

THE BATTALION

Vol. 102, No. 169 (6 pages)

Serving Texas A&M University Since 1893

THE BATT ON-LINE: <http://bat-web.tamu.edu>

Tuesday • July 23, 1996

Six MSC officers fail to make grade

By Amy Protas
THE BATTALION

Advisers of the MSC Council recently conducted a routine grade check of the membership and learned six of the officers did not make the grade. MSC policy requires students to have a grade-point-ratio of 2.25 and a 2.0 for each previous semester. Chris Williams, president of the MSC and a senior political science and speech communications major, said the Council was disappointed in the loss of the officers.

"I don't want people to think we lose all our members," Williams said. "But this is the largest number of officers we've lost in a long time. It is a coincidence, but we as an organization have the responsibility to make sure members are focusing on their grades." Williams said to encourage better grades in the future, MSC officials will use the Corps of Cadets as an example. "The Corps is really good at focusing on grades, and a lot of student organizations could take note of that," Williams said. "Over the last couple of months, the

Corps has been really good at showing us what they do. Hopefully in the fall we'll have support systems in place." Williams said the academic review is standard procedure at the end of each semester. "They use the Student Information Management System where the grades are posted," Williams said. "The senior staff member has access to that and can review the grades." Students not meeting the grade requirements can appeal the resulting dismissal from the MSC. Jamie Duke, executive vice president

for programs for the MSC and a senior business analysis major, said four executive Council members, the MSC president and the Council executive advisers reviewed the appeal. "The only way we find out (if they haven't made the grade) is if they decide to appeal their dismissal," Duke said. "They have to write a letter stating what happened that caused this problem with their grades and how they intend to change it. We review that and decide whether to grant the appeal." Stephen Biles, associate director of the MSC, said the organization is unusual in

offering the chance for appeal. "Everything is considered by the committee and they make a recommendation to the director of the MSC, James R. Reynolds," Biles said. "The director then makes a recommendation to the vice president of Student Affairs, Malon Southerland. The decision is ultimately made by the director." The MSC will be accepting applications to fill the four available officer positions. Prospective members can fill out an application and participate in an interview. Applications will be available September 4.

Dorm demolition delayed

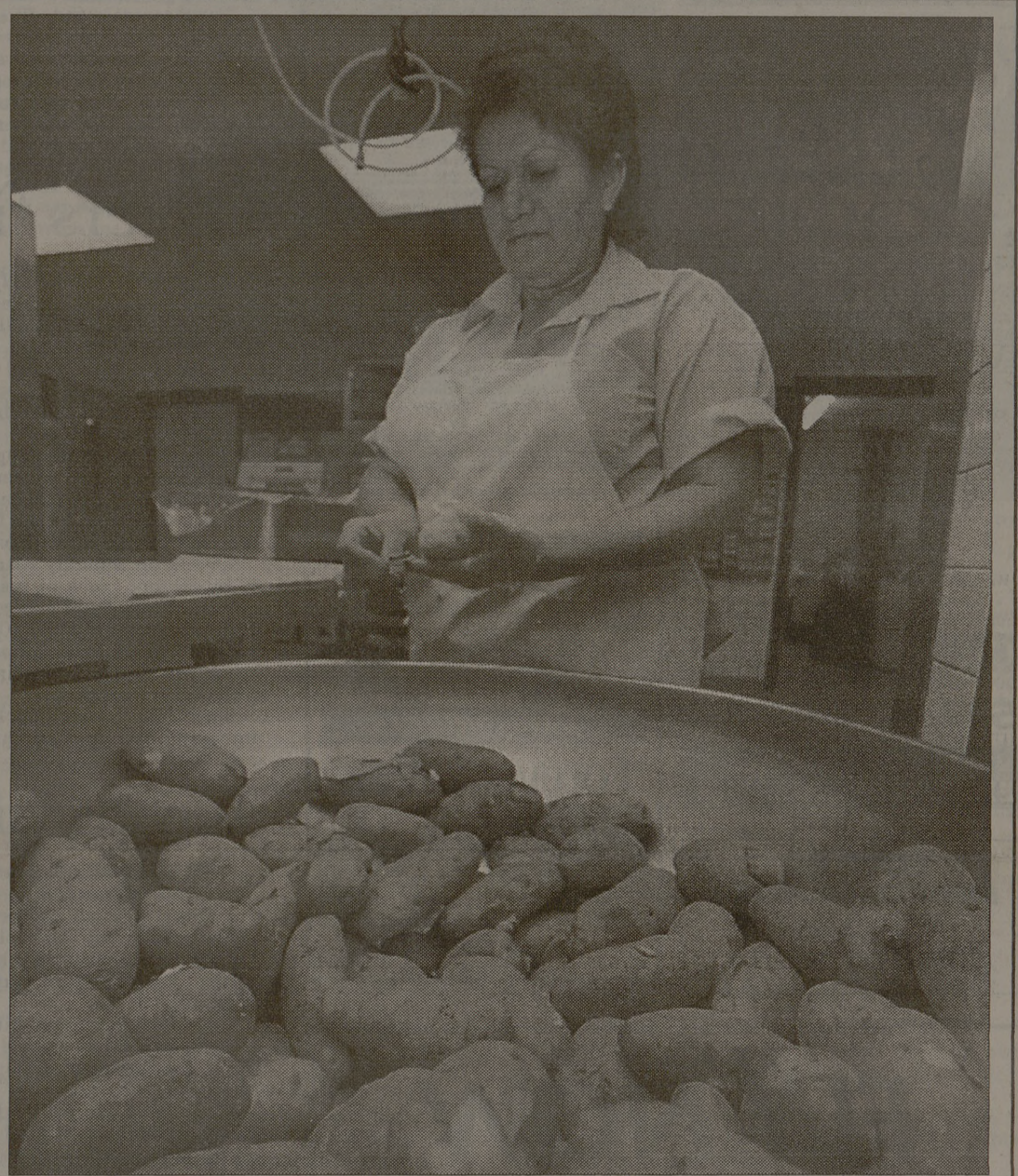


Pat James, THE BATTALION

By Brandon Hausenfluck
THE BATTALION

The destruction of Law and Puryear residence halls has been postponed because of a large amount of asbestos still to be removed from the buildings. Asbestos is a material once used as an insulating agent for water pipes, flooring and roofing, but now known to cause lung damage if inhaled. Ron Sasse, director of the Department of Resident Life and Housing, said the major problem for the destruction contractor is eliminating the large amount of asbestos. "The main thing I know about which is delaying the destruction is it has taken longer than expected to do the asbestos abatement," he said. Wesley Peel, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said although the abatement has taken longer than expected, all asbestos must be removed from the demolition sites. "The abatement is a little slower than we hoped," Peel said. "As-

bestos does not pose a problem to people until it gets stirred up. But since demolition isn't necessarily a clean process, it's very important to get rid of all asbestos which might be disturbed." Peel said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strictly regulates asbestos removal because of the known health threat. "Asbestos is used to insulate water pipes, in tile flooring and also in roofing for insulation," he said. "When you start tearing out pipes and walls and floorings during demolition, asbestos particles are suspended in the air. So all the asbestos which might be disturbed must be abated." Dan Mizer, assistant director for the Department of Resident Life and Housing, explained the danger. "When a person breathes in these particles," he said, "it's like steel wool getting caught in your lungs, which causes irritation and infection which can lead to more serious ailments." See Asbestos, Page 6



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

HOT POTATO

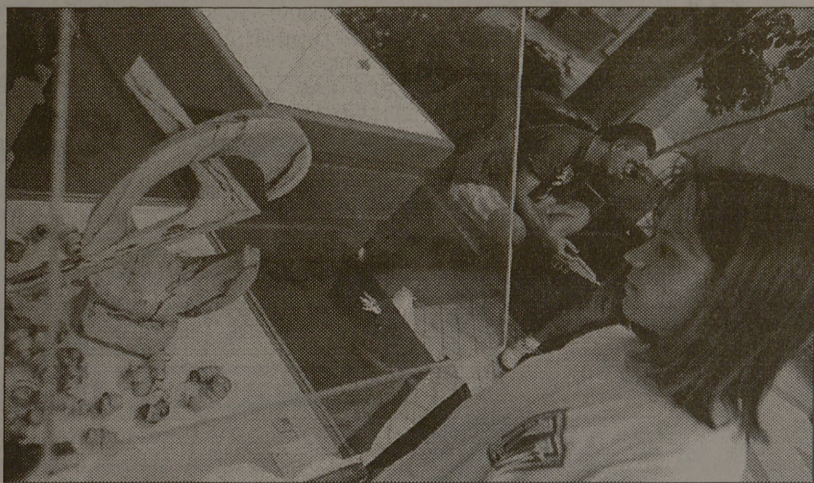
Gloria Obella, a cook at the Commons, peels potatoes for potato salad to get ready for Monday's lunch.

FLOWER ART

Gallery showcases floral exhibits

By Melissa Nunnery
THE BATTALION

Students with classes in the Horticulture/Forest Science Building (HFSB) on West Campus have the unique experience of visiting an art gallery every time they walk in the building. The lobby of the HFSB doubles as the Benz Gallery of Floral Art. The Benz Gallery opened in September 1984 at the same time as the HFSB. Jim Johnson, director of the Benz Gallery and the Benz School of Floral Design, said the gallery is for students to enjoy when they go to class. "It's open the same hours as the building, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and we give special tours on weekends," Johnson said. Johnson said they change the displays and rotate objects in the gallery from time to time. Presently, the gallery features a special exhibit titled "Thoroughly



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Gretchen Eagle, a senior horticulture major, looks at a sculpture that is part of the Benz Gallery of Floral Art in the HFSB building. American" sponsored by the Brazos Valley Art League. The exhibit will run through July 29. The gallery will feature selections from the Benz collection in September and October and a Zen Aesthetic exhibit in November and December. "It (the Zen Aesthetic exhibit) See Gallery, Page 6

Film Society to host Jaws screening

By Tauma Wiggins
THE BATTALION

Rudder Fountain is normally free of aquatic life. On Wednesday, however, things will change — just when you thought it was safe to go back in the fountain, the MSC Film Society may prove you wrong. Not to worry, though; the plastic shark floats will be used in honor of the Film Society's last summer movie show, *Jaws*. Penny Ditton, adviser to the Film Society, said

the event will be called "Splash-o-Rama." The organization's earlier plans included showing the film over a body of water to increase the scare effect. "Originally we wanted to show the movie by the pool at DeWare, but since they're filling it in, this is our second-best go at it," Ditton said. Jamie Duke, a member of the Film Society and senior business administration major, said students enjoy films as a way to escape summer's

intense heat. "The students really get into the movies," Duke said. "It's cool inside, it's free and everybody walks through the Rudder area." Duke said an MSC Activities survey completed by students earlier this summer indicated students would enjoy activities such as the showing of *Jaws*. Natalie Burke, a senior sociology major, said she is anticipating Wednesday's film.

"The last movie I went to at Rudder was when Mystery Science Theater 3000 was showing," Burke said. "I want to go to see *Jaws* because it reminds me of my childhood. I haven't seen it in such a long time." This Wednesday, plastic sharks, water games and lemonade will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Rudder area. *Jaws* will be showing at Rudder Theater at 8 p.m. and is free for Texas A&M students. See Olympics, Page 6

Atlanta '96

U.S. swimmers capture two medals

ATLANTA (AP) — On a day when America almost couldn't lose, gold medal favorite Janet Evans couldn't win. The superstar swimmer, who carried the torch in Atlanta's opening ceremony, lost her first shot at a fifth gold medal Monday after a controversial decision. But Evans was in the minority; from the Dream Team to the diamond, from the pool to the pitch, American teams were on a roll. Evans' swimming teammates, ignoring her defeat in a 400-meter qualifying heat, continued their unexpected tear with two golds and three silvers added to an already impressive Atlanta haul. The Dream Team bounced back from its lackluster opener to pound Angola, the wrong team in the wrong place Monday night. The American millionaires' club rolled to an easy 87-54 victory over the African nation. The men's baseball team whipped South Korea 7-2 for its second straight win. The women's softball team, the favorites for the gold medal, posted its second straight shutout, 9-0 over the Netherlands. The U.S. boxers won twice to run their mark to 6-0, while the American soccer, water polo and women's volleyball teams won, too. The pool was again the site of the best news for U.S. athletes, as they captured the only American medals of the day. Monday's stars were 15-year-old Beth Botsford, who took gold in the women's 100-meter backstroke, and second-generation Olympian Gary Hall, who won silver in a stirring 100-meter sprint against Russian world record-holder Alexander Popov. The U.S. men's gymnastics team, like Evans, missed the medal ceremony when it finished fifth in the team competition. Perennial power Russia took the gold, followed by China and former Soviet republic Ukraine. The Americans missed a bronze by less than one point — a vast improvement on their Barcelona performance, but still not enough. "We were in the hunt for a medal today," said U.S. coach Peter Kormann, doing a little spin doctoring. "One year ago, no one would have thought we would have been



TUESDAY
JULY 23

- 09 a.m. - noon
 - Gymnastics—Women's team competition
 - Swimming—Qualifying heats
 - Rowing
- 6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
 - Gymnastics—Women's team final
 - Swimming—Finals
 - Men's 400m freestyle
 - Women's 200m breaststroke
 - Men's 100m backstroke
 - Women's 100m butterfly
 - Men's 4x100m freestyle relay
 - Equestrian—Three-day cross country, team
- 11:41 a.m. - 1:11 a.m.
 - Volleyball—U.S. men's game
 - Boxing
 - Water polo—U.S. vs. Romania
 - Basketball—U.S. women vs. Ukraine
 - Wrestling—Greco-Roman finals
 - Weightlifting—Lightweight final