

SCARLET LETTER

Clancy: Classic novel does not translate into decent film.

Aggielife, Page 4

NOT A CHOICE

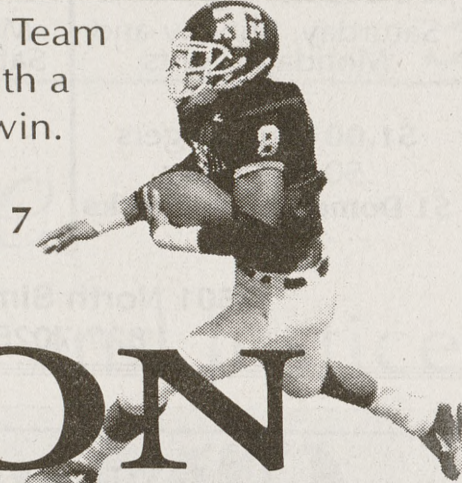
Stidvent: God squads can't get it through their heads that homosexuality is not a choice.

Opinion, Page 11

BARELY

The A&M Football Team avoids an upset with a 20-17 comeback win.

Sports, Page 7



GAY

THE BATTALION

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Regent Action

Board approves demolishing Law, Puryear

The area will probably be left as "green space."

By James Bernsen THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Board of Regents approved the demolition of Law and Puryear residence halls Friday...

Act standards. In contrast, demolition would only cost \$650,000.

"To restore it in its original design would not be practicable because it would not meet today's codes," Peel said.

Brian Mason, chair of the Old Main Society, a campus organization that seeks to preserve aging buildings, said the group agreed to the University's recommendation in the end.

"I think the Old Main Society will support the demolition of these two dorms, and that's a hard thing for me to say," Mason said.

See DEMOLITION, Page 12

Students, administrators expected vote

Because of the tremendous cost to restore the halls, campus residents are not surprised by the decision.

By Wes Swift THE BATTALION

Texas A&M campus residents are forging ahead after the Board of Regents' decision to demolish two men's residence halls.

The Board approved plans Friday to demolish Law and Puryear halls, after it was told that renovating the two non-air halls would cost almost \$10 million, and demolition

would cost only \$645,000.

Suzanne Lyons, Resident Hall Association president and a senior geophysics major, said the regents' decision was not surprising.

"Of course we knew this decision was coming," Lyons said. "But we think it's in the best interest of the residence halls."

The RHA lent its support to the recommendations by the Department of Residence Life and Housing to tear down the halls.

Three engineering consulting companies determined that the halls should be demolished.

Jesse Sanchez, RHA vice president for operations and former Puryear Hall president, said he was expecting the decision, and was relieved to see that a decision was made.

See CAMPUS, Page 12

Kyle Field's renovation starts with natural grass

The conversion is one of three of the project's phases.

By James Bernsen THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M System Board of Regents approved a new grass playing surface and other changes as part of the first phase of a project to renovate Kyle Field.

Wally Groff, A&M athletic director, said the motivating fac-

tor in his request for a grass field was recruiting.

"The coach (R.C. Slocum) agonized ... on this situation for some time; he liked the AstroTurf," Groff said. "The thing is, these people (professional athletes) have been speaking, and the sportscasters have been talking this up, and the perception from the student athletes and the high school kids out there is that AstroTurf is unsafe."

Groff said the artificial grass that A&M has now is the best around, and there have been no major injuries because of it.

"There is no scientific data

available to confirm that AstroTurf is more injurious to our players than natural grass," he said. "But because of that perception, we made the decision that, yes, we probably ought to go to grass rather than replace the AstroTurf."

Regent John Lindsey of Houston, finance, planning and building committee chairman, said that if it helped recruiting, the change would be good.

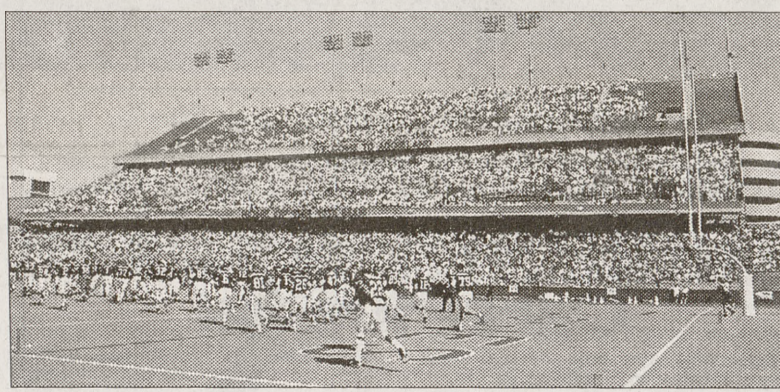
"I know several members of the Houston Oilers, and I am aware that the professional athletes do worry about getting hurt on artificial turf," Lindsey

said. "We ought to have the best situation in terms of recruiting."

Groff said the original plans to convert the field had focused on a later date, but recently, it was decided to speed up the project.

"We've had a strange phenomenon which brings us here today, and that is since sometime last summer we've had a tremendous deterioration of the AstroTurf," he said. "We really feel that if we don't go ahead and make the decision as quickly as possible ... that the AstroTurf, because of the breakdown

See FIELD, Page 12



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

The A&M football team takes the field at Saturday's game against SMU.

Million Man March sparks "mini march" on campus

Students will participate on campus and in Washington in support of unity among African-American men.

By Leslie New THE BATTALION

Eight students and one faculty member flew to Washington, D.C. to be a part of history by participating in the Million Man March, and other African-American students will participate in a "mini march" on campus today.

The students are participating in the march after Cedric X, a representative of Minister Louis Farrakhan from the Austin Mosque, spoke three weeks ago at Texas A&M. X called for African-American men to participate in the march as a sign of unity and change for the future.

X asked that only African-American men participate in the march because African-American women have carried too much of the load in the past.

Rodney McClendon, Department of Multicultural Services coordinator of student retention and development, is leading the group to Washington and said the group is not excluding women because it consists of two women and seven men. The women were chosen on the basis of an essay competition. "What it means to be a black educated man in America."

"This is an opportunity for us to a part of an historical event," McClendon said. "It's a statement to the world. I wanted our students to have the opportunity to take part."



Cedra Brown, a senior interdisciplinary studies major, said she wrote her essay on the basis that African-American men cannot change the world on their own, and the African-American woman is there to help. Brown said she is a little nervous about attending the march because of X's request that only men attend.

"I don't want to be somewhere I'm not wanted," she said. "That's his (X) opinion, and that's okay. But African-American men can't do it alone. I'll be there to support them. In some way, I'll be honoring their wish."

See MARCH, Page 5

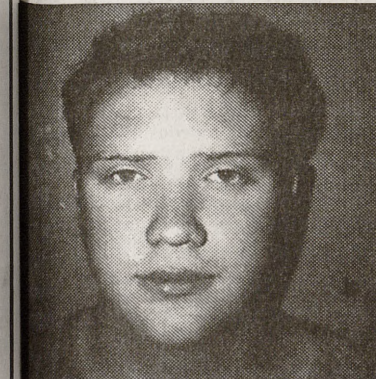


Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

BRINGING THE AGGIES A BIT OF LUCK

Trevor Shockley watches the A&M-SMU game with the Parson's Mounted Cavalry.

Shamburger's local capital murder case third this year



Shamburger

The former A&M student is charged with the capital murder of Lori Ann Baker. The trial begins today.

By Lily Aguilar THE BATTALION

Proceedings in the trial of a former Texas A&M biomedical

science student accused of murdering Texas A&M student Lori Ann Baker begin today at 8:30 a.m. in the 361st District Court at the Brazos County Courthouse.

Ronald Scott Shamburger is charged with the capital murder of Baker, a 20-year-old accounting major.

She was shot once in the head in the early morning of Sept. 30, 1995.

Bob Wiatt, University Police Department director, said that Baker was shot after she awoke

in her home in College Station.

Wiatt said Victoria Kohler, Baker's roommate, arrived at their home shortly after the shooting. Shamburger put Kohler in the trunk of her car and then drove her to a nearby street.

Baker's room was doused with gasoline and set on fire, Wiatt said, with Shamburger's keys in the room.

Wiatt said Shamburger fled on foot.

At about 5:30 a.m., he turned himself in to the Col-

lege Station police.

If convicted of capital murder, Shamburger could face the death penalty.

This is the third local capital murder case this year.

Carl Henry Blue was sentenced to die for killing Carmen Richards by setting her on fire in her College Station apartment, and Stanley Allison Baker was given the death penalty in August for shooting Wayne John Walters at the Dollar Video store last September.

Corrections:

In a Page 1 story in The Battalion Friday it should have stated that all A&M faculty members, including tenured faculty, have to undergo annual review. A proposal was passed by the Board of Regents Friday to expand the process to all A&M System schools.

In page 1 story and a column on Friday, Cheez Washington should have been identified as the political co-chair for the Texas A&M chapter of the NAACP.