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Aggiepalooza '96

Texas World Speedway may host Lollapalooza '96. AGGIELIFE, PAGE 3

The Battalion will be printed only on Tuesday and Friday of next week because of reading days and finals.

A&M-UT Aggies' hopes ride on key series. SPORTS, PAGE 7

THE BATTALION

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Affirmative action focus of forum

Students feel race, legacy should carry equal weight at A&M

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students voiced their opinions for and against affirmative action Thursday, several asserting that if race as a criterion for admissions is illegal. But last week, a stay was placed on the decision pending the U.S. Supreme Court's hearing of the case.

The Texas A&M Student Senate hosted an affirmative action forum for a two-fold purpose: to provide students an opportunity to get their questions answered and to provide the Senate student feedback on a developing affirmative action resolution.

The forum, moderated by Eliot Kerlin, a student senator and junior finance major, was held in the MSC Flagroom. Panel members included Ruth Prescott, special assistant to the executive vice president and provost in the Of-

fice of the Academic Vice President, and Scott Kelly, A&M assistant general counsel.

The recent U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Hopwood Vs. State of Texas stated that using race as a criterion for admissions is illegal. But last week, a stay was placed on the decision pending the U.S. Supreme Court's hearing of the case.

The Senate resolution states its opposition to the Hopwood decision and its support for the stay. But Kerlin said the Senate wants student feedback before drafting a final version.

Josh Hennessey, a business senator and freshman accounting and finance major, and Abby Mudroch, an off-campus senator and sophomore history major, said they are both opposed to aspects of affirmative action.

Hennessey said affirmative action is not the right way to go about achieving much-needed diversity and equality. He said the government needs to stop considering race a special condition.

"Affirmative action will not end racism," he said. "But when you end affirmative action, it will create a definite equality of government."

Mudroch said that affirmative action detracts from the idea of equality by focusing on differences.

"You look at little kids and they don't realize there is a difference between people," Mudroch said. "But affirmative action tells them there is a difference."

Several students said that if the Hopwood decision is ultimately upheld and affirmative action is removed from the ad-

missions process, it would be unfair not to remove legacy as well.

Several admissions points are awarded to applicants with relatives who have attended A&M, which some say puts white students at an advantage over minority students whose family members were barred from the University for generations.

Currently, a maximum of six points can be given to an applicant for legacy and a maximum of six for race.

"The principle we would like to hold to is to give the same number of points for ethnicity or race as for legacy," Prescott said.

Taniqua Nobles, a freshman business major, said if race as a criterion is eliminated, considering legacy would be discriminatory.

See Forum, Page 5

Race just one element considered for admission

By Jamie Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

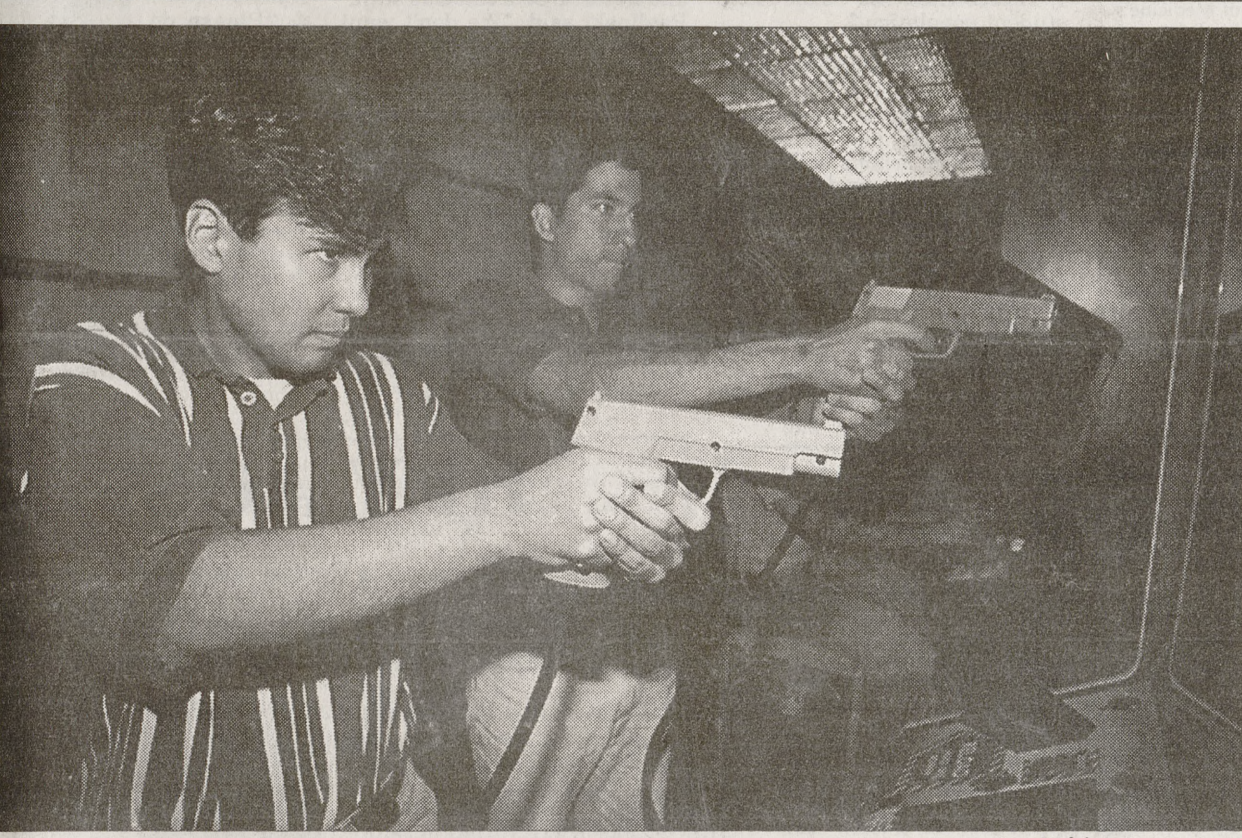
Many white Texas A&M students support the concept of a racially diverse campus but are uncomfortable with the idea that, all other criteria being equal, a minority student might be given admissions preference simply because of race.

Race is one criterion the A&M admissions board uses when making its decisions — a criterion that has drawn much scrutiny because of the recent 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Hopwood vs. State of Texas.

The court initially ruled that using ethnicity as an admissions criteria was unconstitutional, but then placed a stay on the decision until the U.S. Supreme Court decides whether to hear the case.

Because of the stay, A&M is allowed to continue its admissions and scholarships as usual, for the time being. But the immediate result of the case is that many students have begun to question and debate the admissions process, and many have declared their confusion about how the system works.

See Admission, Page 5



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

SHOOT IT!

Jaime Vina, a freshman computer science major, and Jim Forward, a freshman general studies major, play "Area 51" a video game at the MSC between classes Thursday.

Seat shortage limits graduation guests

By Courtney Walker
THE BATTALION

As graduation nears, fliers posted by Spring graduates who are searching for additional tickets for commencement ceremonies begin to line Texas A&M walls and bulletin boards.

Each graduating student is allotted six free tickets for family and friends, but many students complain that this is not enough.

Anthony Albino, a graduating senior management major, said he has made it known that he is scrapping for tickets. Albino said he and many of his friends desperately need eight to 10 tickets.

But since it is next to impossible to acquire extra tickets, Albino said he will have to make due.

"If I can't get tickets, there isn't a whole lot I can do about it except invite people to the party afterwards," Albino said. "It's like a wedding and reception. You can't invite everyone to the wedding, but you can invite everyone to the reception."

Don Carter, Admissions and Records registrar, said the administration understands graduating students' concerns, but only six tickets can be guaranteed to each student because of limited seating in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"We hear the complaints, and they are legitimate," Carter said. "But the Coliseum has a fixed capacity, and for

safety reasons, we have to follow regulations. If there was an emergency, like a fire or something, the University could be held liable."

Carter said administrators hate limiting the number of graduation tickets issued because candidates should be able to bring whomever they want. But there is nothing the University can do about it at this point, he said.

There is no way for students to receive extra tickets besides swapping with friends, Carter said, unless students who do not need all six of their tickets return them.

"Most students usually pick up all six," Carter said. "Then, if there are any left, they swap them with friends."

Students can check at the MSC Box Office to see if any tickets are left, but Carter said extras are rarely available.

Ryan McCoy, a senior construction science major, said six tickets are not enough for his family, but he realizes nothing can be done until graduation is held in a different facility.

Fortunately for future graduates, Steven Hodges, special events facilities director, said graduation seating problems will be alleviated in time for December 1997 ceremonies.

The Reed Arena, an all-events center, will seat 10,500 people, not counting

See Tickets, Page 12

Northgate board adds student rep

By Marissa Alanis
THE BATTALION

To represent the Texas A&M student body, the College Station City Council last night appointed Andrew Pavlinski, a sophomore environmental design major, to the Northgate Revitalization Board.

The Northgate Revitalization Board, created on March 28, serves as a link to the council, offering advice on the implementation of specific projects in the Northgate area. Among the board members are several Northgate merchants.

Pavlinski, a College Station resident of 16 years, was among



Pavlinski

seven applicants who applied for the two-year appointment. The application required that the student be enrolled at A&M, either as an undergraduate or graduate, and be a resident of College Station.

Todd McDaniel, Northgate project coordinator and a senior economic development analyst,

See Northgate, Page 2

Aggies, Shapiro talk via satellite

By Courtney Walker
THE BATTALION

For almost a year, the O.J. Simpson case made headlines across the country as America debated whether Simpson was guilty or innocent of killing his ex-wife.

Robert Shapiro, a defense attorney for the Simpson case, told students from 28 colleges around the nation during a Thursday satellite conference that the landmark Simpson murder trial offers a lesson for everyone.

A&M students participated in the event from a room in the Wehner Building on West Campus. Two other colleges connected for the teleconference were The University of Houston and Texas Christian University.

The teleconference was the last of a four-part series

See Shapiro, Page 12

Speaker shows humor as stress tool for women

By Eleanor Colvin
THE BATTALION

How to humorously cope with sexist language, sexual harassment and the invisibility of women in the fields of science and engineering was addressed by Dr. Sue Geller, a Texas A&M professor of mathematics, last night in an entertaining presentation to the Women in Science and Engineering.

Geller, who is the first tenured full

professor in the A&M Department of Mathematics, devises ways to use humor to handle stressful situations such as faculty meetings, where she is often overlooked because she is the only woman.

"We cannot keep our lives stress free," Geller said in a recent press release. "However, we can choose how to respond. I've found that responding with humor not only releases tension but diffuses some situations that could escalate unpleasantly."

Geller began using skits in 1990 to illustrate the "micro inequities" in the world of science, with the goal of creating awareness of ways to stop perpetuating these problems.

Gerardo Ortiz, a sophomore bioengineering major, said Geller's presentation altered his perceptions because he was not aware of the severity of gender discrimination in higher education and

See Humor, Page 12

A&M trustee dies in plane crash

By Lily Aguilar
THE BATTALION

A trustee for Texas A&M's Development Foundation died Thursday when the private plane he was flying crashed in a field near the Expressway Airport in Oklahoma City.

Richard A. Williford, Class of '55, and his wife, Mollie B. Williford, were en route from Tulsa to Oklahoma City when the plane crashed.

Mollie Williford, who was the only passenger on the flight other than her husband, survived the crash and was released from Integris Baptist Medical Center Thursday evening.

Williford, a resident of Tulsa, was the chairman of the Development Foundation in 1994. He was also chair of the "Capturing the Spirit" Campaign for the College of Geosciences.

He served as a board member for the Twelfth Man Foundation and the Association of Former Students, of which he was president in 1989.

Jim Palincsar, the foundation's vice

president for development, said he knew Williford both as a professional and a friend. Palincsar said Williford was dedicated and selfless in his efforts to better A&M.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Williford, and on behalf of the Development Foundation, our prayers go out to the family," Palincsar said. "He provided great leadership, great insight and a vision for Texas A&M."

Palincsar said Williford will be missed, and his contributions to the University will be remembered. He said Williford loved A&M and serving the University.

Eddie J. Davis, president of the A&M Development Foundation, said Williford will be remembered as a statesman and for his positive outlook on A&M.

"He will be missed in terms of his leadership and in terms of his generosity," Davis said.

The Willifords' commitment to the University was exemplified by their endowment of the Williford Professorship in Petroleum Geology in the College of Geosciences and Maritime Studies.

For information about funeral arrangements, contact the Development Foundation at 845-8161.



Williford