

**NEXT IN LINE**

Keith Mitchell looks like A&M's next great linebacker.

Sports, Page 9

**WHAT IS TRUTH?**

Brown: The Veritas forum engaged minds but raised many questions.

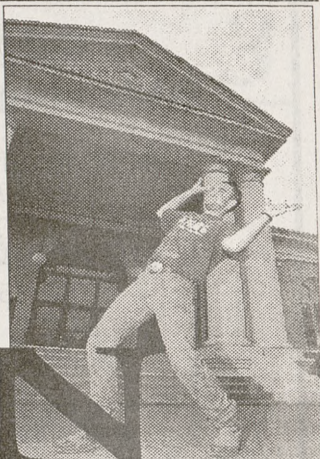
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**TRIED TRADITION**

Sbisa Yell faces changes in the face of a crack down by Food Services.

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**THE BATTALION**

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**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS**

**Campus leaders meet at roundtable**

□ A student liaison to the Board of Regents was among the topics for discussion during the meeting Thursday.

By Heather Pace  
THE BATTALION

Student leaders discussed University issues to promote campus unity Thursday night in the MSC. Led by David Washington, Student Government executive vice president and a senior political science major, the second roundtable this semester was attended by leaders from groups including the NAACP, Corps of Cadets and College Republicans.

Washington said the roundtable allowed student leaders to converse about what is not discussed in normal situations and to get to understand each other better.

"It is intended to be a sounding board for ideas so we can come together and strengthen

relations," he said.

Members began the roundtable with an update on the status of the cultures proposal.

Chris Reed, Student Senate speaker pro tem and a junior finance major, briefed those attending about the Senate's three cultures proposals, which will be filed at noon today.

One proposal would allow colleges to set up culture courses for themselves. The second would support the Faculty Senate proposal, and the third would take the middle ground, adjusting History 105 and 106 to fit broad cultural requirements.

Reed said he expects the final proposal will call for no requirements in the future.

David Brown, College Republicans president and a junior political science major, said the majority of the student body does not support these requirements.

Shawn Williams, NAACP president and a senior management major, said students are against the proposal only because they do not know what it entails.

The open dialogue among lead-

ers was continued throughout the evening as events concerning campus unity were addressed.

Washington suggested the idea of a "Unity Day," which would consist of teams chosen by lottery, enabling different campus groups to interact.

Marc Mulkey, Corps representative and a senior industrial distribution major, mentioned that the All-University Barbecue that is being sponsored by the Corps this Friday as one attempt to allow the student body to see through stereotypes.

"The biggest problem in today's society is the misrepresentation of what an organization is like," Mulkey said.

Events such as the barbecue, Whoopstock and Chili Cook-off will hopefully ease conflict among different groups, he said.

Alan Watson, Conservative Coalition president and a sophomore agricultural economics major, said smaller group interactions would benefit the campus more than large groups.

Washington said he wants to increase the amount of campus de-

bates and co-programming, such as those coordinated by MSC, to help organizations build bridges to campus unity.

Also a much debated topic was the issue of a student liaison on the Board of Regents.

Williams said that because the student liaison would have such a high turnover, the position would not be as effective as students would like it to be.

Mulkey said it is in the students' hands to let their opinions be known to the regents.

"The Corps is sending representative to every event we can," he said. "Students must take it upon themselves to put the regents in their environment."

Williams mentioned an incident in which a regent asked him at the Board's Oct. 12 open house how the students felt about the fee increases. The regent should have already known the students' response to the increases, he said.

Washington said the roundtables should enable leaders to return to their organizations and express a different slant about other organizations to members.

**Forum addressed students' issues**

□ Administrators and student leaders discussed campus safety, the general use fee increase and parking problems Thursday.

By Kristen Homyk  
THE BATTALION

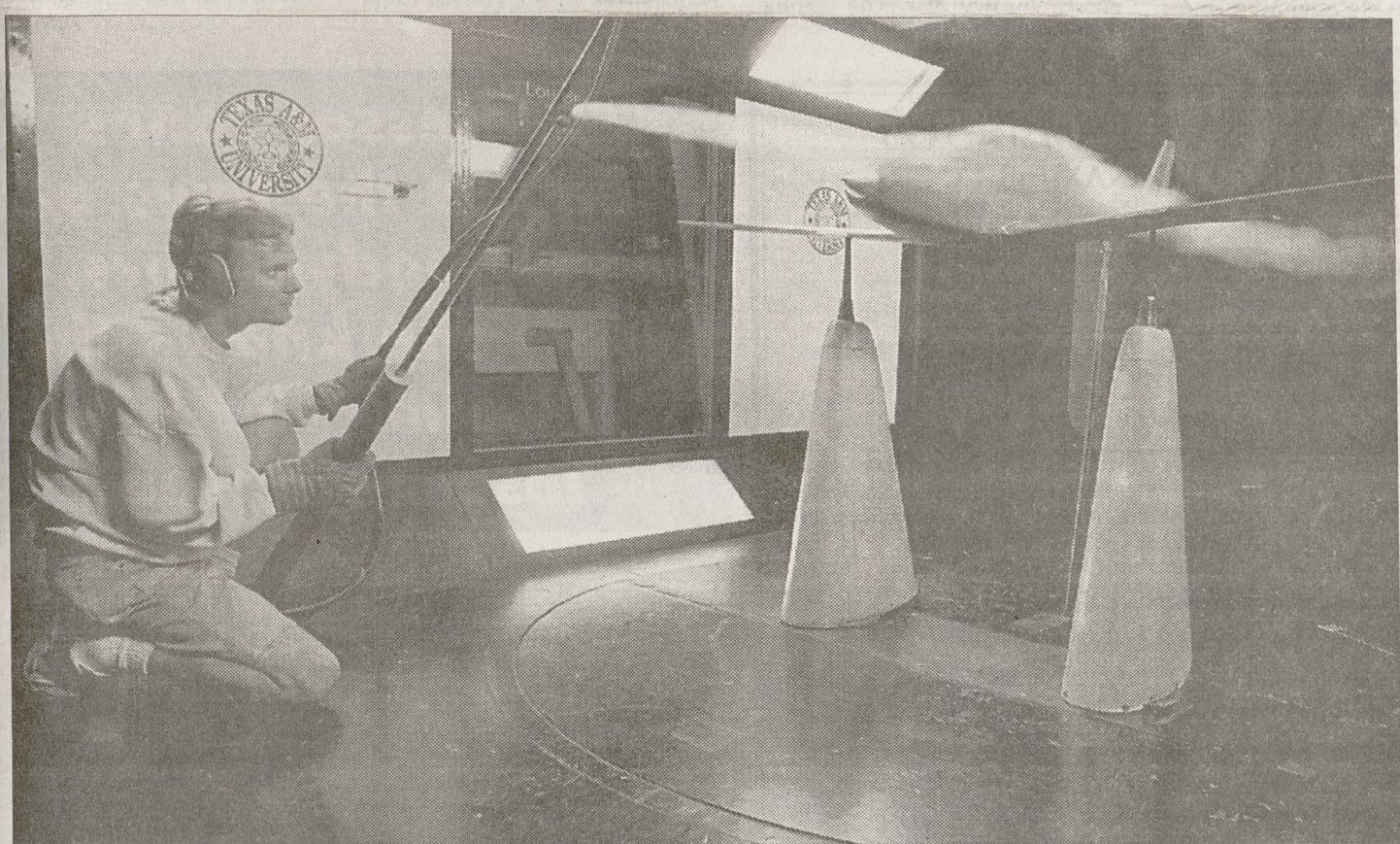
MSC Political Forum hosted "A&M's Leadership: Where Is It Leading Us," a panel discussion including several campus leaders and administrators who answered concerns and questions Thursday.

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president; Dr. Pierce Cantrell, Faculty Senate speaker; Becky Silloway, Student Senate speaker; and Patrick Conway, MSC Council president, addressed issues brought forth by the thirty students, faculty members and staff members who attended the public forum.

Foremost in the discussion were the heated issues on students' minds, beginning with the general use fee.

Bowen said that before last June, the general use fee for state universities was capped by the state Legislature at \$12 per semester credit hour. When the Texas Legislature was forced to cut the budgets of public institutions, it removed the cap and allowed universities to increase their general use fees to equal tuition fees, he said.

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Robyn Calloway, THE BATTALION

**TEST RUN**

Senior aerospace engineering major Bryan Duke tests the aerodynamics of his design class project in the wind tunnel at Eastwood Airport Thursday afternoon.

**MSC Council celebrates center's 45th anniversary**

□ The number of programs and students involved in Memorial Student Center activities has increased over the years.

By Lily Aguilar  
THE BATTALION

The MSC's 45th anniversary gives MSC Council members and students time for reflection and celebration.

Jonathan Neerman, Council executive vice president for relations and a senior political science major, said the Council will have a cake-cutting ceremony 45 minutes after the A&M-University of Houston football game Saturday.

"We're having two former MSC Council presidents speak, Dr. J.T.L. McNew and Jim Ray," Neerman said. "Patrick Conway (MSC Council president) and Jim Reynolds (MSC director) will also give speeches about the MSC."

The festivities will allow students to learn about the progress the MSC Council has made since its founding in 1950.

"We are hoping for a good mix of for-

mer and present students," Neerman said. "It should give current students a sense of history about the MSC."

"Former students can see how things have changed with the times. I think the current MSC organizations can get a better grasp of all that has been put into programming by talking to the former members."

Neerman said the MSC's mission statement has changed to reflect the students, but has remained true to form. The MSC has come a long way, he said, and will continue to improve.

"I see changes in the next five years in the amount and quality of programs because of the increase in funding," he said.

Liz Rayburn, Council public relations chair and a junior biomedical science major, said the anniversary is significant to students throughout the University. More students should get involved with MSC organizations, she said.

"I want to move into the 21st century with a boom," Rayburn said. "In the year 2000, we'll be 50 years old, and I'd like to see expansion."

The MSC programs are addressing topics that reach a more diverse group

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**Student dies after accident**

Christopher H. Stehouwer, a sophomore biomedical sciences major, died Thursday as the result of falling out of a moving truck near Hearne, University police reported.

Bob Wiatt, UPD director, said Stehouwer, a 20-year-old from San Antonio, was returning from gathering bamboo for a fraternity event when he fell from the truck around 4 a.m.

Stehouwer was admitted to St. Joseph Regional Health Center in Bryan and was pronounced brain dead around 5 p.m., Wiatt said. University Relations reported that Stehouwer's family, friends and University staff members were present at the hospital.

Students needing assistance concerning this incident can call Student Counseling Services at 845-4427 or 845-2700.

**Jurors sentence Saldivar to life term for Selena's murder**

□ About 100 fans of the slain Tejano music star celebrated Thursday's verdict in Houston.

HOUSTON (AP) — Devotees of slain Tejano music star Selena whooped it up a second time Thursday when Yolanda Saldivar drew a life prison term from the same jurors who convicted her of murder.

"I can scream now," said Natividad Rodriguez, age 54, of Houston. "This is a time when you can scream in the middle of the street. Yeah!"

A crowd of about 100 Selena fans gathered, as they have throughout Saldivar's trial, to await the jury's decision on punishment.

After nine hours of deliberation over two days, the panel decided on a life prison term, the maximum punishment under consideration. Jurors did not impose the \$10,000 fine sought by prosecutors.

On Monday, the same 12 jurors found Saldivar, founder of the Selena fan club, guilty in the March 31 shooting death of a 23-year-old rising music star, who was immensely popular in the

Hispanic community.

Thursday's crowd was spirited. Selena fans held poster-sized photographs of the singer, mugged for the dozens of television cameras and waved signs demanding that Saldivar be sent to prison for life.

Minutes after word of the verdict spread around Houston, downtown streets began filling with horn-honking Selena fans headed toward the courthouse. They passed to the crowd's cheers.

More than a dozen police officers, including several mounted patrols, stood watch outside the building.

Rodriguez, a Harris County worker who said she had stood vigil outside the building throughout the 2 1/2-week trial, said Saldivar's punishment fit her crime.

"I think so, because she (Saldivar) is still alive. Her family can still see her," Rodriguez said. "But look at poor Selena. Where is she?"

Saldivar will not be eligible for parole until the year 2025. That's long enough for Selena fan Melissa Santos, age 25, of Houston.

"I'm happy it is over and she got what she deserved," Santos said. "She'll suffer within those years. It won't bring Selena back, but it's some satisfaction."



AP File Photo

Yolanda Saldivar is escorted to a Texas Department of Public Safety airplane in Corpus Christi Oct. 3, for transfer to Houston to stand trial. Saldivar was convicted of murdering Selena in a Corpus Christi motel room March 31.