

**SINGLE STOP**

College Station is the only Texas city to host the Central Ballet of China.

Aggielife, Page 3

**MONEY TALKS**

Baxter: Gangsta rap found itself sold out by Time Warner when the money ceased to flow.

Opinion, Page 17



**BRANDED WITH A LOSS**

The Lady Aggie Volleyball Team loses a tough SWC match to archrival Texas.

Sports, Page 11



**THE BATTALION**

102, No. 34 (18 pages)

Established in 1893

Thursday • October 12, 1995

**Regents, students share opinions at open house**

The regents may have regular open house events to gain an understanding of students' concerns.

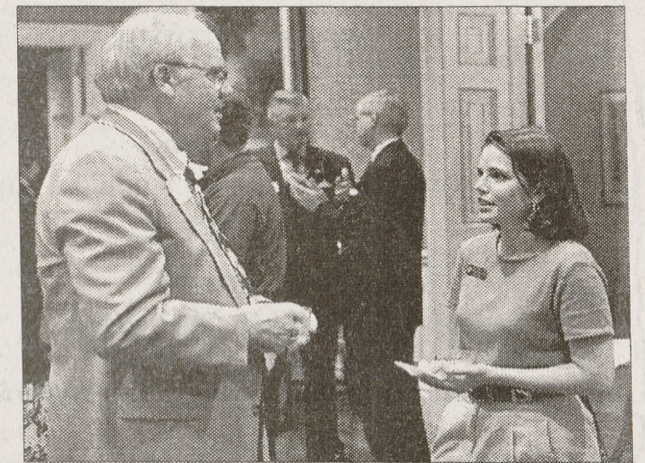
James Bernsen  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students mingled and discussed campus issues with the A&M System Board of Regents at an open house Wednesday night. Suzanne Lyons, Residence Hall Association president and a senior geophysics major, said the open house allowed her to see the regents in a different light.

regents are real people and are really concerned about the students' opinions," Lyons said. Regent Robert Allen of Houston said some students wanted to know what type of people are behind the decision-making process for the System. "Just general conversation about, 'What do you do?' and 'What did you do?' and 'Who are you?'," Allen said. "The more that we interface with the students, the more we can show what the Board stands for. It gives us the opportunity to explain how the Board of Regents works." Lyons said she discussed specific issues with the regents, which answered some important questions facing RHA. "I wasn't exactly sure what the regents views on the Law/Purveyear issue were," she said. "It was nice because I got to talk to them and find out what they felt." Students from a wide variety of

organizations attended, as well as students not holding any office at all. David Brown, College Republicans president, said he expected just a few student leaders to show up, but was surprised. "I was real impressed," Brown said. "When I showed up, I thought there would be no one here. This is much more than that." Garric Phelps, Student senator and a junior biology major, said he had not met the members of the Board before and was surprised how much they were "real people." "They're all so open," Phelps said. "I think many students feel the regents are out of touch with the students. But we can see that's not the case." Phelps said he found out many things he never knew before about the Board. "I learned that they work real hard and don't get paid for it," he

said. "To open their doors and have them open all the time is really nice of them." Brown said he has been dealing with the Board on a number of issues and the open house just confirms the impression of their openness that he has. "You can call them up any time and they're always there," he said. "This is all-around good. The regents get to hear what's on the students' minds, and the students get their voices out." Lyons said what made the open house different is that it was at A&M. "I think that having it on campus is great," she said. "I think they'll have a much better turnout by being here than off-campus, because everybody can come." Regent T. Michael O'Connor of Victoria said the Board needs this



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

Dr. Barry Thompson, A&M System Chancellor, talks with Becky Silloway, speaker of the Student Senate, at the open house hosted by the A&M System Board of Regents Wednesday night.

See REGENTS, Page 18

See related EDITORIAL, Page 17

"I really liked the fact that not only were students able to talk to the regents, but they could see that the

**Group to host multicultural forum**

□ Student and faculty senators will explain two bills requesting U.S. and international cultures classes at A&M.

By Lily Aguilar  
THE BATTALION

Students can voice their opinions about the proposed multiculturalism requirement at the Student Senate forum tonight at 5 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom. The Faculty Senate and the Student Senate multiculturalism bills will be presented, as well as a proposal to repeal the 1993 Student Senate bill asking for a multicultural requirement. The Faculty Senate pro-

posal would require six hours of cultures classes that focus on U.S. and international cultures. The Student Senate's proposal recommends three hours from a general cultures course. Neither proposal would add hours to students' degree plans, since the courses may also count toward general curriculum requirements. T.J. Williams, a student senator and a sophomore marketing major, co-authored the proposed repeal, which he said is necessary because the Student Senate should accurately represent the feelings of students now, not the feelings of students who have already graduated. "I want the opinion of the Class of '95 to '96, not '93 to

'94," Williams said. "I think it is necessary to represent my constituents. I've spoken to my constituents, and that's the way they feel on the issue." "There was so much misinformation that any person ... would walk away with a bad taste in their mouth."

— Chris Reed  
Student Senate speaker pro-tem

Williams said past student senators have performed more as trustees rather than delegates. He said this year's senators are concerned with what students want, and the forum is one means of actively pursuing student opinion. The 1993 bill has an extended list of courses that are not available every semester, Williams said.

"If you look at class selections for the '93 bill, over half of the classes are not even offered this semester," he said. "I think there are misconceptions that we have all these classes to choose from, and we really don't." Chris Reed, Student Senate speaker pro-tem and a junior finance major, said the forum will be impartial and fact-based to eliminate some wrong information students have heard about the proposal. "I think there are misconceptions on both sides of the issue," Reed said. "Look at the point/counterpoint columns written by the NAACP and College Republicans that were in the paper a few weeks ago." "There was so much misinformation, that any person — whether a conservative or a liberal — would walk away

See FORUM, Page 18



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

**TRY ONE ON FOR SIZE**

Rebecca Selby, freshman engineering major, looks at rings at a jewelry sale behind the Academic Building Wednesday afternoon.

**RHA to voice opinion on demolition of Law, Puryear at regents meeting**

□ The group discussed the pros and cons of demolishing the halls. The Board of Regents will vote on the issue Friday.

By Michelle Lyons  
THE BATTALION

The Residence Hall Association reluctantly supported the Department of Residence Life and Housing recommendation to demolish Law and Puryear halls. RHA members will attend the Board of Regents meeting Friday to voice their opinions on whether the two men's halls should be demolished or renovated.

Suzanne Lyons, RHA president and a senior geophysics major, said the group is under the general opinion that demolition would be in the best interest of the student body. "It is in the best interest of the students as far as rent costs go, to go through with the demolition," Lyons said. "As much as we would like to save Law and Puryear, financially, it is not very feasible to renovate these buildings." "Although it saddens us and we would prefer renovation, it's not possible." Figures released by the Board of Regents' Facilities Planning and Building Committee indicated the demolition of the two halls would cost \$645,000. In contrast, renovating the halls would cost \$10 million. Ron Sasse, Residence Life and Hous-

ing director, said renovation would actually cost more than \$10 million because the current figures do not include the cost of construction to meet Americans with Disabilities Act provisions. Sasse said the University has the money to demolish the buildings, but would have to raise funds to renovate by raising on-campus rent. "Our position is that if [the University] is going to spend that kind of money, let's spend it on something the students really want," he said. "The University's proposal is to demolish. That's the recommendation the University had made and will make to the Board of Regents." "I think that when the facts are known,

See RHA, Page 18

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

**Panel addresses Access and Equity 2000 plan, race relations**

□ The discussion was sponsored by The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and Puerto Rican Student Association.

By Lori Young  
THE BATTALION

A panel of Hispanic Texas A&M faculty members said Hispanics should unite to tackle pressing issues impacting their community.

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Puerto Rican Student Association presented "Hispanics at Texas A&M: Present and Future," Wednesday in Rudder Theater as a part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Panel members Dr. Marco Portales, an English professor; Dr. Maria Christina Garcia, an assistant professor of history; and Dr. Emily Santiago, assistant director of multicultural services, discussed race relations, the impact of Hispanics and the impact of the University's Access and Equity 2000

plan at Texas A&M. Garcia said race relations at A&M are similar to those found at universities across the nation, but A&M is supposed to be different. "You hear how Aggies are friendly from the moment you step on campus," Garcia said. "If Aggies are one big, happy family, then there are some dysfunctional elements in the family." Garcia said that when students tear down posters and flyers that say something they do not agree with, it adds to a climate of censorship at the University.

Students are encouraged to "not make waves" here, Garcia said. "It's not the Aggie thing to do," she said. Portales said the A&M Statement of Purpose in the undergraduate catalog was a guideline to improving race relations at A&M. "The University assumes as its historic trust the maintenance and enhancement of an intellectual environment that encourages the development and expansion of the human mind and spirit," Por-



Robyn Calloway, THE BATTALION

Panel members Dr. Maria Christina Garcia, Dr. Marco Portales, and Dr. Emily Santiago discussed race relations and the impact of Hispanics at the Hispanic Heritage Month event Wednesday evening.

See PANEL, Page 18