

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Texas A&M Basketball Team gains revenge on the Baylor Bears. Sports, Page 7

RACISM LINGERS AT A&M

Clark: Everyday encounters prove that racism at A&M is alive and well. Opinion, Page 9

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Donovan Wheatfall inspires others with powerful speech. Aggeliflife, Page 3



THE BATTALION

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Committee gives Senate okay to pass fee bill

The GSC will decide today whether to support a bill that would cut MSC and Battalion funding.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate's Internal Affairs Committee recommended Monday night that the Senate pass a bill call-

ing for a \$6 increase in the student services fee for 1997 and allocating the fee's \$8 million revenue to campus organizations.

After debate about whether the suggested allocation for the Memorial Student Center and The Battalion should be re-examined, the internal affairs committee moved the bill forward to be voted on by the Graduate Student Council tonight and the full Senate Wednesday.

After the GSC and the Senate have stated their official opinions on the proposed fee increase and allocation, Dr. J.

Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, will draft the final bill that will be presented to the Texas A&M System Board of Regents.

The Student Services Fee Allocation Committee (SSFAC), which allocates the fee revenue, set The Battalion's 1997 budget at \$4,050, a 94-percent decrease from fiscal year 1996, and the MSC's budget at \$1,603,321, almost a 6-percent decrease from fiscal year 1996.

Jimmy Charney, MSC executive vice president for finance and administration, said the

MSC is concerned about the recommended allocation because \$55,000 of the decrease is the result of a SSFAC mistake.

The Student Finance Center was removed from the MSC between fiscal years 1995 and 1996 and placed under the student activities department. In fiscal year 1996, the \$55,000 that funded the finance center was taken out of the MSC's budget, Charney said, but was not included in student activities' budget.

Therefore, the MSC paid for the finance center from its re-

serves. This year, the SSFAC has proposed cutting another \$55,000 from the MSC's fiscal year 1997 budget, which Charney said will result in a total MSC loss of more than \$100,000.

"In 1997, we are not willing to cover their mistake," he said. "We are very disappointed, because again a very huge mistake was pointed out, but Internal Affairs passed it on to the Senate."

"We hope that the Senate sees the big mistakes."

Sterling Hayman, Battalion editor-in-chief, said The Battalion should continue to be sup-

ported through student fees.

"If the administration wants the students of Texas A&M to continue to receive a quality, award-winning newspaper, then it needs to prove it through its actions," Hayman said. "The Battalion is a tradition on campus that should not be ignored."

Possible ways the newspaper could compensate for the loss are increasing advertising rates to both on- and off-campus organizations, charging for What's Up announcements and decreasing

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Dave House, THE BATTALION

I'M GONNA KNOCK YOU OUT

Jack Perry, a freshman Spanish major, and Ryan Blair, a freshman mechanical engineering major, duke it out Monday in the "bouncy boxing challenge," one of five events at Rudder Fountain.

Aggies least likely to turn out for elections

A&M students make up a large percentage of registered voters, but few actually vote.

This story is the first of a two-part series.

By Pamela Benson
THE BATTALION

Government officials shape everyday life in many ways, deciding how fast people can drive, how many police officers patrol community streets and whether to protect the environment.

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However, many people do not vote in the local, state or national elections in which these officials are chosen.

Elections in Bryan-College Station have never had more than a 10-percent voter turnout. But all U.S. citizens who are

at least 18 years of age and have never been convicted of a felony or been declared mentally incompetent in court are eligible to vote.

In order to vote, students must register with the county registrar where they live at least 30 days prior to an election, either by going to the voter registration office or by mailing in an application card.

Summer Bass, a Brazos County Voter Registration Office employee, said that though the process is not complicated, many people do not take the time to fill out an application.

Students can register to vote either in the county where they attend school or in the county where their parents live.

"It's totally up to the student where they want to vote," Bass said. "Some students who are in-

involved in their communities and want to help out their hometowns would rather vote at home. Otherwise, they vote here because it's easier."

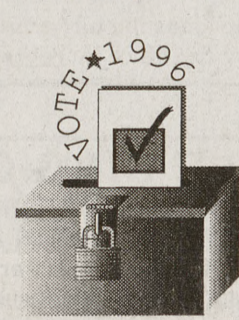
Bass said students constitute the largest percentage of the population in College Station that is registered to vote, but that they are the least likely to actually vote.

Dr. Norman Luttbeg, an A&M political science professor, said students do not vote because they lack interest and are not involved in their communities.

But apathy is a problem in the entire community as well, he said, and many people claim they do not have time to go to a polling place and cast a vote.

He said age and education are determinants of voter participation, and that people with higher educations are more likely to

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City, A&M residents fall victim of con artist

UPD officials said students should file reports immediately if a stranger asks to borrow possessions from them.

By Michelle Lyons
THE BATTALION

University Police Department officials said some Texas A&M students have recently become victims of an unidentified con artist who has scammed College Station residents since 1992.

The male con artist, who poses as a suicidal or mentally handicapped person, telephones students and tries to gain their sympathy.

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UPD officials said the con artist often tells students he received their names from church listings, manipulating them with appeals to their religious morals.

After lengthy telephone conversations, the con artist usually asks to meet students at a local business establishment, where he asks for money, jewelry, credit cards or a place to stay.

Lt. Bert Kretzschmar, UPD Crime Prevention Unit supervisor, said that to avoid being scammed, students should immediately alert professionals to any cases in which a stranger begins making emotional pleas.

"If someone receives such a call from a total stranger, we request that they don't try to personally solve his or her problems on their own," Kretzschmar

A&M student homebuilders honored

The A&M chapter of NAHB won its sixth national award in January for community service projects.

By Danielle Pontiff
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M chapter of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) received the Outstanding Student Chapter Award Jan. 26 at the national NAHB conference in Houston.

NAHB student chapters participate in community service projects related to the construction science field.

The Outstanding Student Chapter Award was given to the A&M chapter based on its 1995 projects, which included a fire-safety house built for the College Station Fire Department and two

life-size playhouses that were raffled as a fund-raiser for Brazos Valley children's charities.

Dr. Larry Grosse, head of A&M's construction science department who started the student chapter at A&M in 1982, said the chapter wins awards because the projects it completes each year are unique and challenging.

"Other schools watch us to see what we do," Grosse said. "In the last 10 years, we have won the award six times and plan on winning it again next year."

More than 65 student chapters nationwide compete for the award each year, which is given based on documentation of their activities in the previous year.

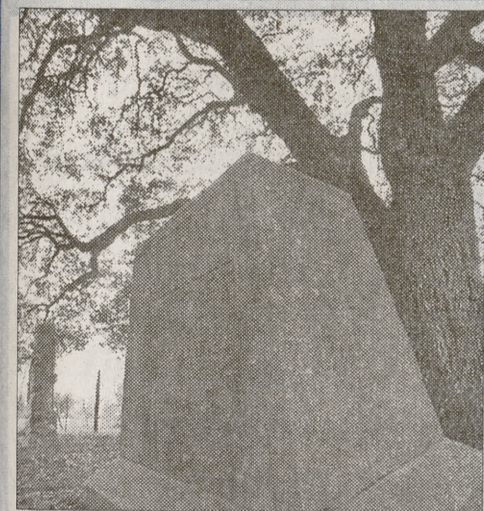
"We put together a book full of photos, announcements and brochures documenting everything we do each year," Grosse said.

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Dave House, THE BATTALION

Dr. Larry Grosse, head of the Department of Construction Science and faculty adviser of A&M's chapter of the National Association of Homebuilders, displays the first place trophy taken home by the NAHB. Behind him are the previous awards. A&M's NAHB has placed in the top three every year for the past 10 years, five of which are first place.



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Former A&M president Col. L.L. Foster lies beneath this tombstone on A&M property.

A&M cemetery marks early 20th century graves

A small cemetery in a far corner of campus contains the remains of several A&M employees, including a former president.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

A line of aging grave markers stands silently snuggled behind a row of live oaks on Marion Pugh Road and Luther Street. The names on the tombstones bear bits of Texas A&M history.

John Riggs, a janitor at the A&M Experimental Station Building who

died in the 1900s; Allison Smoot, head milkman at the A&M dairy barn during the early 1900s; and C.O. Watkins, a long-time A&M employee who passed away in 1940, are among those buried in a small patch of A&M property adjacent to Treehouse Village Apartments.

There are eight tombstones in the cemetery, including those of two infants.

The biggest stone marks the resting place of Col. L.L. Foster, president of the A&M College of Texas from 1898 to 1901. His tomb lies under a huge live oak, where a small stone marker tells who sleeps beneath it.

A&M administrators established the graveyard in 1939 and moved the remains of former employees

and their families from a graveyard on the current site of Duncan Dining Center.

The cemetery on Marion Pugh Road went virtually unnoticed until 1954, when D.B. Cofer, an A&M College archivist, found it in disarray.

Cofer's discovery that some A&M employees had been transported from several cemeteries before reaching their final destination.

"Graveyard: neglected; 10 graves marked now with stones; no record shown of the grave of Dr. Pond, buried ... in the First College Station Cemetery, (then buried) in the Old Sheep Pasture, and (then buried) on the present site of Duncan Mess Hall," Cofer wrote in 1954.

Records in the Sterling C. Evans Library archives indicate that after

Cofer submitted his report, A&M officials attempted to find the surviving members of Foster's family and ask permission to move the former president's remains to a more "appropriate" site.

While administrators searched, Hal Moseley, a friend of the Foster family, initiated a proposal to move Foster's remains.

In a letter written in 1955 to George Smith, chairman of an A&M committee, Moseley complained about the cemetery.

"It is a crime the way President Foster's remains have been treated," Moseley wrote. "Maybe with the help of Professor Leland's committee (the cemetery committee) and alumni

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