

# THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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## Hispanic Heritage Month

### Festival promotes cultural awareness

By BRANDON HAUSENFLUCK  
THE BATTALION

Community and campus Hispanic organizations will continue their crusade to educate the population about the growing importance of their community at a festival today at Rudder Mountain from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Adele Duran, president of the Hispanic Presidents' Council and a junior electrical engineering major, said the festival will promote several facets of Hispanic culture.

"The goal of the festival is to promote cultural awareness on campus," Duran said. "Diversity of our culture has many aspects to it and we want to show some history and the different

parts of the different cultures."

The festival is one of many functions being held in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, which began Sept. 13 and runs through Oct. 15. The functions aim to present a different perspective to the public about Hispanic culture.

Duran said she hopes after this month the Hispanic community will be able to take proactive stances on political issues.

The Professional Hispanic Network is an organization of University and community Hispanic leaders who meet once a month to discuss issues confronting the Hispanic community.

Dr. Marco Portales, PHN president, English professor and executive assis-

tant to Texas A&M President Ray Bowen, said PHN meetings allow members to interact with other Hispanic leaders.

"We will begin a series of dialogue to provide opportunities for all members to express their viewpoints," Portales said. "[The Hispanic community] needs to be understood by a wider population."

Portales said people do not realize Hispanics are a growing part of the population.

"We pay taxes and support the Constitution and all of American things," he said. "Some people think we are linked together as immigrants and freeloaders."

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 8

## Forum strives to clarify affirmative action issues

By CARLA RENE MARSH  
THE BATTALION

More than 500 students and community members attended a forum Wednesday night aimed at updating and educating people on affirmative action in the wake of California's Civil Rights Initiative proposal and the Hopwood decision.

The forum was hosted by the Memorial Student Center Black Awareness Committee and the MSC Political Forum.

Eric Curley, BAC director and a junior philosophy major, said most people do not fully understand affirmative action, and he said the BAC wants to clarify the misconceptions.



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Dr. Marilyn Kern-Foxworth speaks at the affirmative action forum in Rudder Theater.

See **FORUM**, Page 8

## Corps program enters 3rd year

By ANN MARIE HAUSER  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets is furthering its mission to train leaders of character for the state and nation, as the Corps Mentorship Program enters its third year.

The program brings former cadets to the A&M campus throughout the semester to speak to cadets about transforming Corps experiences into skills for the workplace.

J.D. Williams, Corps leadership training officer and a senior

dent Center.

"He spends hours making phone calls and mailing out information in order to make arrangements for the program," Feather said. "He breathes fire into the CMP."

The program is designed for the 65 percent of cadets who will not be commissioned into the armed services after graduation, but military-bound cadets attend regularly as well.

David Rodriguez, Class of '94 and former K-2 commanding officer, is now a business analyst for Koch Gateway Pipeline in Houston.

Rodriguez said success comes from experience.

"A title doesn't grant leadership, experience does," Rodriguez said.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, said other programs exist at A&M that cadets, plus students not in the Corps benefit from.

"The MSC has done this for a long time," Southerland said. "It's a really good reality check and provides them (students) with a head start."

The first CMP session was Tuesday night at Southerland's house. The session, featuring the topic "Selling the Corps" drew 32 cadets to Southerland's home.

Advice was given on all aspects of communicating with prospective employers.

Frank Muller III, a former student body president and Class of '88, said analyzing an audience contributes to successful interviews because it leads to effective communication. This is especially important in job interviews, he said.

"Know your audience. The better you do, the more you are going to be able to sell yourself," Muller said. "Gauge your audience and take it (experience) out of military terms."

Future topics to be discussed include marketing, international business, law and politics.

## Shuttle arrives at Mir to bring astronaut home

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis arrived at Russia's Mir station Wednesday night to pick up astronaut Shannon Lucid, thrilled to be going home after a record-breaking six months in orbit.

The shuttle docked with the station, its lights flashing like a beacon, about 240 miles above the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe. Faces were pressed tight against the windows of both spacecraft.

The air waves crackled in English and Russian as the space travelers — six on Atlantis, three on

Mir — shouted out information. "Atlantis and Mir shaking hands," shuttle commander William Readdy informed Mission Control.

Lucid couldn't wait for the hatches to open; she was like a child longing to go home after a summer away at camp.

The last time she saw Americans face-to-face was when Atlantis left her at Mir in March.

While Lucid has said she en-

joyed the orbital getaway aboard Mir, she planned to waste no time moving out. All her bags were packed and, within a few hours of the docking, she was to swap places with Atlantis astronaut John Blaha, who will stay for four months.

"She's ready to leave, but I'm ready to get there and get on to working with the Russians," Blaha said earlier.

Lucid won't actually leave for

home until next week. Atlantis will undock from Mir on Monday after five days of linked flight and will return to Earth the following Thursday.

The shuttle-station is the largest space structure ever — more than 535,000 pounds of mostly metal hurtling around Earth. The Russian complex has more compartments now than the last time Atlantis showed up.

The 11:13 EDT docking seemed to go smoothly. "I think we had a 10-point-oh on that one," said Atlantis astronaut Carl Walz.

### "It's a really good reality check and provides them (students) with a head start."

Dr. J. Malon Southerland  
vice president, student affairs

ulty science major, said the CMP is the Corps' best tool for leadership training.

"It really means something for these cadets to have successful cadets come back and tell them that they are doing well help them in the future," Williams said.

They give them valuable insight into the business world."

The CMP was created by the Corps and Corps Development Council to give the cadets role models and prepare them for the 21st century.

CMP speakers are arranged by Frank Muller Jr., Class of '65 student body president and a corporate executive.

Danny Feather, Corps leadership training sergeant and a junior agricultural economics major, said Muller gives selflessly to the Corps and the Memorial Stu-



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

### Rainy Day

Susan Rabel, a sophomore psychology major, and Jill Herzik, a sophomore environmental design major, share an umbrella after the downpour Wednesday afternoon. See related story, Page 7.

## Red Cross blood drive strapped for donations

By MELISSA NUNNERY  
THE BATTALION

Donor turnout at the five American Red Cross Bloodmobile locations on campus this week has been small in comparison to past campus blood drives.

Mindy Vrba, an American Red Cross consultant, said only 170 units (pints) of blood per day were donated on Monday and Tuesday. Their goal is to take in 350 units each day.

The Red Cross uses an average of 120 pints of blood every day, Vrba said.

Vrba encouraged Texas A&M students to put themselves in other people's shoes and donate blood.

"Ninety-five percent of people are going to need blood sometime," Vrba said. "If one of their (students) family members was sick and needed blood ... think of all the Central Texas families that need blood."

Alpha Phi Omega service

fraternity and the Red Cross teamed up to bring Bloodmobiles to the A&M campus.

**"If everyone who comes would bring a friend, it would help us reach our goal."**

Mindy Vrba  
American Red Cross  
consultant

They are at Rudder Fountain, Sbisla, Kleberg, The Commons and Corps Lounge E, which is a new location this year.

Michael Boggs, a blood drive supervisor and nurse, said the new location raised only 20 pints the first two days.

"If they (donations) don't pick up today, we'll have to close it," Boggs said.

Lack of publicity, Boggs

said, is probably one factor contributing to the poor donor turnout. People just do not know about it, he said.

"We need to get the word out two weeks ahead," Boggs said. "Maybe we could send a letter out to all the units (in the Corps) and get the seniors to encourage the underclassmen to participate."

Vrba said it is important to get the word out about the blood drive to generate more donations.

"If everyone who comes would bring a friend, it would help us reach our goal," Vrba said.

She said there needs to be at least 50 donations per day at each campus location to raise the amount of blood needed.

Boggs said donating blood is a quick and easy process.

"You only bleed for 20 minutes," he said. "Most people are finished in five or 10 minutes. Then, you've saved three lives."

Boggs said many people are afraid to donate blood.

"A lot of people are afraid of needles, some are just terrified," Boggs said. "If they come with a buddy they feel better. It's the unknown that's so scary. People leave saying it wasn't as bad as they thought it would be."

Boggs said anyone thinking about giving blood should drink plenty of water before and after donating.

Mark Shackelford, a senior applied mathematical science major, said he always gives blood at the blood drive.

"There used to be a line," Shackelford said. "I guess people just don't make time for it."

Swaminathan Balamurugan, a computer science graduate student, said when he saw the Bloodmobile on campus he decided to donate.

"I saw it here and decided to come over, but I didn't know about it until I saw the van," he said.

The Bloodmobiles will be on campus everyday until Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### THE BATTALION TODAY

#### Poor Quality

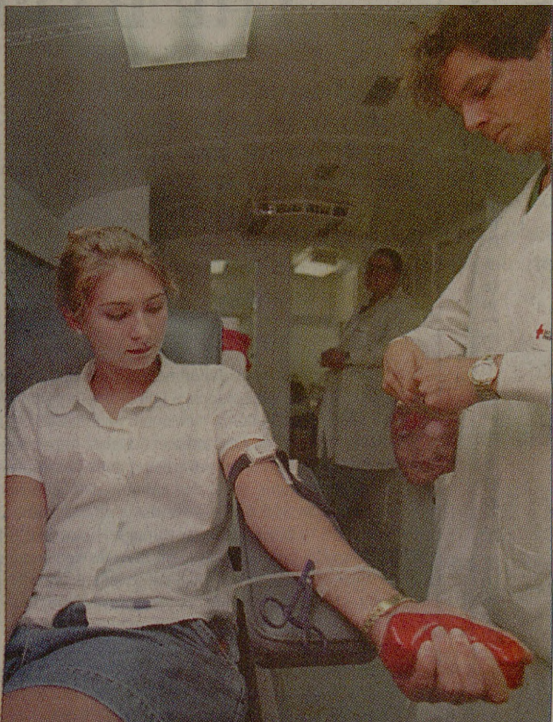
Francis: *The Rich Man's Wife* fails to live up to the standards of previous mystery films. Aggiefife, Page 3

#### Poetic Justice

After suffering three losses to SMU in 1995, A&M Soccer Team gets revenge with 5-0 win. Sports, Page 9

#### voter's Rights

Boobydare: Both parties agree on one thing — don't exercise the right NOT to vote. Opinion, Page 13



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Carrie Woodley, a freshman elementary education major, prepares to give blood.