



THE BATTALION

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MOB patron prevails

Battle of the Bands contest ends in disappointment for A&M

By MARIKA COOK
THE BATTALION

The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band lost to the Stanford University Marching Band in the quarterfinal round of ESPN's Battle of the Bands, thanks in part to a letter posted on the Internet by a supporter of the Rice University Marching Owl Band.

Bev Blackwood, systems analyst for Rice University, sent an e-mail to the Longhorn Band of the University of Texas and its newspaper, The Daily Texan, in hopes of garnering support against the Aggie Band.

"Clearly, someone was going to have to do something because of the previous numbers the Aggie Band received," Blackwood said. "You (Aggie Band) were going to rush everybody. Your student body alone is more than all of Rice's alumni put together. We had to get support from the outside to get the Aggies out of the competition."

The Aggie Band received 74.4

percent of 13,897 votes to defeat the Dartmouth University Marching Band. Before that match-up, no battle had received more than 5,000 votes.

A record 34,664 votes were cast in the quarterfinal match between A&M and Stanford University. Stanford received 53.7 percent to A&M's 47.7 percent.

"I'm gratified and surprised it worked out," Blackwood said. "But it's unfortunate that so many Aggies feel like it was cheating. I truly believe A&M is an excellent band, unique in all of college football, but it's intimidating to see all those votes."

Stanford will meet Grambling State in the semifinal round.

Votes may be cast in Rice's semifinal competition against Princeton until 6 p.m. today.

The winners of each semifinal match-up will battle for the championship.

Joel Neuenschwander, B Company commander and a senior finance major, said the MOB voted for Stanford

because they wanted to oust A&M, not because they are a better band.

"We didn't need to win this competition to know we're good," Neuenschwander said. "We know because we get standing ovations and pats on the back. That's the way we look at it."

Robert Garcia, a B Company band member and a senior psychology and Spanish major, spoke in regards to a retaliation against Rice in their competition with Princeton.

"It was an act of poor sportsmanship on their part and I don't think we should stoop to their level," Garcia said.

Mark Spede, a doctoral student who is a teaching assistant with the Longhorn band, said he knew about the competition but did not know about the letter from Blackwood against the Aggie Band.

"In my opinion, the whole concept is silly because the spirit of a college band is more of cooperation than competition. Let's leave that to the football teams," Spede said.

GUF increase go to salaries

A&M aims to be more competitive to attract faculty, staff

By MARIKA COOK
THE BATTALION

Administrators and students at Texas A&M are waiting to learn the verdict on the raise of the General Use Fee from \$24 to \$34 per semester credit hour. This increase in fee revenue will be used solely for salary increases for faculty and staff.

Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for student affairs, said the GUF at A&M is consistently less than its peer institutions.

"There are a number of institutions in the state that are at the peak, which is currently \$32 and will increase to \$34 next fall," he said.

Other state schools comparable in size to A&M have higher GUFs. Students at the University of Texas pay \$32 per semester credit hour but will pay \$34 by next fall. University of Houston students pay a \$30 GUF and Texas Tech University students pay \$28.

It is expected that the increase will make A&M faculty and staff salaries more competitive, which is likely to raise the quality of education.

Because other state schools have more money to allocate to salaries, A&M is trying to match the offers other schools can give to faculty and staff.

University President

GENERAL USE FEE
PART 2 IN A 5-PART SERIES
▶ SEE EDITORIAL, PAGE 9

Ray M. Bowen said he supports an increase so competitive salaries can be offered, which will attract high-quality employees.

"Regrettably, money relates to quality," Bowen said. "We need to pay good salaries for valuable people. Hopefully, by introducing the fee early, we can minimize the effect on students' budgets. It will require people to make some adjustments."

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. Monday to clarify the motivations for the \$10 increase. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and voice their opinions.

Debbie Howard, a senior English and history major, said the hearing is a good idea.

"I think it's good that they're giving students the opportunity to be informed," she said. "The increase is OK, but we should see some data on the effects. I'd like to know how it matters in the long run."

The increase will affect students who use financial aid because the eligibility for aid will increase.

Don Engelage, director of financial aid, said the GUF increase will make financial need higher for students.

"By state regulation, we develop a student budget for each individual based on a nine-month need for tuition and fees," he said. "If the expected family contribution is less than the student budget, the need

for financial assistance will increase."

Brian McNichols, a mechanical engineering graduate student, received his undergraduate degree from Trinity University in San Antonio, where tuition and fees are much higher.

"I think it's a worthwhile increase," McNichols said. "If you pay professors more, they're likely to pay more attention to how they're teaching. A&M's expenses, in general, are pretty inexpensive."

WHERE THE MONEY GOES...

1995-1996	
\$13.2 M	- Debt retirement, capital infrastructure (buildings were built)
\$5 M	- Salary increase of September '95
\$4.85 M	- General Budget
\$800,000	- Financial Aid
\$350,000	- Special Initiatives
1996-1997	
\$150,000	- Financial Aid
\$650,000	- Classroom renovation

GENERAL USE FEES



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Back in Time

Becky Hoskisson, a freshman landscape architecture major, and Matt Edwards, a junior construction science major, reillustrate the details at the Administration Building Wednesday for ENDS 115 class. The building was constructed during the Depression era and the detailing provided jobs for people who needed them.

Say no, just for today

Great American Smokeout asks people to quit

By COURTNEY WALKER
THE BATTALION

In 1971, Arthur Mullaney asked people in Randolph, Mass., to give up smoking for a day and donate the money they would have spent on cigarettes to a high school scholarship fund.

Others followed Mullaney and launched anti-smoking campaigns in their home states. In 1977, the American Cancer Society hosted what is now known as the nationwide Great American Smokeout.

The Society will continue the annual event Thursday, encouraging smokers to quit

for a day Thursday with hopes it will convince them they can quit for a lifetime.

Gail Boone, district secretary for the American Cancer Society, said although not



everyone may be able to quit after one try, it is a step closer to quitting.

"A majority of smokers quit six or seven times before they are completely through," she said. "But if

they can quit for one day, they're a lot farther than they were before."

According to the American Cancer Society, the nation's smoking rate has decreased from 36 percent to 25 percent. The Texas rate has decreased from 36 percent to 23 percent.

Boone said the goal for the Bryan-College Station area is for one out of five smokers to quit for the day.

Not only does the Great American Smokeout focus on getting smokers to quit for the day, but the campaign also targets younger generations.

See SMOKEOUT, Page 5

KA members face sanctions

By BRANDON HAUSENLUCK
THE BATTALION

Officials of the Robertson County Sheriff's Department say the criminal investigation of the Texas A&M chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order is in its final stages.

At least 30 fraternity members have been questioned regarding a hazing incident that occurred at a KA "rally" in Robertson County Oct. 14, at which a pledge sustained an injury to his groin. The injury resulted in the pledge having one of his testicles surgically removed.

Brian Bancroft, a Robertson County Sheriff's Department deputy, said the offense is not serious enough for jail time.

"Nobody's going to be arrested," Bancroft said. "Over a stupid incident like

this, we're not going to make their lives hell."

Bancroft said the case could go to a grand jury by early December.

"This is a strange offense," he said. "We're done with the interview process so now all we have to do is compile everything and get it ready for presentation."

The chapter had its charter revoked Nov. 6 for three years for violating national fraternity risk management policies, University rules and Interfraternity Council hazing regulations.

Bancroft said the fraternity faces sanctions that can range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and twice the amount of the pledge's medical expenses.

"They're looking at a pretty hefty fine," he said.

See KA, Page 6

Cop inspired student to excel

By JOANNE WHITTEMORE
THE BATTALION

A student at Texas A&M has a story about how he changed from bully to Boy Scout, literally.

Uriel Rudy Gonzalez, a sophomore business major, said he was not always a good student. Growing up in Houston without a father figure made him a troublemaker, he said.

"My dad had passed away when I was six, so I didn't have a male role model," he said. "I didn't listen to my mom, I was failing all my classes, I was beating up kids, I was getting in fights with the teachers, and I just didn't care."

Gonzalez met John A. Treviño, a Houston police officer, at a park near his home in the summer of 1989.

Treviño was working with the Police Activity League, an inner-city program for children, and invited him to join.

Treviño said as he and Gonzalez became closer, he became a father figure to him.

"I was one of the only officers that would take the kids home at night," he said.

"Rudy lived the farthest away, so I dropped him off last. I got to spend time with him. He always had an ear to learn, so I became his mentor."

Gonzalez said he became involved in the Boy Scouts of America's urban scouting program for disadvantaged youth.

In this program, he received a public service award for saving a younger boy's life and became the first Hispanic to give the Report to the Nation, the Boy Scouts' annual summary of events and activities.

The report was presented to former President Bush, Army and Navy Chiefs of Staff, the Director of the FBI and selected members of Congress.

Gonzalez had the opportunity to meet these dignitaries and President Clinton.

Treviño said he used scouting to teach Gonzalez about life.

See STUDENT, Page 5



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Uriel Gonzalez was awarded the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Badge in high school.

THE BATTALION TODAY

Gaming Age

Video gamers have sold the Nintendo and returned to the high-tech world of CD-Rom Aggiefife, Page 3

Standing Ready

The 12th Man Kickoff Team upholds one of A&M's most sacred traditions. Sports, Page 7

Oxymoronic

Miller: Texas A&M's CRs represent neither the college nor the Republicans. Opinion, Page 9