

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

A&M freshman Michael Price lends enthusiasm to Aggie special teams.

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CINDERELLA STORIES

Cultures share the same story with many variations.

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HIDDEN PREJUDICE

Fitzgerald: Racism at A&M may not always be obvious, but it is here.

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THE BATTALION

Vol. 102, No. 60 (10 pages) Established in 1893 Friday • November 17, 1995

A&M considers two day care funding proposals

Students and faculty members are debating whether all students or only the students who use the facilities should pay for a University day care.

By Lily Aguilar THE BATTALION

J.J. Skinner, a junior mechanical engineering major, and his wife Ashley have been married for a year. They share a

trailer home in Bryan with their three dogs, two cats and gerbil.

The Skinners said they eventually want to start a family, but issues such as day care have stopped them in their tracks.

"If there was day care available at Texas A&M that was affordable, then we would probably want to have a child," Ashley Skinner said. "We can't afford to have someone come into our home and care for a child when I'm at work or J.J. is at school."

Students like the Skinners who want to start families, and students who already have families may be in luck because of day-care proposals under consideration at Texas A&M.

Sandi Osters, assistant to the vice president for student affairs, said there are two proposals being considered for implementation on campus. One proposal is modeled after the University of Texas' day-care program, which allows part-time day care for students with children.

"This program as it is used at t.u. uses \$.50 of the student service fees to run the day-care center," Osters said. "There is nothing on paper right now about how we have to do this, but we are using t.u. as a role model."

The second proposal for full-time day care is funded solely through added tuition paid by students, faculty and staff members. This program would not use

any student service fee money and would only be paid for by those who utilize the day-care services, Osters said.

"We don't know how many students would use [the day-care center]," she said. "We don't know how students feel about this and how it will impact them. But we do know there are pressing demands from students and faculty."

The addition of on-campus day care particularly would benefit graduate and fellowship students, Osters said, as well as faculty and staff. Providing day care would be an attraction for many fellowship students with families, she said.

"I've been approached by a professor who said she was having difficulty

keeping fellowship students with families," she said. "The Faculty Senate has been the primary mover behind full-time child care."

"I imagine we are probably one of the few universities of our size that does not offer day care. This could be a self-fulfilling prophecy because you get good people on board, and they will do research, which in turn will drive the reputation of the University."

Osters said day care may not seem economical to students without children, but she said it is "sometimes just the right thing to do."

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E-Walk, Old Army Style

Plans underway to make walk memorable for Class of '96

Students are reminded to stay off the turf at Kyle Field during Elephant Walk and to keep the campus clean for the weekends' visitors.

By Kristen Homyk THE BATTALION

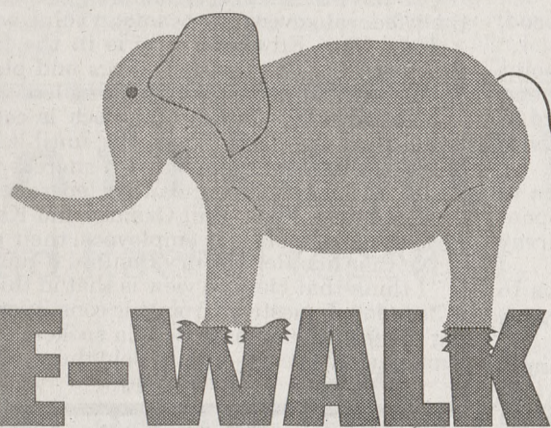
In traditional, Old Army style the Class of '96 will wander off together to die Nov. 30.

The Class of '96 held their final Elephant Walk planning session Thursday to discuss the route and any last concerns.

The plan for this year's walk is to avoid the mess that results from juniors harassing the senior class in an untraditional manner.

The seniors will make the traditional walk from Kyle Field to Bonfire Site at the same time the juniors are walking as a class from Bonfire to Kyle Field, but taking different routes.

John Jordan, Elephant Walk public relations chair and a senior marketing major, said the involvement of the junior class in Elephant Walk is a welcome addition to the event.



"We decided to involve them to excite them about their upcoming senior year," he said.

The Elephant Walk is a proud tradition for the entire campus, Jordan said, but especially for the members of the junior class, who will soon take their last stroll around campus as well.

"We want them to get something out of Elephant Walk," he said. "This is the symbolic beginning of their senior year."

Elephant Walk this year has been planned to make sure the solemn event will be memorable for the Class of '96.

Dyanna Wilson, Elephant Walk chair and a senior political science major, outlined some of the planning for the event at the safety,

planning and information meeting.

"Nine seniors mocked Elephant Walk last night, and we walked from Kyle Field to Bonfire Site, making notes about different situations we might encounter," Wilson said.

Elephant Walk was planned to utilize areas with wide sidewalks and little traffic. Vegetation will be roped off to protect it from overzealous seniors, and students, faculty and staff members should expect roads around campus to be barricaded.

Wilson said that due to the added involvement of the junior class, Elephant Walk should run smoothly this year.

"We're not really worried about any conflict between the two classes," she said.

Minor concerns involved in next week's Elephant Walk, Bonfire and Texas game were also discussed at the meeting.

The Athletic Department expressed apprehension about the protection of Kyle Field's playing surface and goal posts. Students are encouraged to stay off the field.

Billy Pickard, associate athletic director, said that as long as students respect the surface of Kyle Field, Elephant Walk will be allowed to continue when the field is converted

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Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

SWINE SCALE

Patrick O'Quinn, a graduate animal nutrition student, weighs a pig at the Swine Center Thursday afternoon. The pigs at the center are weighed weekly.

Demolition of Law, Puryear scheduled to begin in May

After the two halls are demolished, green space will be left temporarily in the area where they now stand.

By Michelle Lyons THE BATTALION

Building a monument in tribute to Law and Puryear is next on the list after the buildings are demolished in the Spring.

The demolition of the dorms, which was approved by the Texas A&M Board of Regents last month, is set for this May.

Ron Sasse, residence life and housing director, said once the demolition begins next spring, it should be completed by the end of summer.

"The goal right now is for demolition to start in May when the students leave," Sasse said. "I'm hoping that they can finish demolition by the end of summer."

However, Jake Carr, Residence Hall Association facilities and operations chairman and a senior English major, said demolitions may take a few years.

"I know the University is taking bids on the demolitions now," Carr said. "It's going to take a few years to tear down the dorms because of asbestos abatement."

Sasse said the current focus of the process is salvaging items from the two dorms.

"The next step since the vote is to make a list of all the things that are salvageable from the buildings," he said.

After making this determination, the focus will shift toward removing these items and finding someone to do the asbestos abatement and structure demolition.

"The goal is to have the bids reviewed in January," Sasse said. "We must know at least one month before the March Board of Regents meeting because it takes one month to get an item on the agenda."

In the meantime, the Cornerstone Committee is looking into what should be put in the dorms' places.

Jesse Sanchez, RHA vice president, former Puryear Hall president and a member of the committee, said the group will design a tribute to the halls.

"It's purpose is to build a monument for Law and Puryear," Sanchez, a senior management major, said. "We're trying to decide what to put there, but we've pretty much determined our design."

Sanchez said the space will remain either some sort of green space or other non-permanent establishment for awhile.

"I know there's no plan to build an actual building there for at least five years," he said.

The committee is made up of RHA members; former residents of both Law and Puryear; Dan Mizer, A&M student development specialist; and Brian Mason, Old Main Society president. The committee is chaired by Charney Rydl, associate director of student affairs.

SAT adjusts aptitude test scores

Although the readjusted scores are higher, students stay in the same percentile as the original scores.

By Michelle Lyons THE BATTALION

Students receiving their degree audits may notice that their Scholastic Aptitude Test scores are higher than they remember.

Last year, SAT revised its current system and recentered the test, causing an increase in students' scores.

Gary Engelgau, executive director of admissions and records, said the changes were a result of more people taking the SAT.

"The current system was designed in 1941, when there were fewer standardized tests given out because there were fewer people who actually went on to college," Engelgau said. "Most of the students taking the test were very bright individuals."

"At the time, a good share of the Ivy [League] schools were using the test."

Engelgau said that over time, the number of high school graduates going on to college increased, and with it, there was a broader variety of students taking the test for a broader variety of schools. The overall capability of test-takers changed also due to this increase in stu-

dents taking the test.

The average verbal and math scores in 1941 was 500. By 1970, the average verbal score was down to the 420s, and the average math score is down to the 470s.

"Not everyone looks as bright as they did because they are not just having top students take the test," he said. "We are now stating their SAT scores on the new centered scale."

"Students stay in the same percentile, but the scale is now shifted. It's still the same numbers."

David Martin, measurement and research services coordinator of academic testing, said that because of the new scale, Texas A&M entrance exam requirements will be raised.

"The changes did not affect this year's incoming class," he said. "For next year's class, it will be in effect."

The average SAT score for incoming freshman was 495 on the verbal section and 582 on the math section with a total average of 1077.

Under the new provisions, the same students would average 571 on verbal and 593 on math.

Gale Wood, assistant director of admissions, said the new scale will not affect future applicants at all.

"It's not going to affect them in any way," Wood said. "Our admissions policy is the same, we just adjusted the requirements to fit the new scale."

"Relative to 'Old versus New,' there is no difference."