

BEER TOURISTS

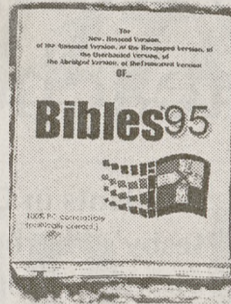
People can gain a worldly education through trying different beers.

Aggielife, Page 3

BIBLE '95

Hill: The Bible should not be modified to fit the political agendas of the '90's.

Opinion, Page 15



A FRESH FACE

Freshman outside hitter Kim Tipton has made an immediate impact on this year's team.

Sports, Page 11



THE BATTALION

Vol. 102, No. 14 (16 pages)

Established in 1893

Thursday • September 14, 1995

Number of 'on time' graduations declines

Graduation rates have not fluctuated much in recent years, but statistics show that most students do not graduate within four years.

By James Bernsen
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M graduation rates show that fewer than one in four people will complete their degrees in the tra-

ditional four years.

The most recent statistics show that 23 percent of the Class of '94 graduated "on time," a decrease from the 24 percent of the Class of '93 who graduated in four years and 27 percent of the Class of '92.

The graduation rate, which for statistical purposes is graduation after five years, is 60 percent.

Don Carter, A&M registrar, said several things account for the low number of people graduating within four years.

"Most undergraduates take an average of 14 hours," Carter said. "A lot of this has

to do with the fact that we have a very active student activities program.

"Rather than trying to take 18 hours at a time and graduating on time, they try to devote time to other activities."

Carter said the average number of hours required to graduate has not increased in recent years. Most programs at the University require 128-131 semester credit hours for graduation or 16-17 hours every fall and spring semester to graduate in four years.

"The University is a fairly rigorous academic institution, and the students are trying to

balance their academic requirements with other things," Carter said.

Minority student graduation rates are lower than those from entire student body. African-American and Hispanic students had a 13 percent graduation rate after four years and 48 percent after five years.

Kevin Carreathers, director of the Department of Multicultural Services, said the lower rates are most likely a result of adjustment issues that some of the minority groups face when they go to college.

See GRADUATION, Page 5

Still here after five years...

Percentage of students who graduated after five years

	All students	Hispanic students	African-American students
1986	60%	49%	55%
1987	59%	50%	41%
1988	60%	44%	45%
1989	59%	46%	48%

POW/MIA symposium scheduled as part of Remembrance Week

Friends and family members of soldiers missing in action will share their experiences in Rudder Theater today as part of POW/MIA Remembrance Week.

By Leslie New
THE BATTALION

Kay T. Graves, Class of '53, and Susan Baker Powell will relate their experiences searching for soldiers missing in action as part of the POW/MIA Symposium sponsored by Angel Flight and the Arnold Air Society.

The symposium, today at 5:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater, is one of three events scheduled for POW/MIA Remembrance Week.

James Hanford, Arnold Air Society director of operations, said the purpose of the annual symposium is to create awareness about prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action.

"It is important that everyone, not just those interested in the service or the Corps, know what POWs faced, and the fact that there are still MIAs," Hanford said.

"These people should be remembered." Graves has been searching for a close friend, Capt. Lester Lackey, Class of '52, who was reported shot down over the Black Sea during a reconnaissance mission Dec. 14, 1965.

Graves and Lackey attended the same high school and were cadets in Squadron 8B at Texas A&M.

Ruth Graves Fields, Graves' daughter, wrote in "Aggie's Family Searches for 27 Years" that many people believe that if others could survive, Lackey could.

Powell's brother, Maj. Arthur Dale Baker, has been missing in action since 1965, but was declared "killed in action/body not recovered" in 1974. The Baker family accepted the death of Baker until 1990,

when they received information that there was a possibility that Baker had survived and was alive.

Powell has investigated several reports about her brother, including one from an unreliable source stating Baker was alive and "living with an Ahka tribe" in Laos. Baker had not attempted to escape, because he was told he would be killed if caught trying to escape.

Even though the report has not been verified, Powell said it is important to find out the truth.

"If there is the slightest chance that there is an American alive in Laos, we owe it to all of the MIAs and their families to locate him," Powell wrote in the article. "Even if it is not my brother, it could be someone's brother, husband, son or father."

Other POW/MIA Remembrance Week activities included the rededication of the Westgate Memorial near Albritton Tower Wednesday.

Col. James E. Ray, a former prisoner of war and Class of '63, rededicated the memorial. The ceremony ended with Echo Taps and a 21-gun salute by the Ross Volunteers.

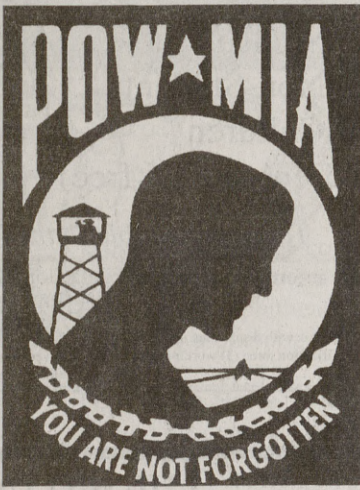
Lorelei Gomez, Arnold Air Society cadet Maj., said several A&M cadets involved in the society will participate in a standing vigil in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue in the Academic Plaza Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cadets will stand at parade rest during the day to honor prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action.

"We do this every year to pay tribute to the POWs, MIAs and their families," Gomez said.

In addition to the events, the organizations have been selling MIA bracelets and T-shirts, which have the names of former A&M students who have been prisoners of war or who are missing in action. The items are being sold under the arches of the Quadrangle and in the MSC.

The events are part of the POW/MIA Remembrance Week set aside by Congress and culminates on Friday, the official POW/MIA Remembrance Day.



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

WE'VE GOT SPIRIT ... HOW 'BOUT YOU?

Members of E-1 raise their spirit sign on the Quad Wednesday afternoon.

RHA sets goals for upcoming year

Proposing direct television cable for residence halls is the group's first priority.

By Javier Martinez
THE BATTALION

The Residence Hall Association kicked off its 1995-96 year hoping to build on its work last year and strengthen its ties to other campus organizations.

During the fall's first general assembly Wednesday, the RHA set its priorities for the upcoming year.

The first priority is the direct cable proposal for the residence halls.

The proposal calls for a mandatory \$27 per semester fee for cable access in every room on campus.

The Channel Input and Request for Purchase Committees of the residence life and housing department are cur-

rently discussing the issue.

The Channel Input Committee will discuss which channels will be included, while the Request for Purchase Committee will work on which company will be awarded the contract.

Suzanne Lyons, RHA president and a junior geophysics major, said issues remain to be resolved including which company to use.

TCA Cable has provided cable service to the residence halls for several years. Other options are being explored because TCA Cable's contract with the University has expired.

RHA is also concerned about the proposal because freshmen and sopho-

mores in the Corps of Cadets are not allowed to have television sets in their rooms, but would be charged for the service anyway.

The committees should have their recommendations ready by the end of the semester, Lyons said.

The RHA also began expanding their relationship with two campus organizations — Cain Hall and the Corps.

"We want to gain awareness of RHA on campus, and we want RHA to gain awareness of other organizations on campus," Lyons said.

One proposal is to extend the annual Corps-Fraternity basketball game held into a four-team tournament, which would include representatives from the Northside and Southside residence halls.

Cain Hall, the hall traditionally reserved for athletes, was represented for

See RHA, Page 5



A&M faculty member receives prestigious presidential award

The meteorologist received one of 30 awards given nationally to university faculty members.

By Michelle Lyons
THE BATTALION

President Bill Clinton recently named Dr. John W. Nielsen-Gammon, a Texas A&M meteorologist, as one of 30 Presidential Faculty Fellow Award winners.

The award is given annually to uni-

versity faculty members across the nation who have demonstrated leadership in scientific or engineering research.

Award winners received a grant from the National Science Foundation for \$100,000 a year for up to five years. This allows the winner to explore various self-designed research projects and programs.

"I am pleased and so are the graduate students working for me," Nielsen-Gammon said. "My existing grant was going to be up at the end of the month, and we didn't know how we would be able to send [the graduate students] on research trips. Now there's no problem."

One of Nielsen-Gammon's projects that has helped improve the meteorology department is a one-hour meteorology seminar class for freshman and transfer students.

The class members will compete daily with students from 30 schools from across the nation in weather forecasting.

Nielsen-Gammon, the only recipient in the geosciences field, was nominated by Dr. Ed Zipser, former head of the meteorology department.

Dr. Jerry North, current head of the

meteorology department, said the award could not have been more deserved.

"... he is the top researcher and faculty member in all the earth science fields."

- Dr. Jerry North
meteorology department head

"Many, many people are competing for this award every year, and in all the earth sciences, John was the only one that got it," North said.

"By that indication, he is the top researcher and faculty member in all the

earth science fields."

North also said the award did not come as a shock.

"We knew this sort of thing was coming for him," North said. "We [Texas A&M] competed with many schools for him. Getting him here was a great honor for us."

Nielsen-Gammon is credited with a great number of changes that have occurred in the undergraduate meteorology program, North said.

North explained that Nielsen-Gammon was the first to teach undergraduate

See AWARD, Page 5