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Yell Leader Runoffs

J-board to hear case for referendum

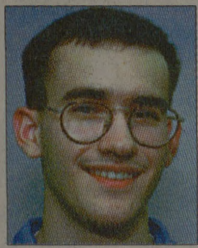
By MELISSA NUNNERY
THE BATTALION

A concerned student will petition the Student Government Association Judiciary Board to clear up the confusion surrounding last semester's referendum on yell leader run-off elections.

Last spring, the Student Senate asked the student body to vote on yell leader run-off elections in a referendum. The referendum passed, but the Student Senate rejected considering the referendum last semester. Chris Williams, a senior political science and speech communication

major, said he feels his Student Government failed to do something it committed to do when it tabled discussions concerning the referendum. Williams, also MSC president, emphasized that he is not acting as a member of Student Government or the MSC, just as a concerned student. "I want students to know if they think Student Government has done something it shouldn't or hasn't done something it should... they have the right and the responsibility to go to the j-board," Williams said. "That's why it's there." Williams said whether he supports

yell-leader runoffs is irrelevant. He said he just wants to make sure that when students raise their voices, they are heard. Kevin Jordan, a finance graduate student and member of the j-board, said Williams' petition is a question of the Student Government Association constitution's stand on referendums. "If the j-board rules it [the referendum] was binding, then the [Stu-



Williams

dent Government] executive branch will implement that [yell leader runoffs]," Jordan said. Another group of students has started a petition regarding yell leader run-off elections. The students will attempt to get the signatures of 10 percent of the student body to ensure there will be yell leader runoffs in the next election. If the petition gets the required number of signatures, it would force a referendum that, if passed, would not need Student Senate approval to be implemented. Jesse Czelusta, Residence Hall Association president and a senior agricul-

tural economics major, is helping to promote the petition. He said yell-leader runoffs should be given a chance. "First and foremost we want to represent the student body," Czelusta said. "[There were] 6,300 students who thought they were giving the Student Government Association a mandate [with the referendum], and they found out it was just an opinion." Eliot Kerlin, student service chair and a senior finance major, said he hopes the j-board will act on Williams' petition. "There's not much other alternative than to organize a petition drive," Kerlin said.

"[We want to] make it clear this isn't Student Government or Student Senate covering their tracks. We're just concerned students." Matt Mayfield, Student Government executive vice president and a senior animal science major, said students should know all the facts before they sign the petition. "I urge them [students] not to sign flippantly," Mayfield said. "Take time to read it and know what's going on. I'm not saying sign it or don't sign it, just know what you're signing."

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Five-legged frogs baffle researchers, scientists



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

A researcher examines a five-legged frog that was found near College Station. The leg is attached at the knee joint of the hind leg.

By KATHLEEN STRICKLAND
THE BATTALION

On September 21, 1996, three children playing near a pond in Burleson County, 20 miles from College Station, found a frog laying on a dirt path. Upon closer inspection, they realized the frog was deformed, possessing an extra back leg protruding from a knee. The frog was taken to Texas A&M University for scientific research. The discovery could be linked to a series of discoveries of deformed frogs in the northern region, from South Dakota to Quebec. Vast numbers of ponds have been found to contain these abnormal frogs, particularly in the Minnesota area, raising concern with residents, scientists and the Environmental Protection Agency. Scientists nationwide have been puzzled by this new phenomenon. However, as some Texas A&M researchers well know, this phenomenon is not as new as it seems.

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Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Two-and-a-half-year-old Grant Hughes-Whitlock crosses Ross Street on his mini four-wheeler Wednesday afternoon. His mother, Robin, is a graduate student in education.

Professional Organizations

Groups help guide careers

Laura Oliveira
THE BATTALION

Nationwide professional black organizations at Texas A&M University help students become familiar with their chosen fields of work. Jemia Midget, former president of National Association of Black Journalists and a senior journalism major, said focusing on specific professions prepares members for the work force. "It is important for any student to participate in their specialized career," she said. "It helps African-American students to seek out jobs and scholarships that may not be available to them otherwise." The association is the largest African-American media organization in the country. The group strives to strengthen ties with black journalism students, helps sponsor activities to enhance the performance and effectiveness of its members, and expands coverage of African Americans in a balanced manner. Midget said the organization urges members to involve themselves in journalistic activities on campus. "It also encourages students in journalism to participate in the radio, The Battalion and The Aggeland," she said. This will help develop good communication skills, which will help them when they enter into the work force. The National Society of Black En-



know (The University of) Texas has gone through it, and people in the Louisiana area." Gonzalez said the falling minority enrollment is unfortunate but it prompts the association to become stronger. "Blacks are under-represented in engineering and this organization helps us to unify and become a force to be reckoned with," she said. Patrice Miller, president of the National Association of Black Accountants and a junior accounting major, said the organization wants to help incorporate minorities into the business world. "We do basically what all the business majors do," she said, "but we have a special group to give minorities something to relate to." Miller said being at a university with few African-Americans can make one isolated, and suggested that getting involved in minority organizations can help ease the transition from high school to college. "Sometimes we are a little intimidated in class," she said. "It is nice to see a familiar face and get comfortable in an organization." Miller said finding a familiar environment first helped her to break away to non-minority organizations later. "Once I felt comfortable with the college scene, I broke away and joined other organizations," she said.

Plagiarism problem plagues profs

By JOEY SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Rising classroom plagiarism prompted the Faculty Senate to send a memorandum to Texas A&M University teaching staff earlier this month with information about copyrighted course material.

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Because of complaints of plagiarism and other forms of cheating allegedly encouraged by some off-campus tutoring services, the Faculty Senate at Texas A&M has urged professors and teachers to inform students about scholastic dishonesty and its consequences. Professors and teachers are asked to elaborate on the meaning of plagiarism and misrepresentation. A memo from Dr. Steven Oberhelman, speaker of the Faculty Senate and head of the modern languages department, was given to A&M faculty and staff suggesting adding information to each syllabus defining plagiarism of class notes, tests and handouts. "The memorandum has two motives," he said. "First of all, it is to inform the professors and teachers that they can copyright any class material. And second, it is to suggest that teachers inform their students about this copyright, and that students purchasing lab problems, term papers, or other homework and turn it in are in violation of plagiarism."

The Faculty Senate committee on off-campus tutoring services stated that "ideally, professors and tutoring services work in concert to provide students with a maximum learning opportunity. But sometimes the desired synergism does not occur." It stated the main problem was with tutoring services copyrighting reports or documents containing material written by A&M instructors. One tutoring service, The Quantum Cow, requires students using their service to sign an agreement stating that the students are not allowed to turn in any documents, make photocopies of work, share materials or give away materials at the end of the semester. To inform students about the dangers of plagiarism, The Quantum Cow issues a memo entitled "Don't Be a Dumb-Ass!!!" to each of their student clients, warning against these violations. Cindy Justitz, owner of The Quantum Cow, said faculty and students need to become more informed about what is copyrightable.

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Rec Center attendance increases

Shikonya Cureton
THE BATTALION

After all the pounds are added and resolutions made over the holidays, students and faculty look forward to working off the extra weight at the Student Recreation Center. This fall, 93.6 percent of A&M students and faculty visited the Rec Center, compared to this semester's recent total of 85 percent.



Semester	Week 1 Total	Semester Total	Number of Different People (in a semester)
Fall 95	35,700	379,794	30,121
Spring 96	28,596	474,634	32,024
Fall 96	44,058	460,140	37,882

James D. Palmer, THE BATTALION

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Legacies: For some students who are children of old Ags, the family bloodline runs maroon. Aggeliflife, Page 3

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