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THE BATTALION

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Friday • April 19, 1996

Quanell X stresses unification

By Eleanor Colvin and Pamela Benson
THE BATTALION

Quanell X, a minister for the Nation of Islam, delivered an explosive message, addressing the question "Black and white — can the dream be a reality?" last night at an Alpha Phi Alpha Explosion Week program. Explosion Week is being held to honor Reginald Broadus, an Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity brother, who was murdered in 1994. X, who has appeared on the Texas A&M campus several times, said he has a special message to give students each time he returns. "Black America is thirsty for a change," he said. "I've come to quench the thirsts of my people be-

cause the future leaders that will represent the agenda for African-Americans tomorrow come from universities like Texas A&M." He urged African-Americans to wake up, unify and take action in order to bring about a "physical fruition" of their dreams. "We keep looking at white folks, and they are not the problem," he said. "The real solutions lie with us, so we must come together to solve our own problems. "Don't let them lull you off to sleep ... because once they control the diameter of your knowledge, they control the circumference of your life." X said affirmative action is one tool used to control African-Americans. He said students should not fear the discontinuation of affirmative action

or race-based scholarships. "You (white America) always want us to depend on you," he said. "That's why you want us to beg for affirmative action. It's like asking the oppressor to liberate the oppressed." In reference to the recent 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Hopwood vs. State of Texas decision, which made using race as a criterion for admissions illegal, X said economic, political, mental and moral strength are qualities African-American students must possess in order to effectively negotiate with administrators. Although X openly expressed his disapproval of interracial dating and his dismay at white America's morality and sexual practices, he said people often misinterpret his message. "I don't hate white people," he said.

"How can I hate what God has ordained? I can't call you a dog if you're not acting like one." Eric Malonson, a junior biomedical science major, said that although X talked about respecting others, he detracted from his message by showing disrespect to some students in the audience. "I agree with most of the things he said, although he stepped on some toes," he said. "He should realize that although he has a good message, his delivery hinders his goals." The foundation of X's message was that black unity must be achieved before unity of all races can be attained. Aaron Drayer, a senior international studies major, said negative



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Quanell X spoke in the MSC Thursday night.



MAJOR LIBRARY COVER-UP

Stacks of books were covered with plastic to protect them on Thursday, when the west end of the fourth floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library was closed because of water damage.

Whoopstock wows students

By Johanna Henry
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students will gather on Simpson Drill Field Saturday to eat ethnic foods, enjoy entertainment from a diversity of groups and attend several other activities at the fourth-annual Whoopstock.

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The theme for this year's festival, which begins at noon, is "Unity Begins with You." At the festival, Students will have the opportunity to face paint, toss sponges at campus leaders and fly kites. Ruthie Foster, Loud Plaid Jackets, the Aggie Wranglers, the United South Asian American Committee, the Native American Student Association and Omega Psi Phi fraternity will provide entertainment. Toby Boenig, the former student body president; Lynn Hicky, the assistant athletic director; Ranjan Natarajan, a graduate student; and others will serve as masters of ceremony. Erin Mozola, a junior math major, said Whoopstock is fun because of the diverse people who attend.

"I went last year, and it was a lot of fun because the crowd was so much fun," she said. "It is unusual that you get that group of people together." The Department of Multicultural Services held the first Whoopstock four years ago in response to a Ku Klux Klan rally in College Station. Ten campus leaders organized the event in two weeks with the support of 48 organizations. With almost 400 people in attendance, the event became a new campus tradition. More than 1,000 people attended Whoopstock '95, and the committee hopes to double that number this year. Sheri Schmidt, the coordinator of diversity education, said Whoopstock is a time for all students to get together. "Whoopstock is unique because it is a way to have fun, see something new and learn to appreciate our differences," she said. "Many events are either Black or Hispanic events or an event for women or some other organization, but Whoopstock bridges those gaps." Rebecca Charles, a Whoopstock committee member and

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Spirit awards leadership

Students receive Buck Weirus Spirit Awards Sunday

By Erica Roy
THE BATTALION

Fifty-one Texas A&M students received the Buck Weirus Spirit Award April 14 at the All-University Awards ceremony. Although applicants are required to be in good academic standing with the University, the awards are based on extracurricular activities and leadership skills. Paul Henry, chairman of the Buck Weirus Spirit Award Selection Committee, said students who increase their level of respon-

sibility and leadership each year they attend A&M are likely to receive a spirit award. Kellie Roberts, a spirit award recipient and senior chemical engineering major, represents this progression of leadership positions. Roberts was a Fish Camp counselor and was on Fish Crew before she became a Fish Camp co-chair last year. She was an orientation leader for two years and a day manager at KANM student radio. She represents the College of Engineering in the Student Senate. Roberts said she was excited

when her name was called at the awards ceremony. "I have received a lot of scholarships," Roberts said, "but I would trade them all in for this one." Henry said the selection committee prefers applicants who are involved in a variety of campus activities. However, the committee does not choose students who are involved in many clubs without holding any leadership positions. Students involved in activities

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Corregidor Island Muster reunites Aggies after 50 years

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students and former students from around the world will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the famed 1946 Corregidor Island Muster on Sunday. Held annually on April 21, Muster is an A&M tradition in which the names of students and former students who have died during the past year are called.



Photo Courtesy of Texas A&M Archives

In 1942, George F. Moore, A&M Class of '08 and the commander of forces in the Philippines, and Maj. Tom Dooley, Class of '35, led a group of 25 recently commissioned A&M cadets to the island of Corregidor in the Philippines. The men joined American troops that were stationed in a tunnel, which served as the World War II headquarters for Corregidor operations. The tunnel was 35 feet wide and 1,400 feet long. Because they were under attack, the A&M cadets in Corregidor could not leave their positions in the Malinta Tunnel on April 21 to hold a formal muster, so Dooley and Moore called roll for their deceased comrades in the Malinta Tunnel. Fifteen days after the roll call, the Japanese occupied the American stronghold. In 1946, a group of A&M cadets returned to Corregidor to commemorate the 1942 roll call. Some of the former students who participated in the 1946 Muster will return to A&M this weekend to participate in the campus Muster. Amy Vandaveer, a senior English and speech communication major, said this anniversary gives those who traveled to Corregidor in 1946

the chance to reunite. "Fifty years ago they traveled all over the place to get to Corregidor and celebrate peace," Vandaveer said. "This is an excuse for them to get together again." Several artifacts from Corregidor are on display in the A&M archives on the second floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library. The arrangement, which will be on display for a month, includes the original flag that hung over the opening of the tunnel during the 1942 Muster and a photograph of the men at the 1946 muster. Dr. Donald Dyal, director of Cushing Library, said many library visitors have enjoyed the display. "They were visibly moved," Dyal said. "Muster is one of the neatest traditions at this school because it allows people the chance to get together and remember people who are not with us anymore." This year's Muster will start at 7 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Survivors staying home today

Many people will not visit the Oklahoma City bombing site

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Diana McDonnell was standing next to a friend's desk in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building when a bomb ripped through her eighth-floor office one year ago. That memory is still too fresh for McDonnell to return to the site Friday for ceremonies marking the anniversary of the bombing, which killed 168 people, including 35 of her co-workers in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. "I was there last year at 9:02, and I don't want to be there this year," McDonnell said Thursday. "I'm staying home tomorrow. I could not go to work yesterday. And I could not go today. I've kind of reached the point where I could not go any further." For McDonnell and other survivors of the bombing, the emotions are too strong to allow them to return Friday to the vacant lot where the building once stood. "Many are leaving the city. Some are leaving

the state," said Troy Grigsby, special assistant to the state coordinator for HUD. "Nobody's been allowed to forget. There have been constant, constant reminders." Grigsby is one of a few HUD administrators who will answer telephones in the Oklahoma City office while the rest of the staff takes the day off. "I, like everybody else, have to keep going," Grigsby said. "You have to remember, but you have to keep going." At the bombing site Friday, mourners will remember the dead by observing 168 seconds of silence and then reading their names in alphabetical order. Bagpipers will lead a procession of survivors and families about five blocks to the Myriad Convention Center, where another ceremony will be held, including speeches by Mayor Ron Norick, Gov. Frank Keating and Vice President Al Gore as well as a videotaped statement from President Clinton.