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African-American and youth art illustrate diverse viewpoints. Aggillife, Page 3

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ALMOST HEAVEN

Lady Aggie Angel Spinks dominates opponents inside. Sports, Page 7



THE BATTALION

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Clinton challenges GOP to balance budget

Sen. Dole called the President the main obstacle to a balanced budget.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Delivering his State of the Union address to a skeptical Republican Congress, President Clinton traced the themes of his reelection campaign Tuesday

night and confronted the GOP on the budget, demanding they

"never — ever" shut the government again.

Democrats rose with loud cheers but Republicans sat in stony silence at Clinton's challenge. GOP lawmakers — particularly the rebellious House freshmen — had been coached by party elders to be on good behavior and not boo Clinton, as some did last year.

The speech was brief by Clinton standards, 61 minutes, less than last year's record 81-minute marathon.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole — front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination — made the Republican re-

sponse, outlining differences with Clinton and assailing the president as "the chief obstacle to a balanced budget." He called the president "the rear-guard of the welfare state."

Dole said Clinton was "careening dangerously off course" in welfare, education, Medicare and taxes. "We will challenge President Clinton again and again to walk the talk he talks so well," Dole vowed.

Clinton proposed several new initiatives, among them \$1,000 college scholarships for the top 5 percent of graduates from every high school, and turning the FBI loose on youth gangs.

With Republicans controlling the legislative agenda, Clinton's proposals are unlikely to see the light of day, especially in an election year.

The House chamber overflowed with Senate and House members, Clinton's Cabinet, the Supreme Court justices in their black robes and ambassadors from

around the world. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Clinton's yearlong nemesis, sat immediately behind the president, applauding politely on some occasions, and sitting in stern silence when the president criticized Congress.

And criticize he did. "I challenge all of you in this chamber," Clinton said, "never — ever" shut the government again. He said it was time to "finish the job" and pass a balanced budget bill that he could sign.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, listening along her GOP Whitewater critics, was applauded as she entered with

her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, who was making her first State of the Union appearance. The president introduced the beleaguered Mrs. Clinton as a "wonderful wife, a magnificent mother and a great first lady," and Chelsea led a standing ovation of Democrats and Republicans alike.

"The era of big government is over," Clinton said, twice, as if to capture a campaign slogan. Republicans liked that, and answered with applause. Democrats hailed Clinton's next sentence: "But we cannot go back to the time when our citizens were left to fend for themselves."



Clinton

MSC Council elects president

Williams will take office in April.

By Courtney Walker THE BATTALION

The newly elected leader of one of Texas A&M's largest organizations arrived on campus four years ago as a shy student who spent the first month of classes in his room.

But life at A&M brought Chris Williams, a senior political science and speech communication major, out of his shell.



Last night, Williams was elected MSC Council president.

"When I first came to A&M, I didn't know anyone," he said. "My parents had just moved to Oklahoma, so I was pretty much alone."

Williams was attracted to the MSC as a freshman when he attended a Political Forum meeting. He decided to get involved.

There, he said, he found his niche.

His MSC leadership experi-

ence includes serving as Political Forum chair and MSC Council vice president for program administration.

"I have a clear understanding of what the MSC is about and where it needs to go," he said. "And I have a clear vision of how to make a difference."

Williams, who takes office in April, said his three main challenges this year will be reclaiming the MSC's role on campus, internally structuring the MSC

"I have a clear understanding of what the MSC is about and where it needs to go."

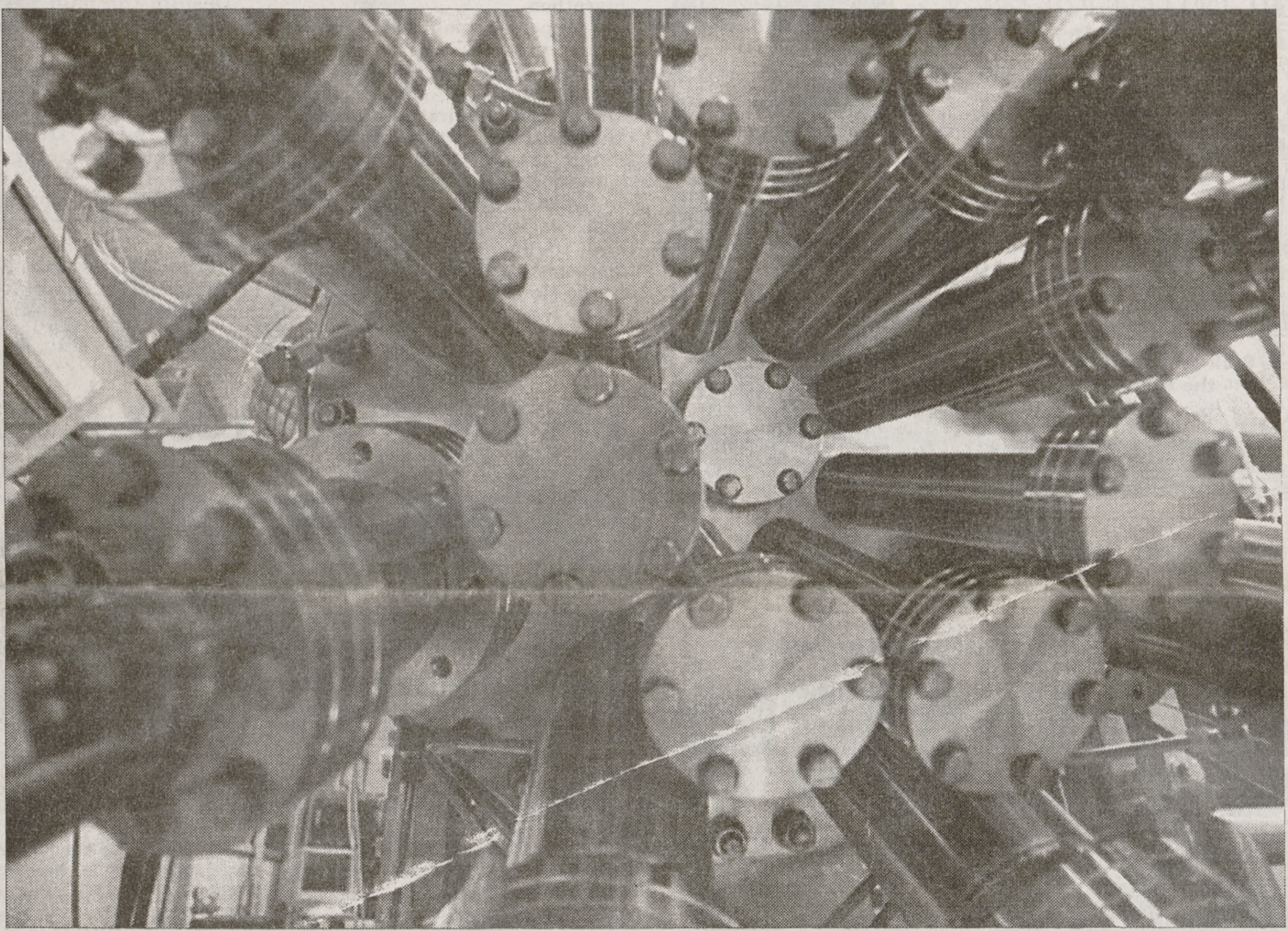
— Chris Williams new MSC Council president

to produce quality programs, and building an MSC team.

As MSC Council President, he will oversee approximately 40 council members from 27 MSC committees.

Jonathan Neerman, an MSC Council executive vice president and a senior political science major, has worked with

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Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

HEAVY METAL

This machine, the Molecular Beam Epitaxy System (MBE) at the NanoFAB Center is located in the basement of the Engineering/Physics Building. The MBE uses a molecular beam to layer silicon on semiconductors that can be used to make computer chips.

B-CS residents want to open maternity house

The Heritage House is in search of a building to renovate or property to build a facility.

By Kendra S. Rasmussen THE BATTALION

A 16-year-old girl who solicited help from Brazos County Crisis Pregnancy Services about a year ago probably has no idea what she set in motion.

Sue Sorensen, crisis pregnancy center staff member, said that when the girl came to her, she had a one-year-old child and was three weeks away from delivering her second.

"We want to help the girls that want to be helped."

— Margaret O'Quinn Heritag. House board member

The girl had no place to stay. She refused to live with her mother in a crack house where she had been raped twice.

Sorensen said she spent 100 hours on the telephone trying to find someone who would take the girl in.

"It was the most frustrating thing I had ever dealt with," she said.

Her frustration came from the fact that Bryan-College Station has no facility to house homeless, pregnant women.

So she began checking into a program she had heard about that housed women in crisis situations.

A woman had laid the groundwork for a maternity home to serve the Bryan-College Station area,

and then abandoned the project a year ago to move to Canada.

She called it Heritage House. "It's been sitting there ever since, waiting for someone else to pick it up," she said.

So that's what Sorensen did.

At an organizational meeting Tuesday night at the College Station Conference Center, Sorensen explained that Heritage House is ready to go, with one exception.

"We have everything but the place," she said.

Heritage House coordinators are looking for a home to renovate or property on which to build a pregnancy home.

But for now, they are searching for couples to volunteer their homes as "shepherding homes," in which homeless, pregnant women would be placed as soon as March.

When a facility is found, Sorensen said she hopes to start by housing up to eight girls, all of whom will have been screened extensively.

"We'd like to house single, pregnant teens to start with," she said. "But my vision would be to house up to, say, 30 or 40 girls."

Margaret O'Quinn, a Heritage House board member, said the home will not be a revolving-door organization, but one that expects something from the ladies they help.

"My purpose is not to take in a rebellious teenager who doesn't want to listen to anyone," she said. "We want to help the girls that want to be helped."

Dana Jones, an A&M junior journalism major, said she feels called to give time, guidance and love to this project.

"God placed an intense burden on my heart for women in pregnancy crises," she said. "I long to give my heart to it."

Heritage House coordinators are looking for volunteers to provide support of any kind.

Money for school still available

University and federal officials predict different futures for college financial aid.

By Heather Pace THE BATTALION

Financial aid remains available to Texas A&M students despite federal government budget-balancing attempts that threaten to cut it, an A&M financial aid officer said.

Jack Falks, Student Financial Aid assistant director, said financial aid is safe from budget cuts in the long run, although financial aid processing will probably be slowed down by the government shutdowns.

"There were a lot of threats about cuts and interest subsidies for the students," Falks said, "But it looks like that has been tabled, and we're not as worried as we were three or four months ago."

Financial aid stability somewhat eases the burden on students who graduate with sky-high debts, he said.

And more students than ever before are in debt.

"The average debt is increasing somewhat on this campus, as the typical undergraduate leaves with about \$10,000 in student loans," Falks said.

Jane Glickman of the United States Department of Education views the financial aid situation differently.

She said aid is not yet safe from budget balancers.

"It is one of the issues being considered with the budget-reconciliation talks between the President and the leaders of the Senate," Glickman said.

Some Congress members are attempting to limit the number of schools that offer repayment and direct-lending plans.

Under direct lending, federal money goes straight to universities' financial aid offices, bypassing banks and other middlemen that make loans more complicated for students.

Currently, students nationwide can take advantage of a loan-repayment plan offered under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

The program allows students to make monthly payments after graduation based on their incomes, with annual adjustments as their income levels change.

Falks said he supports this direct-loan program, though A&M's financial aid office does not offer it.

But under the Stafford Loan Program available at A&M, students benefit from a similar income-contingent repayment plan.

"Repayment plans allow students to choose majors that may not pay as high of starting

salaries, but they don't have to deal with ballooning payments," Falks said.

Regardless of future financial aid trials and tribulation, many A&M students are dissatisfied even with the existing system.

Many students feel cheated because their parents' annual incomes exceed the minimum qualifications for financial aid.

Rick Fournier, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said financial aid should be revamped to allow more students

"It [financial aid] is one of the issues being considered with the budget-reconciliation talks between the President and the leaders of the Senate."

— Jane Glickman United States Department of Education

financial assistance.

"My parents make just a little bit too much money to get financial aid, but they still can't afford to send me to college," Fournier said. "I think financial aid needs some serious overhauling if it is going to work and be fair to everyone."

But struggling students should take note, Falks said, because numerous financial aid opportunities go unclaimed each year.

A recent National Academic Funding Administration (NAFA) report stated that more than \$6 billion of national funding

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Professional Engineering meeting 7:30 p.m. in 202... For more contact the SHPE of...

Association: Or... internacional, ... y entrega de ... held at 7 p.m. Contact Adolfo at ... ana at 764-8795

Business Associ... meeting will be ... in 118 Wehner... me. Call Claris... details.

Battalion service ... student and fac... activities. Items ... no later than ... of the de... application dead... and events and ... What's Up. If ... please call ... 45-3313.

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HEAVY METAL

B-CS residents want to open maternity house

Money for school still available

UP \$69.95

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