

A MATTER OF SIZE

Machines create problems for shorter students in weight training classes.

Aggielife, Page 3

SCIENTIFIC PROOF

Baxter: Scientific evidence linking homosexuality with heredity could stir the world.

Opinion, Page 15

RUN AND GUN

The Lady Aggie Basketball team sets a school record in an 111-83 victory.

Sports, Page 11

THE BATTALION

Vol. 102, No. 59 (16 pages)

Established in 1893

Thursday • November 16, 1995

Student Senate passes cultures bill

The Senate debated two cultures bills Wednesday night. The final bill would allow individual colleges to implement the cultures requirement.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate passed a bill Wednesday night stating that the student body "as a whole" does not support a core curriculum cultures requirement, but that if the administration decides the requirement is necessary, the decision to implement it should be left to individual colleges

and departments. The American and International Cultures Proposal states that since "decisions concerning curriculum are best made by those who are experts in their respective fields," changes to curriculum should be made by each department and college after they research the issue themselves.

The bill calls for college and department administrators to weigh several factors in their curriculum decisions, including the expanding global economy, cultural diversity in the workplace and a need for "increased understanding and awareness of U.S. minority or international peoples."

Many senators opposed the bill because they wanted the Senate to take a stronger stand, for or against, cultures

course requirements. Some senators said this bill is nothing more than a "politically correct way to say we don't want a cultures course."

But J. J. Wilson, an engineering senator, said accusations that the bill is "watered down" are unfair and inaccurate.

"It does make a stand," Wilson said. "It says we want the colleges to make their own requirements. That's the stand."

Senators favoring the American and International Cultures Proposal said the bill should not be interpreted as a message that multiculturalism is unimportant.

Jason Waligura, an engineering senator and a junior petroleum engineering major, said the bill provides the



See CULTURES, Page 5

Senate passes, introduces other bills

In other business, the Student Senate passed two bills:

• **Common Final Exams Bill:** The Senate rejects the concept of common final exams, which involves giving the same test to all sections of a course. If common final exams are enacted, the bill requests that exams not be scheduled on readings days; exams be curved on a sectional, not departmental basis; the course syllabus include an overview of testable material; a common text be used; and common finals be implemented first for courses that already have common midterms.

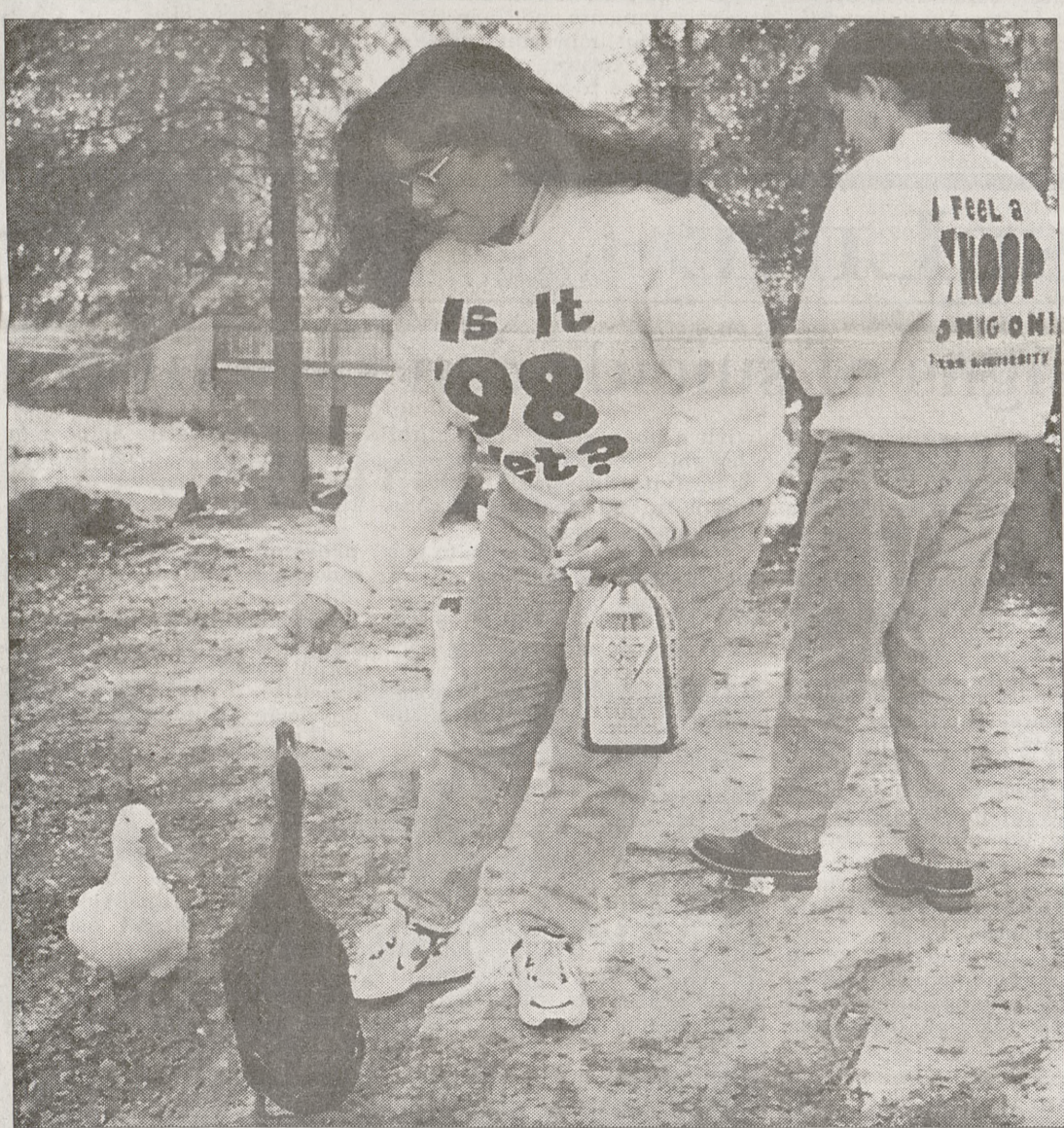
• **Health Excuse Policy:** Because the service at A.P. Beutel Health Center has slowed due to many students seeking excuses for missed classes, the Senate calls

for a stricter attendance policy. The new policy specifies that instead of students just being treated, a physician must determine that students were too ill to attend class or were contagious. The new policy would also require students to provide excuses by the end of the next working day if an absence occurs on an exam day.

Three new bills were introduced to the Student Senate. The bills will be debated at the next Senate meeting, scheduled for Nov. 29.

• **Southside Mail Drop Box Bill:** The Senate requests that a blue mail drop box be placed in a Southside location.

See BILLS, Page 5



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

PARK PALS

Sophomores Bianca Maldonado, an industrial engineering major, and Angie Garza, a civil engineering major, feed bread to the ducks in Research Park Wednesday.

Conference to focus on campus diversity issues

The Drive in for Diversity coordinators said the conference will allow administrators and faculty members to better serve students' needs.

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

At a time when multicultural issues are a heated topic of debate, the seventh annual Drive in for Diversity Conference will explore diversity issues Nov. 17.

Becky Petit, conference chairwoman and diversity education coordinator, said the conference should broaden the perspectives of faculty members and administrators at A&M.

"More than just a single day to reflect on our heritage, the conference is a call to action," Petit said. "It is an annual opportunity to expand awareness of diversity issues and their valuable impact on our professions."

The theme of the drive is "E Pluribus Unum: Out of Many, One" and focuses on diversity in higher education.

"We can all bring our differences to the table, but we can still be one," Petit said. "This is where our theme comes from."

Sessions will include: "Minority Athletes: Winners or Losers in the Academy," "UPD and Me: A Need for Understanding," "Diversity in Cyberspace: Using the Internet to Find Multi-

cultural Resources" and "Gender Bias: A Multicultural Issue."

Kevin Carreathers, Department of Multicultural Services director, said the conference will remind people about the importance of continuing to discuss diversity issues.

"The conference will continue to send messages to the University and keep diversity issues in the forefront," Carreathers said. "It will build a stronger sense of campus community."

The conference will be divided into two sets of three concurrent sessions, two keynote addresses and a question-and-answer session during lunch.

Dr. Eric Jolly, an Education Development Center senior scientist, will give the morning keynote speech, "Respecting Cultural Differences and Cultivating Diversity."

The question-and-answer session will provide an opportunity for audience members to ask specific questions about the multicultural issue, and Jolly's afternoon keynote address will elaborate on the morning keynote in a speech entitled, "Strengths and Weaknesses of a Multicultural Class."

Petit said these sessions will have positive ramifications for A&M because they focus on the pros and cons of a multicultural curriculum and diversity issues relating to the changing needs and identities of students.

"We, as professionals, need to be prepared to meet their needs," she said.

The conference will enable administrators and faculty members to serve the needs of the

See DIVERSITY, Page 9



Stone stresses need for strong, risk-taking American leaders

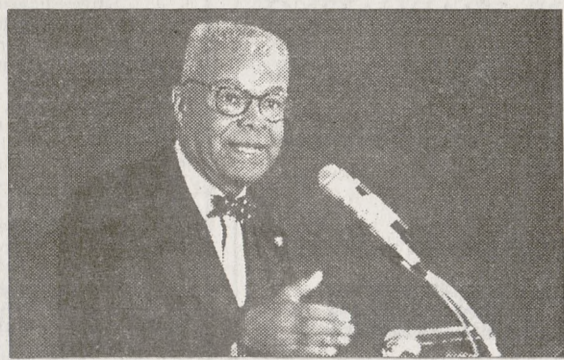
Chuck Stone was the first African-American man hired to do television commentary and served as an adviser to U.S. Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr.

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

Professor Chuck Stone, first president of the National Black Journalists Association, urged students Wednesday to refuse mediocre leadership and to steps to better the nation.

Stone began by emphasizing the importance of "paying your civic rent." Students should use college to further both their intellect and moral character to prepare them for leadership roles, he said.

About 30 people filled 601 Rudder Tower to hear Stone, who served as an adviser to U.S. Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. and was the first African-American man hired to do television commentary.



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

Chuck Stone urged students to refuse mediocre leadership at a speech Wednesday.

Stone said many factors go into the making of a leader, including high intellect, steadfastness of purpose, ideological consistency, charisma and the courage to take risks.

See STONE, Page 9

Institutions need to assess, improve diversity climate

Dr. Sylvia Hurtado's speech was broadcast at other universities in the System.

By Lisa Johnson
THE BATTALION

Dr. Sylvia Hurtado said Wednesday that academic institutions must make a conscious effort to increase diversity on campus.

Hurtado, a University of Michigan sociology professor and a member of the Center for the Study of Higher Education and Post secondary Education, studied 6,000 students at 300 universities nationwide.

Hurtado's speech was broadcast simultaneously at five other universities in the System.

Hurtado also discussed the Common Destiny Alliance, a

group with goals to confront racial issues and reduce prejudice among students in kindergarten through high school.

While the CDA is helping to reduce racial and ethnic tensions, Hurtado said, steps need to be taken to improve the "climate" for diversity at universities across the nation.

"Often when we think of the climate of something, we think of something that is uncontrollable," she said. "The climate for diversity can be changed, however."

"In an effort to change the climate, it is crucial that people recognize the problem and its dimensions, and then take steps to rectify problems or make improvements where they are needed."

An institution's climate for diversity, Hurtado said, includes the school's historical legacy of inclusion or exclusion of ethnic and racial minorities, the school's percentage of mi-

nority enrollment, the perception of racial tension among students and interaction among the races on campus — both positive and negative.

Although the legacy of exclusion or inclusion differs from university to university, Hurtado's study showed that interracial interaction of a positive nature, such as dating and studying, is most frequent between African-American, Asian and Hispanic minority groups and is less frequent between whites and minorities.

Interracial interaction of a negative nature, including discrimination and harassment in the classroom, occurred most frequently among the African Americans and was felt equally between the whites and Hispanics who were part of the study.

In her speech, Hurtado discussed how to improve diversity.

See CLIMATE, Page 9