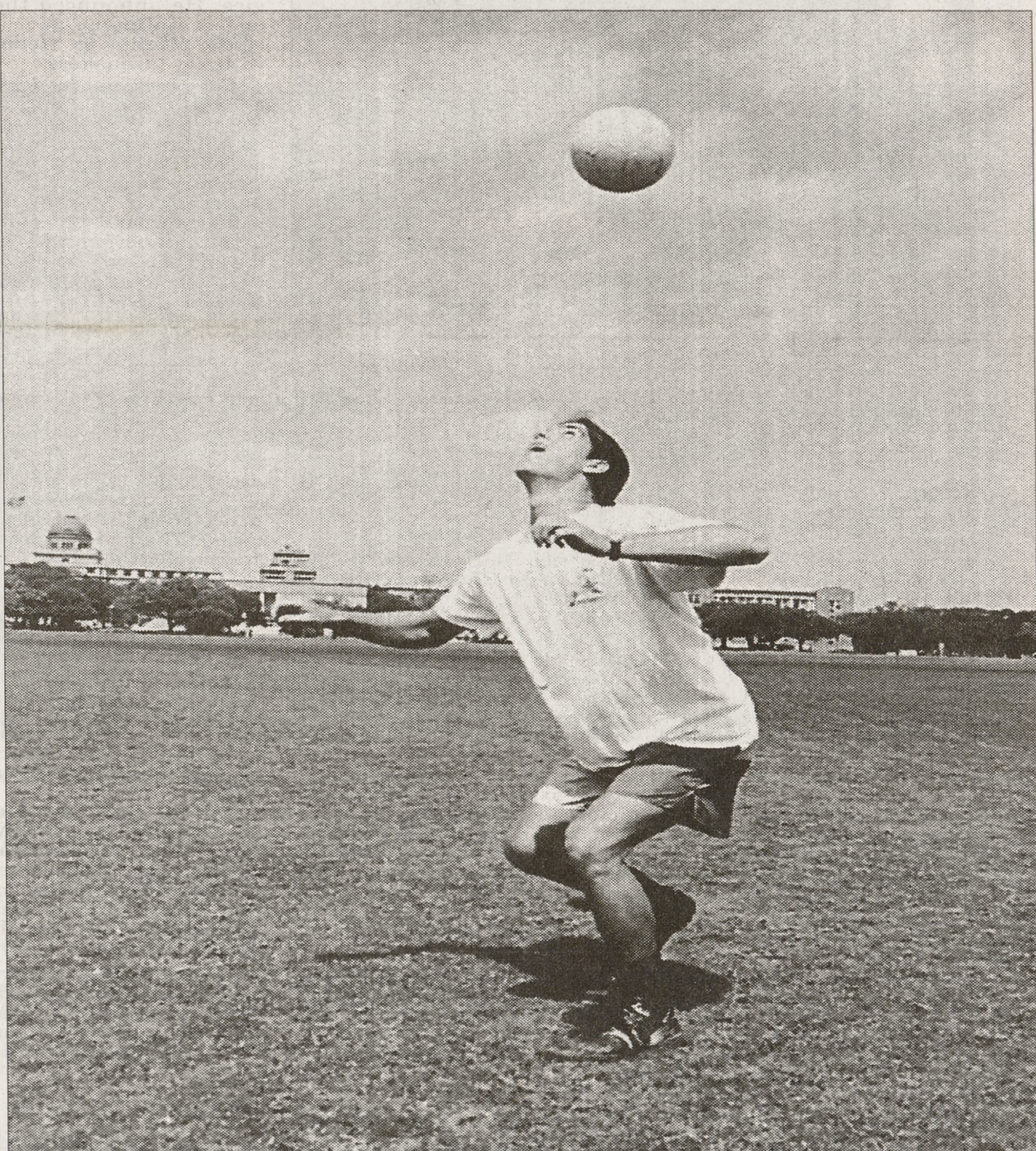
"This shows us that bad things can happen to good people."

— Dr. M. Paige Powell,

assistant professor of educational psychology

bombing of the World Trade Center and Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, did not strike the chord in Americans that Oklahoma City did.

See Faith, Page 16



Nick Rodnicki/The Battalion

Heads up

Jay Jackson, a junior math major, practices his soccer skills on Simpson Drill Field Thursday afternoon.

Investigators search for Arizona license plate connected to bombing

The FBI is concerned that without finding John Doe No. 2, there could be another bombing.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Investigators issued an alert Thursday for a missing clue in the federal building bombing — Arizona license plate LZC646, tags that may have fallen off suspect Timothy McVeigh's getaway car.

One possibility, said a law enforcement source, was that the plate may have been shifted to another vehicle used by the suspect known as John Doe No. 2. And it is feared that John Doe No. 2 may strike again.

At a hearing for McVeigh, FBI Agent John Hershey said his "primary responsibility is to find the other subject to prevent another bomb from going off."

But in a possible snag for the government's case, Hershey also testified that three witnesses to the bombing couldn't identify McVeigh for certain in a lineup.

The death toll in the nation's largest terror attack, meanwhile, passed a grim milestone: More than 100 bodies have now been found in the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

At the hearing at the federal prison 30 miles west of Oklahoma City where McVeigh is being held, his lawyers renewed their requests to drop out of the case and for a change of venue. U.S. Magistrate Ron How-

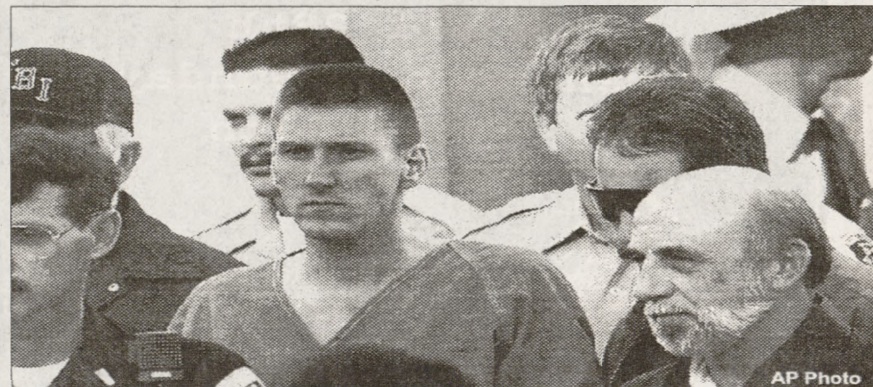
land denied both requests for now.

Defense lawyer Susan Otto bolstered her plea to be let out of the case by reading a list of 10 people she knew who were killed in the blast and an eleventh who was still missing. Her colleague, John Coyle III, has also said he knew someone killed in the blast.

"We heard it, we smelled it. We lived through it," Otto said.

Hershey testified at the hearing that three witnesses who thought they saw McVeigh outside the building before the bombing were not able to conclusively pick him out of a lineup. He said explosives residue was found on McVeigh's clothes after his arrest.

McVeigh followed the proceedings intently,



AP Photo

Thomas McVeigh, a suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing, is escorted from the courthouse in Perry, OK.

See Plate, Page 14