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Student Senate jumps onto Web

Aggies can voice their opinions by filling out a comment-and-suggestion form found on the Internet.

By Danielle Pontiff
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate is now available to anyone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

All students have to do to ensure that the Senate hears their opinion is access the Senate World Wide Web page, which was activated Feb. 1 to increase communication between senators and constituents.

Students who want to express their views or learn about the the issues the Senate is working on can find the page at http://www.tamu.edu/student_senate.

Melissa Moloney, Senate computer affairs subchair and

a senior political science major, said the Senate decided Internet technology would be an effective way to improve communications with its constituency.

"The Web page includes the agendas and the minutes of each meeting, which give detailed information about what was discussed," Moloney said. "If students want to know what the Student Senate is doing, but can't make it to a meeting, they can look at the Web page."

The Web page features a comment-and-suggestion form that students can e-mail to all 60 senators or senators representing specific colleges or living areas.

"Any time a student wants to voice their opinion, all they have to do is send us a message over e-mail, and we'll respond," Moloney said. "It's a good communication vehicle for the senators and the students."

The Senate Web page includes information about Senate committee meetings, applications for students interested in filling Senate vacancies, and links to student gov-

ernments from universities all over the world.

Moloney said the links to other universities are available so that senators and students can get a variety of perspectives on any given issue.

"I love to look at Web pages from other universities to find out how they are handling common issues like parking," Moloney said. "It's interesting to see what other schools are doing about their problems."

http://www.tamu.edu/student_senate

— Web site for Student Senate

Kathryn Burgess, a senator for the College of Education and a senior education major, said the Web page is a good constituency-reaching strategy, but that she will still use other methods to keep students informed.

"Everyone at the University has a computer account,

but not everyone uses it," Burgess said. "I keep my constituents informed by making announcements in classes, speaking at different organizational meetings."

Paul Ho, a senior industrial engineering major, said the Student Senate Web page will be convenient for many students because many students are adept at using computers.

"There are a lot of people out there who want to put the 2 cents in," Ho said. "It's so easy to type in what you think and send it over e-mail."

Moloney said the Senate Web page has not received much response so far, but she hopes students will find it to their advantage once they find out more about it.

"It's the students' University, and we want to be there for them as much as possible," Moloney said. "We hope they will reach out and become involved."

Statewide RHA's compare notes at conference

Delegates from A&M's Residence Hall Association shared ideas with representatives from 14 other Texas organizations this weekend.

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

Matt Bartosiewicz, a Texas A&M junior management major, said interaction with college students from around Texas at a Residence Hall Association conference he attended Feb. 22 through 25 gave him many ideas for improving RHA at A&M.

"It gave me an opportunity to learn from other schools about similar situations we face and gave us a fresh approach to solving these problems," Bartosiewicz said.

Texas Residence Hall Association Conference sessions that focused on team building and group development, Bartosiewicz said, equipped him to serve A&M more effectively.

"The residents are the key to making RHA work, so it is important to keep their best interests in mind," he said.

Twenty RHA representatives from A&M had the opportunity to learn from 14 other Texas RHA organizations at the TRHA conference that brought more than 300 students to the University of North Texas.

During the conference, Suzanne Lyons, A&M RHA president and a senior geophysics major, was elected next year's TRHA president.

The conference was designed to facilitate the group interaction and learning that provides the background and teamwork necessary to accomplish this year's goals, several RHA members said.

Skits and spirit competitions highlighted the conference and motivated RHA members.

Jennifer Enos, a graduate student in educational administration, said many of the sessions encouraged RHA members to work together to accomplish common goals.

"Whether we liked or knew each other, we had to all work at being Aggies together," Enos said. "We started from dif-

ferent backgrounds, but we had to learn to work together."

Some students gained practical applications from the conference, which they will use to improve residence hall life.

Jeff Clay, a junior accounting major, plans to incorporate conference ideas into his role as social chair of Moses Hall.

"I've only been in RHA for one semester, so it really got me excited because it was introduced to new programs that can really use," Clay said.

Randy Nance, a sophomore construction science major, returned from the conference prepared to implement new ideas.

"Everybody was very spirited and willing to learn, which will carry over into what I do with my committee," Nance said.

He said that many students returned from the conference with a better understanding of RHA's responsibility as an on-campus student.

"We had a lot of first-time conference attendees," Nance said, "and I think we really learned a lot, which will carry over for next year when they assume leadership positions."

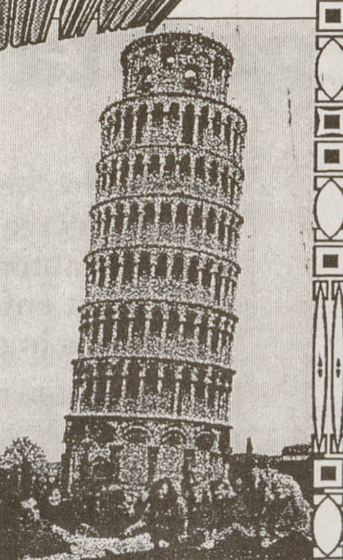
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Carolyn Forché



Charles Wright



BEALL POETRY FESTIVAL



Wednesday, Feb. 28
EVENT: Poetry reading by Carolyn Forché, 7:30 p.m.


Thursday, Feb. 29
EVENT: Presentation by Charles Wright, entitled "What I Didn't Say About Your Poems," 3:30 p.m.
EVENT: The Virginia Beall Ball Lecture in Contemporary Poetry by Calvin Bedient, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 1
EVENT: Presentation by Carolyn Forché, entitled "Poetry of Witness," 3:30 p.m.
EVENT: Poetry reading by Charles Wright, 7:30 p.m.

All events will be held in the Meadows Recital Hall of the McCrary Music Building on the campus of Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

You are invited to attend the second annual Beall Poetry Festival as Baylor welcomes to its campus award-winning poets Carolyn Forché and Charles Wright and poetry critic Calvin Bedient. All events associated with the festival are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Department of English at (817) 755-1768.


Visit the Beall Poetry Festival web site at <http://www.baylor.edu/departments/PR/Beall/>



EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR TALENT!!!

The MSC Variety Show has extended their deadline to accept applications for this year's annual MSC Variety Show. April 12th, taking place on Parent's Weekend! Application are available in the Student Programs Office located on the second floor of the MSC. Applications will be due by Wednesday, February 28th! Audition spaces are limited for March 4th, so return the completed application fast and sign up for an audition time!

For Information 845-1515



CLASS OF '99

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February 28 - March 1
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MSC Political Forum Presents: ✦

"Our First Lady"

Speaker:
Dr. Nikki Van Hightower
Lecturer in Political Science

A discussion focusing on past first ladies, their role in the American Presidency, and analysis of today's changing perception of the first lady and her likely effect on the 1996 Presidential elections.

Wednesday, February 28, 1996
8:30 p.m.
510 Rudder

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

The views expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the MSC Political Forum, the MSC, or Texas A&M University.

Learn more about the MSC Political Forum on the WWW:
<http://wwwmsc.tamu.edu/MSCPoliticalForum.html>

SPRING '97
Study Abroad in Italy

Informational Meetings

Mon., February 26
10:15 - 11:00 am

Tues., February 27
3:00 - 3:45 pm

358 Bizzell Hall W.

Pick up an application at the meeting or drop by the Study Abroad Program Office.

Study Abroad Programs, 161 W. Bizzell Hall, 845-0544



THE BATTALION

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