

COOL IN THE POOL

A&M's Mel Nash wants a men's SWC Swimming Championship before the move to the Big 12.

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MEDIA MADNESS

Hernandez: The media was responsible for making the O.J. trial the sad spectacle it was.

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The Renaissance Festival brings the Middle Ages to Texas tourists.

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THE BATTALION

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Regents open house for students' opinions

The mixer provides an opportunity for Aggies to voice their concerns before the Board's Thursday and Friday meetings.

By James Bernsen
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents will

hold an open house tonight to give students an opportunity to express their views on a variety of issues.

The event is at 7 p.m. in 153 MSC. Regent Robert Allen of Houston said the open house is not like a forum or other organized meeting, but more like a gathering or mixer.

"It's a very informal thing," Allen said. "We don't expect anything, just for students to come and ask us anything."

Allen said the reception was the idea of Mary Nan West,

Board chairman, who saw it as an opportunity for students to get to know the Board.

"There's no agenda — no hidden agenda — just a get-together," he said.

Regent John Lindsey of Houston said students have illusions about the Board being unapproachable, based on things they read in the newspaper.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," Lindsey said. "Hell, if I didn't have interchange with the students, I wouldn't be on the Board."

This is the first such open house since he has been on the Board, Lindsey said, but the communication is not what is new.

"There's nothing unique about it at all," he said. "I have exchange with students all of the time. I guess the convenience of being on campus is good."

Lindsey said students can bring up any topic they want, and he expects to answer questions on many issues.

"Everybody has a student parking problem, for instance," he said. "And we've talked with

the Old Main Society about preserving old buildings."

One of the issues the regents will vote on at the meeting this Thursday and Friday will be an initiative to tear down Law and Puryear residence halls.

The regents originally turned down the initiative during its January meeting. University officials had planned to destroy Law and Puryear in Summer 1995.

Because of increasing room and board rates and historical significance of the building, the

Board decided to give administrators more time to strengthen their arguments for tearing down the buildings.

"If students want to voice their opinions, I'll be interested in hearing about it," Lindsey said. "I'm Class of '44, and I knew some people who lived there, so I can see their concerns. But when I saw [the residence halls] last time, they looked pretty bad."

Toby Boenig, A&M student

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Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

GO AHEAD, MAKE MY DAY

Catherine Devine, junior management major and co-captain of the rifle team, lines up a target at A&M's shooting range Tuesday.

Bridging the gap

Student leaders reach out to fellow Aggies

SG is aiming to make its committees readily accessible to others.

By Kristen Homyk
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's student leaders said they intend to concentrate this year on communicating with the students they represent.

Toby Boenig, student body president, said Student Government has put effort into publicity and communication.

"One of our goals was to make our committees readily accessible and make applications [for those committees] available for everybody," Boenig said.

Boenig said Student Government is trying to become accessible to the students this year, personally and quickly. Student senators plan Constituency Days at the MSC, where students can simply walk up to a senator and register a comment, he said.

Students are welcome at Senate forums

and roundtables, Boenig said, and Student Government also has a home page on the World Wide Web for students to use.

Chris Foster, chairman of Student Government's Fee Oversight Committee that provides information about fee use to students, said his committee tries hard to keep the lines of communication open, since they exist to give out information.

"We've had numerous requests to look up information already," Foster said. "We're answering those questions."

Foster said students interested in reaching his group can contact a student senator or leave a note in the Student Senate box.

"We don't intend that the public meetings be the only way that students can contact us," he said.

A&M students offer differing opinion of the representation and communication of the student leaders thus far.

Ashley Huffman, a senior finance major, said her student representatives are

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Senators ready for Q & A

Class leaders will be stationed across campus today to address students' concerns.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M student senators, eager to receive student input and answer questions, will be stationed across campus today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the first Student Senate Constituency Day.

Senators will work one-

hour shifts at tables in front of Sbis Dining Hall, the Wehner Building, Zachry Engineering Center, the MSC and the Quadrangle.

Nicholas Dickson, an engineering senator and a junior civil engineering major, said the Senate decided to implement Constituency Days in order to facilitate communication between students and senators.

Because of the size of A&M, most students do not know who their Senate representatives are, Dickson said, much less how to reach them with their questions and suggestions.

"Our main idea was to make it easier for our constituents to get in touch with us and vice versa," he said.

Senators have been encouraged to work shifts at campus locations frequented by their constituents, Dickson said, in order to answer specific questions. For example, senators representing the College of Engineering will be at Zachry, and Northside senators will be at Sbis.

But for some senators, who represent, for example, students from the College

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New freshman officers whoop up success

More than 500 students voted during the Class of '99 council elections Tuesday.

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

The Class of 1999 elected new leadership Tuesday amid student concerns that voter turnout and election procedures may not put the most representative candidates in office.

Stephen Lair was elected freshman class president with 51.2 percent of the votes, and Gregg Nichols won vice-presidency with 60 percent of the votes.

The other officers elected were Amy Berger, treasurer; Ryan Workman, historian; Kendall Kelly, secretary; and Trevor Richards, social secretary.

Lair whooped excitedly after the results were announced Tuesday night in front of the Academic Building, and Nichols said he was "really excited and ready to go to work for the class."

Lair and Nichols said they plan to represent the freshman class by going out and meeting their constituents.

"We want to be people the freshmen know, not just names," Nichols said.

Lair said he will keep in touch with the freshmen by continually meeting more people and lis-

tening to new opinions.

About 550 freshmen turned out yesterday to vote in runoffs for freshman class council positions.

Max Mitchell, a freshman biomedical science major, and Jason Schultz, a freshman biochemistry major, helped run the voting station at the Zachry Engineering Center. They said few freshmen knew about elections and even fewer bothered to vote.

"Voting turnout was very poor," Mitchell said. "Freshmen don't seem to care who they put into office."

Schultz said freshmen are not getting their say in government because "the actual winners may not be the choice of the majority, but the majority didn't come out

and vote."

Candidates were allowed to use 33 percent of their budgets for campaign funds. Most candidates spent last week making sandwich boards and flyers and trying to meet people.

Berger and Kelly campaigned to different groups. Both went to fraternity and sorority houses and Berger spoke to Fish Aides, Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT), Aggie Fish Club and the Corps of Cadets.

Mitchell said he was impressed that Berger came to speak at Fish Aides.

"It was a big plus," he said. "It showed she really wanted

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Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

Historian Ryan Workman, Vice President Gregg Nichols and President Stephen Lair celebrate the freshman election results Tuesday night in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue.