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The Lady Aggies make a wreck of Texas Tech.

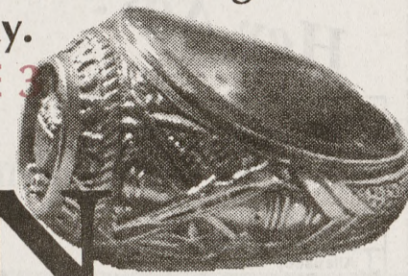
SPORTS, PAGE 7

Halbrook: Continual campus construction robs students of a beautiful time of year.

OPINION, PAGE 11

A Golden Tradition About 2,000 students are receiving their Aggie rings today.

AGGIELIFE, PAGE 3



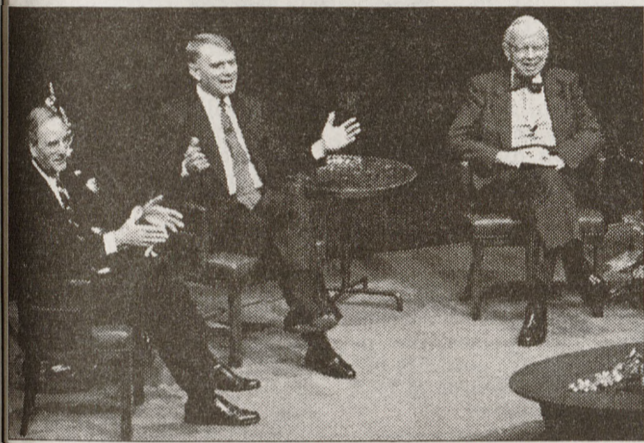
THE BATTALION

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Government system focus of debate



Dave House, THE BATTALION

George Mitchell, Dan Quayle and Arthur Schlesinger discuss American policy in Rudder Auditorium Wednesday night.

By Heather Pace THE BATTALION

Partisan division is causing some Americans to question whether the current system of government is effective.

Dan Quayle, former vice president; George Mitchell, former Senate Majority leader; Arthur Schlesinger, former special assistant to John F. Kennedy and recipient of two Pulitzer Prizes; and Margaret Warner, correspondent with the News Hour with Jim Lehrer, a PBS program; debated Wednesday night at Texas A&M the effectiveness of divided government.

Tim Slaughter, a sophomore industrial distribution major, said he enjoyed the dialogue among the participants in the Wiley Lecture Series, "Framing American Policy:

The Congressional and Presidential Roles."

"I liked the banter established between Quayle and Mitchell and how they shared the inside story," Slaughter said. "There is so much criticism right now, and it is refreshing to see how optimistic they are."

Mitchell and Quayle spent a majority of the debate arguing whether the legislative branch, controlled by the Democratic Party, or the executive branch, controlled by the Republican Party, is stronger.

Quayle said he supports one-party control of both branches of government, particularly if the Republican Party is in control.

"We need bipartisan effort if the American people want divided government," Quayle said, "but I would prefer it to be unified."

Mitchell, like Quayle, is optimistic that America will fulfill the founding fathers' dreams of the right to pursue happiness.

"The central purpose of our government is to preserve and expand individual liberties," Mitchell said. "We will succeed whether government is divided or unified."

Schlesinger argued that legislative ineffectiveness is not the result of the design of government.

He cited Truman and Nixon as examples of presidents who were successful in the face of legislative control by opposition parties.

"A divided government doesn't paralyze legislative action," Schlesinger said. "Our problem isn't one of structure; it is one of remedy."

The panel discussed the drawbacks of a divided government on foreign policy.

Quayle said divided government results in tension, which has detrimental effects on foreign policy.

"You get into a mentality where it is trench warfare coming into foreign policy," Quayle said. "Dole joined with Clinton over Bosnia, but there wasn't a real understanding."

"We seem to be in a habit of always confronting each other."

Panel members discussed the shifts of power between the legislative and executive branches because of war — most recently, the Cold War.

Mitchell said the nuclear potential available during the Cold War resulted in increased foreign policy power for the president.

"There was a dramatic change in the balance of power out of

See Debate, Page 5

Senate considers condemning case

By Wes Swift THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate Wednesday referred a resolution condemning the Hopwood vs. State of Texas decision to the Student Services Committee, saying it needed more time to consult with its constituents before taking a stance on the issue.

The referral brought jeers from some of the resolution's supporters, who said referring it would give opponents a chance to water it down and lessen its impact on the student body.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled three weeks ago in the Hopwood case that admission decisions using ethnicity as a criterion are unconstitutional. The ruling, which originally dealt with four students who applied to the University of Texas law school, was extended to cover all public universities in the 5th circuit, which includes Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Eliot Kerlin Jr., a Northside senator and junior finance major, argued to refer the resolution, saying the Senate should

gain a better understanding of the situation before it takes a stance on such a serious issue.

"We don't know the facts," he said. "I don't know the law. I don't know what the University can and can't do."

"I think this issue is bigger than the 15 minutes that we are giving it. I don't feel I have enough information to make a decision."

Proponents of the resolution said referring it to committee would allow opponents to soften the resolution's power.

Josh Grahmann, Senate rules and regulations chair and junior agribusiness major, said he was disappointed by the Senate's decision to refer the resolution.

"I think the Student Senate should have taken a stance," Grahmann said. "I think the resolution has a chance to get watered down in the committee and will lose its impact on the student body. This could have had a major impact had it passed."

Grahmann said he is afraid that opponents of the resolution will work in

See Senate, Page 5



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

GO, SUNRAYCER, GO

John Costanza, secretary of the Texas A&M Sunrayer Club and senior engineering technology major, drives Aggie Beam-er 12 down Spence Street to be displayed near the Bright Building Wednesday. The sunrayer, powered by batteries recharged by the sun to the solar panel, is a senior design project which races every two years in a 1,200-mile race from Indianapolis, Ind., to Golden, Colo. The sunrayer will be in Dallas this weekend to raise funds for the 1997 model.

Czelusta strives to give back to A&M students



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

By Tauma Wiggins THE BATTALION

Members of Texas A&M's Residence Hall Association have an optimistic outlook on the coming academic year.

They are looking forward to the leadership of the organization's newly elected president, Jesse Czelusta, a senior agricultural economics major, who will take office next week.

Suzanne Lyons, a senior geography major and 1995-96 RHA president, said Czelusta is extremely dedicated to campus residents and has proven himself reliable, organized and motivated.

Czelusta has been involved with many student service activities during his four years at A&M, including Student Senate, Class Council and the Health Smart Coalition. One of his favorite activities is eating, which he said fits in well with the duties of his newly acquired leadership position.

"Dr. Southerland often in-

vites student leaders over on weekends," Czelusta said, "and he always provides us with lots of food."

Czelusta said he has a mission to serve A&M and that he wants to give back to the people and the community.

"The involvement of students makes A&M outstanding," Czelusta said. "I want to capitalize on that. With 9,000 (campus residents), we have so much potential, and I really want to involve them."

Czelusta is listed as an agricultural economics major, but he often refers to his major as "everything."

"A&M has so much to offer students; there's no way you can possibly take it all in," Czelusta said. "I think diversity is God's greatest gift to us."

Jake Carr, a senior English major and director of RHA facilities and operations, who worked with Czelusta on a bill RHA developed this semester,

See Czelusta, Page 10

Menendezes receive life without parole

The jury deliberated for 13 hours before sentencing the Menendez brothers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Erik and Lyle Menendez were spared the death penalty Wednesday for methodically gunning down their wealthy parents 6 1/2 years ago in their Beverly Hills mansion.

The jury recommended life in prison without parole for the killings of record company executive Jose Menendez and his socialite wife, Kitty. The brothers have already spent more than six years in jail.

"There was no way we could put them to death," said juror Bruce Seitz, 34. "There were other good things about them that

warranted their life, that warranted their living."

The penalty was the best the defense could hope for.

"Lyle is relieved because he wants to live," said his lawyer,

Charles Gessler. "You know life without parole is not something to be looking forward to. So you can't say he is happy, but he is re-



Erik Menendez



Lyle Menendez

lieved that it was life."

Erik's attorney, Leslie Abramson, was relieved for both brothers.

"On the good side I will say they're both such considerable human beings

that they will find a way to be productive," she said.

The eight men and four women jurors deliberated for 13 hours

over three days before filing into the courtroom Wednesday with grim faces. The room was gripped with tension as the foreman handed in their written decisions.

Lyle, 28, and Erik, 25, wore shirts and ties, their faces paler than ever. Neither reacted much. Erik sat forward to listen more closely, then leaned back in his chair as the verdicts were completed.

There were separate verdicts for each brother for the killings of each parent. When "life in prison

See Sentence, Page 5

Corps' win ends Greek streak

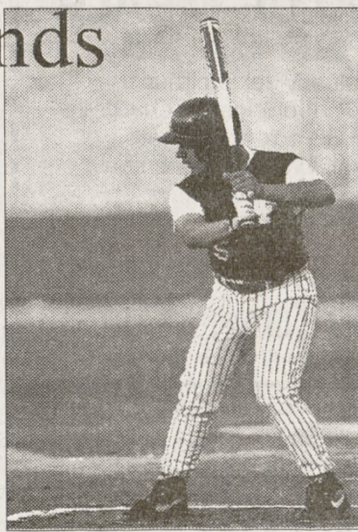
By Marissa Alanis THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets team defeated the Fraternity team 11-7 Wednesday night at the seventh annual Corps-Frat baseball game at Olsen Field.

The Corps win ended the fraternities' two-year winning streak.

Alan Nisbet, an Interfraternity Council member and junior biomedical sciences major, said the event was organized to weed out common misconceptions about the rivalry between the two groups, which he said is virtually nonexistent.

See Baseball Game, Page 5



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

David Hendal from the Corps of Cadets at bat.

Quannel X to speak

Quannel X, a Nation of Islam minister who is visiting Texas A&M with a message of unity, hopes students of all races will come hear him speak tonight.

X, who is speaking at 7 p.m. in 228-29 MSC, told Shawn Williams, director of programs for Alpha Phi Alpha, the fraternity who is hosting X, that the event is not for African-Americans only.

"He specifically said that he wants a wide variety of people to come," Williams said. "His message is not just for African-Americans."

Alpha Phi Alpha decided to invite X to A&M as a prelude to next week's Explosion Week, which will promote campus unity in honor of Crystal Miller and Reginald Broadus, two A&M students who were murdered in 1994 in DeSoto.

X spoke at A&M two years ago, causing some controversy with his message that African-Americans should be treated equally in terms of recruitment and scholarships and that African-Americans on all campuses need to unite.

Williams said he hopes X's appearance will again be controversial.

"We need to be made to feel uncomfortable because it helps us check our norms and views," he said.