

**BODY ART**

**KNOW THE FACTS**

**CARRY ON**

One A&M student is making her hobby the object of her studies.

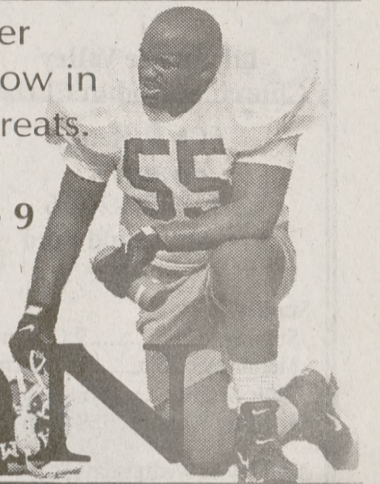
Aggielife, Page 3

Hayman: From multiculturalism to sexual harrassment, Americans have the tendency to jump to conclusions.

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Junior transfer linebacker Jimmie Irby aims to follow in the footsteps of Aggie greats.

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# THE BATTALION

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## Arena's groundbreaking set for Saturday

**The special events center will seat 12,500 basketball fans and 10,500 guests at graduation ceremonies.**

By Tara Wilkinson  
THE BATTALION

Construction of Texas A&M's new special events center, the Reed Arena, will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Saturday during a groundbreaking ceremony. The ceremony will be held at the corner of Joe Routh Blvd. and

Olsen Drive across from the new Student Recreation Center.

Steven M. Hodge, special events facilities director, said the groundbreaking will be a formal start to construction, even though construction crews actually began digging about a month ago.

"We'll have shovels, and we'll turn some dirt," Hodge said.

Wally Groff, Athletic Department director; Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president; and Mary Nan West, Board of Regents chairman, will preside over the ceremony.

G. Rollie White Coliseum, A&M's only coliseum, is not

large enough to accommodate the crowds that show up each year for events like A&M Muster and commencement ceremonies.

But the Reed Arena, scheduled to be completed in 1997 at a cost of \$36.75 million, will seat 12,500 basketball fans, 10,500 guests at commencement ceremonies or 11,500 people at a concert.

Upholstered armchair seats in the Reed Arena will be arranged in a double bowl formation, with 7,500 seats in the lower level and 5,000 seats in the upper level.

Hodge said the Reed Arena will be large enough to remove restrictions on the number of tickets

A&M graduates can distribute among family and friends for commencement ceremonies.

"We believe that we'll be able to let anyone come in who wants to come in," he said.

The facility will contain a main arena with a removable basketball floor, a practice gym, meeting rooms, visitor and home team dressing rooms and a 1,500-space parking lot.

Groff said the Reed Arena will take A&M's basketball program to a higher level because spectators will be more comfortable, and the state-of-the-art facility



Battalion File Photo

Construction on Reed Arena, shown by an artist's sketching, is slated to be finished in 1997. Total costs are estimated at \$36.75 million.

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### Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

## Hispanic council kicks off Unity Rally tonight

**HPC leaders hope to draw a crowd at Rudder Fountain with motivational speaker Mike Torres.**

By Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

The Hispanic Presidents' Council is sponsoring a campus-wide Unity Rally to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month 1995.

HPC leaders hope to draw 300-400 Texas A&M students to the 6 p.m. rally at Rudder Fountain to hear guest speaker Mike Torres, president of Bryan tejano radio station KBMA La Fabulosa.

April Arias, Hispanic Journalists Association president, said the rally is an excellent way to start the Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 celebration designed to introduce A&M students to the Hispanic culture.

"The Unity Rally is a great opportunity for everyone to get out there and get pumped up for the month," Arias said.

Maricela Ortiz, HPC director of administration, said Torres is a perfect choice to begin the month's events.

"He's a very motivational speaker," Ortiz said. "You can get caught up in everything he says."

"He was born and raised poor, and he brings this message that you can succeed if you try."

This year's Hispanic Heritage Month is centered around the theme "Unidos Con Una Sola Voz," or "United with One Voice."

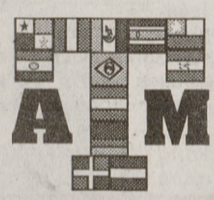
Dr. Emily Santiago, assistant director and Hispanic adviser for the Department of Multicultural Services, said the month is an opportunity for students to become more aware of the Hispanic culture.

The activities are not confined to Hispanic students, Santiago said.

"The idea is for people of all cultures to benefit by learning more about this culture," she said. "It's an opportunity for everyone to learn, Hispanics and non-Hispanics."

This is the third year the HPC has celebrated

See RALLY, Page 6



## Academic Building put on deferred maintenance list

**The Physical Plant removed pieces of the building for safety reasons during last year's renovation.**

By James Bernsen  
THE BATTALION

Renovations to the Academic Building, which have been put on hold for a year and a

half, will remain on hold until more funding is available, Texas A&M officials said.

Several sections of the structure's north-west front were removed and not repaired in early 1994 when the building's windows were replaced.

Dick Williams, Physical Plant associate director for maintenance and modification, said workers and inspectors who handled the renovation project noticed that several sections of the building had been

weakened by weather and age.

The Physical Plant had the pieces removed to prevent them from breaking off and then falling.

"It's more important that it's safe," Williams said. "We used money out of emergency accounts to make it safe."

Williams said there is now a lack of money, and this has prevented the department from repairing the building.

"There are other higher-priority things now," he said. "We have roofs that are leaking. If we get the money to make it esthetically pleasing again, we will."

Bryan Mason, chair of the Old Main Society, a student organization formed to help preserve A&M buildings, said he can see why the Physical Plant is not in a rush to repair the building.

"That (the unrepaired building) is kind of an unsightly blemish," Mason said. "But it's not something that is destroying the structure and is not something they have to do."

Williams said the building's repair has been given a high-priori-

ty position on the list for deferred maintenance items. That means any repairs will have to wait until a surplus of funds is acquired.

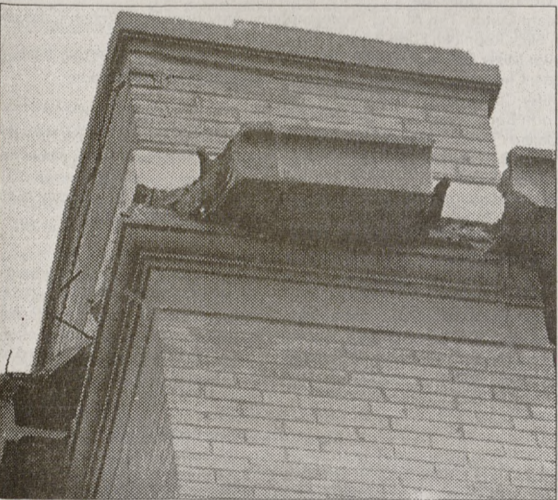
"Deferred maintenance funds are always limited," he said. "The vice president [for finance and administration] office has emphasized that they want this fixed, and we're trying to scrape up some money."

Dr. Rick Floyd, associate vice president for finance and administration, said such fund limitations are new.

"We probably feel the constraints more today," Floyd said. "We're going to have to be very cautious as we move into the future, and we're going to have to make hard decisions."

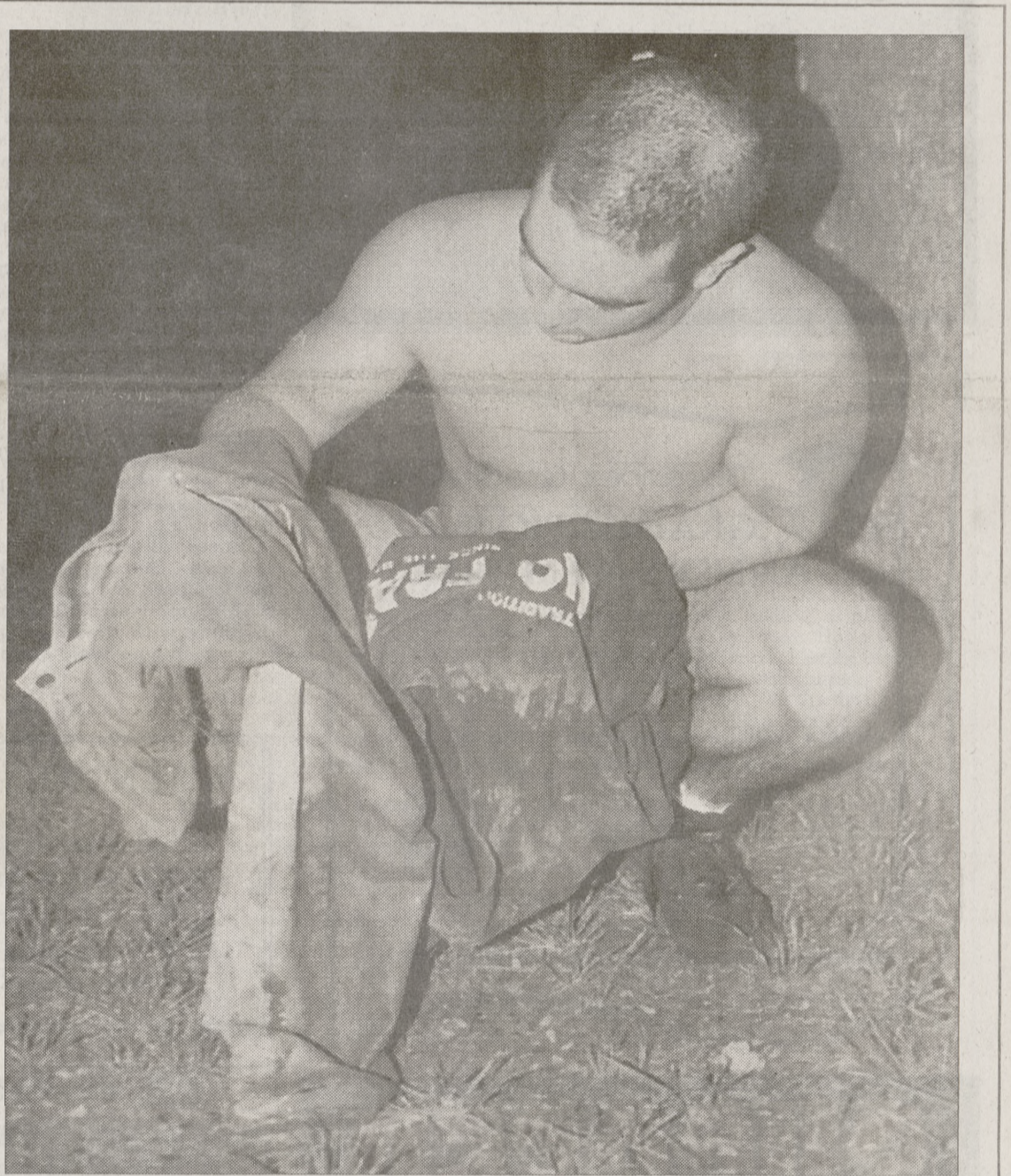
Floyd said the Academic Building was put on the deferred list because of the large number of more urgent projects.

"There are some buildings that if we don't repair them there may be structural damage, or someone may get hurt," he said. "What must be understood is that we give a higher priority to those structures that are damaged."



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Birds are now living in the broken parts of the Academic Building.



Louis Craig, THE BATTALION

### GRODY

Roger Gordon, a freshman geophysics major, handles his "grodes" after tackling and groding his crew chiefs and yellow pot after his cut class on Wednesday.

## Missing soldiers' families speak out

**"Never giving up" is the advice friends and family members searching for soldiers missing in action gave at the POW/MIA Remembrance Symposium.**

By Melissa Keerins  
THE BATTALION

Arnold Air Society and Angel Flight hosted a symposium in Rudder Theater as a part of POW/MIA Remembrance Week.

Kay T. Graves, Class of '53, and Susan Baker Powell, Class of '93, spoke about the research they have done regarding sol-

diers missing in action.

Powell spoke emotionally about her brother, Maj. Arthur Dale Baker, who has been missing in action since 1965. In 1974, 11 months after the return of the POWs, Baker was declared "killed in action/body not recovered."

The family of Baker accepted his death until they received a phone call from an Air Force representative who said there was a chance Baker was still alive.

Powell started researching the issue and discovered that government agencies had received at least three reports that might be related to Baker.

An American soldier was instructed to take toiletries to a Laotian general in May of 1965,

Powell said, and the man reported that he saw two Americans being held prisoner in the general's home.

The general was later questioned, in 1991 and denied the report, she said, but also said he knew of no Americans taken prisoner in Laos.

"All three governments — Laotian, Vietnamese, American — must be held accountable," she said.

Powell challenged people to search for the facts and not depend on others. She also said to look at both sides of the issue before making a decision.

Graves spoke about his close friend, Capt. Lester Lackey, Class of '52, who was reported shot down over the Black Sea during a reconnaissance mission Dec. 14, 1965.

The plane was found, but Lackey's body and the body of the pilot were never recovered.

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