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World Rainforest Week gives life to concerns about environmental conservation.

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Hernandez: There are 10 'good' reasons to join College Republicans.

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The A&M Soccer Team battles for SWC supremacy against No. 4 SMU.

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THE BATTALION

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Groups look to eliminate stereotypes

Representatives from the three Greek councils, the Corps and Student Government addressed campus issues at a forum Tuesday night.

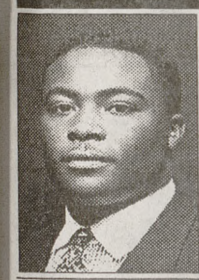
By Leslie New
 THE BATTALION

A sparse audience gathered last night to listen to seven student leaders, who represented a cross-section of the student body, discuss the misconceptions associated with their various organizations.

The leaders spoke as part of a campus relations meeting hosted by The Order of Omega, a Greek honor society.

Toby Boenig, student body president and a senior agricultural development major, moderated the discussion, introducing the panelists and asking the panel scripted questions.

The questions dealt with how members of the Corps of Cadets, Residence Housing Association, Greek fraternities and sororities, Student Government and Bonfire relate with each other and some of the stereotypes associated with participation in these organizations.



"It's up to the student body to continue advocating their opinions."

— David Washington
 Student Government executive vice president

One of the first issues addressed was the concern of how student senators represent their constituencies in matters addressed by the Student Senate, such as the issue of multiculturalism.

David Washington, Student Government executive vice president and a senior political science major, said the Senate has been perceived in the past to be an "exclusive club," and senators have worked this year to disprove this perception.

"They have developed a new constituency report form as well as putting ads in The Battalion and visiting the areas or colleges they represent," Washington said. "They are trying to get an accurate picture of the opinion of the student body."

"It's up to the student body to continue advocating their opinions."

Another issue addressed was the incident in which fraternities did not come to attention while the flags at the University Administration Building were being lowered during Bid House earlier this semester.

Tyson Voelkel, Corps commander and a senior industrial distribution major, said that on the whole, the Corps was disappointed that the fraternities did not honor the lowering of the flag, but the organization as a whole could not be held accountable.

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Jesse Czelusta waits to cross the street with his Guide dog puppy Rudder.

K-9 Contribution

Student brings guide dog training to A&M

By Courtney Walker
 THE BATTALION

Under University policy, the only pets allowed in residence halls or classrooms are seeing eye dogs and Reveille.

To keep the dog in the residence hall, Czelusta had to receive approval from the Department of Resident Life and Housing. The Residence Hall Association passed a resolution supporting Rudder's living in the dorm.

Rusty Thompson, assistant director for residence life, said that when Czelusta first approached the department with the proposal, health problems were a concern.

"The University doesn't allow pets for health reasons like fleas and where animals go to the bathroom," Thompson said.

Most dorms on campus have individual slogans or mottos. Lechner Hall has a dog. Jesse Czelusta, a senior agricultural economics major, began training his black labrador retriever puppy, named Rudder, in November 1994 from the Southwest Guide Dog Foundation to raise as a guide dog on the Texas A&M campus.

"Puppy walkers," get the puppies when they are 8- to 12-weeks-old and raise them for a year. After 14-18 months, the dogs are sent to professional schools where they are trained, then paired with a blind person.

Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

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Lecture focuses on homosexuality, Christian morality

Students at the Veritas Forum said the presentation was well-rounded and objective.

By Courtney Walker
 THE BATTALION

The Veritas Forum continued Tuesday night with Dr. Thomas Schmidt's lecture on "Searching For Truth in Lifestyles — Homosexuality and Christian Morality."

Schmidt, a religious studies professor at West Mont College and author of six books, discussed the search for "the bigger picture and where to go for truth with a big T."

Schmidt said the biggest lie of the century is that people are good when they feel good, and society tells people life is great if they are sexually fulfilled.

"There is a necessary connection between the way we were made naturally and the way we were made to act sexually," he said. "God and the Bible do not liberate us from righteousness, but to righteousness."

In his lecture, Schmidt used analogies and told stories of friends in homosexual relationships to relate to the audience.

Gary Kipe, a junior agricultural development major, said the analogies were very effective in addressing the importance of a healthy heterosexual lifestyle that glorifies God.

"Analogies like, 'Just because you want to have six different women in one day or week doesn't mean you do,' was a good example of how he addressed everyone whether they are gay or not," Kipe said.

Stephanie Sutton, a sophomore general studies major, said the general presentation made the speech very effective.

Schmidt also made reference to Dr. Mel White, who lectured on "Christianity and Homosexuality" last November and said it was possible to be a committed Christian and a practicing homosexuality.

Schmidt disagreed with White's theory and said experience cannot be measured as truth.

Mike Neely, south region director for Christian leadership ministries, said Schmidt was great because he gave students information from both sides.

"White is a very good communicator and everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but I think students should be able to hear the alternative viewpoint and then decide," Neely said. "[Schmidt] gives students a chance to evaluate, discuss and decide."

Schmidt closed in saying searching for the truth is not about homosexuality, but sexuality and the need for

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Dr. Thomas Schmidt presented the lecture on homosexuality and Christian morality Tuesday evening as part of the Veritas Forum.

Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

New personnel appointed to System

Several reorganizations within the A&M System and University were approved by the Board of Regents.

By Kristen Homyk
 THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and Chancellor Barry B. Thompson made two personnel appointments to newly created positions to aid in the internal reorganization of the Texas A&M System.

Dr. Leo Sayavedra, the president of Texas A&M International University for the last six years, will move from Laredo to College Station in January to become deputy chancellor for academic institutions and agencies.

Sayavedra will be the chief academic and student affairs officer for the A&M System. His responsibilities will include interacting with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and providing information to the Texas Legislature.

Dr. Thompson said he had planned to move Sayavedra into the position for more

than a year, and Sayavedra is the best man for the job.

"Dr. Sayavedra's stellar performance over the past year has solidified and reaffirmed my belief that his knowledge and experience make him the best individual to help lead all of our academic institutions and agencies into the next century," Thompson said in a press release.

Jose Garcia, vice president for finance and administration at Texas A&M International University, will become interim president at A&M's International University until Sayavedra's replacement is found.

Dr. J. Charles Lee, interim executive vice president and provost at Texas A&M and deputy vice chancellor of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was promoted to the new position of vice chancellor for research, planning and continuing education.

His new position entails enhancing federal research development and support, watching A&M's interests in the legislature in Washington and developing continuing edu-

cation programs for the A&M System.

Lee has been in the A&M System since 1983, when he served as head of the Department of Forest Science.

Since that time he has served as interim deputy chancellor and dean of A&M's College of Agriculture and interim director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station; associated vice chancellor and executive associate dean for A&M's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and associate dean of the college and associate director of the experimental station.

"Dr. Lee has risen through the ranks of Texas A&M University and the A&M System as a forward-thinking leader and consensus-builder," Thompson said.

Dr. Sallie V. Sheppard, a professor of computer science and associate provost for undergraduate programs and academic services at A&M, will replace Lee in his current position of interim executive vice president and provost.

"The executive vice president and provost is the chief academic officer of the University and so is essentially in charge of the academic programs," Sheppard said.



Lee

Defense rests case in Shamburger sentencing

Closing arguments for the capital murder trial will begin today.

By Tara Wilkinson
 THE BATTALION

After final testimonies from convicted murderer Ron Shamburger's friends and family members regarding Shamburger's personality and lifestyle, defense attorneys rested their case yesterday in the sentencing phase of the capital murder trial.

Shamburger was convicted Friday of the capital murder of Lori Ann Baker, a 20-year-old accounting major.

The six-man, six-woman jury will begin deliberations about Shamburger's sentence, which could be life in prison or the death penalty, after hearing closing arguments from the defense and prosecution tomorrow.

Bob White, music minister and former youth minister of Macedonian Baptist Church in Longview, Texas, described Shamburger as courteous, respectful of authority, faithful and active in church activities.

White said he knew Shamburger fairly well because Shamburger grew up in Longview and was an active member of the church.

"Because he was one of those you could expect to be there, I knew him better than the average

See **SHAMBURGER**, Page 12

Correction:

In a Tuesday Battalion story on telephone registration, it should have stated that honor student registration begins 10 p.m., Nov. 8 and ends 10 p.m., Nov. 9.