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RHA rejects leadership bill

Yell leader makes apology to GLBA

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

RAs will not be allowed to serve as committee directors

The Residence Hall Association shot down a bill Wednesday night which would allow Resident Assistants to serve as directors of established committees in the organization.

Contesters of the bill said allowing RAs to have leadership positions in RHA would deprive someone else of the opportunity.

Josh Duncan, RHA delegate for Aston Hall and a sophomore general studies major, said Texas A&M is trying to promote inclusiveness, and the bill would have worked against that notion.

"The reason I was against it is that we want to afford the opportunity for everyone to get involved," he said. "RAs are already in established leadership

positions. Let us give everyone a chance."

Jason Evans, RHA director of Casino, proposed the bill.

Evans, a junior accounting major, said he was surprised the bill did not pass.

"Everyone pretty much thought it was a good idea," he said. "This is the fourth time it was read to this group, and no one really debated about until now. I thought everything was going to go smoothly, but you never can tell."

Vicki Pons, RHA treasurer and a freshman business administration major, said being a director of RHA demands too much time,

for an RA's schedules.

"RAs are too busy to be able to do both jobs well and still go to school," she said.

Jesse Czelusta, president of RHA and a senior agricultural economics major, said he was pleased by the equal pros and cons expressed in the discussion.

"I was impressed by the debate," he said. "It was very fair. But it was disappointing that the vote was so close."

The final vote was 26 for and 24 against the bill. The bill did not receive the two-thirds vote needed to be amended into the constitution.

Czelusta said the RHA



spring semester calendar was full. Activities such as Adopt-a-Highway and Replant will keep members busy.

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By MATT WEBER
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M head yell leader Chris Torn apologized Thursday at a meeting of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Aggies for derogatory remarks made by yell leaders last semester.

The remarks were made at a yell practice in Austin before the football game between Texas A&M and the University of Texas. Three A&M yell leaders were reported as making anti-homosexual remarks in reference to the Texas football players.

Bradley, president of GLBA and a senior political science major, said yell leaders verbally abused gays at the yell practice.

"The yell leaders turned it into a verbal gay-bashing by referring to the U.T. football team as 'faggots' and 'queers' and what they were going to do to them the next day," Bradley said.

The remarks were reported to Special Student Services, a division of the Department of Student Life dealing with the concerns of gay and lesbian students. The remarks came to the attention of Jeff Anderson, a graduate student with Special Student Services. Anderson sent a letter to the yell leaders, their advisers and Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs, asking for a response or apology from the yell leaders.

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SISTAS focuses on common goals

By JOANNE WHITTEMORE
THE BATTALION

Striving In Society To Achieve Sisterhood (SISTAS) unites African-American women at Texas A&M University by giving them the opportunity to discover common interests.

Evita Castine, vice-chair of SISTAS and a junior English major, said the organization provides support for African-American women and keeps them abreast of contemporary issues.

"We talk about issues facing women today on the campus, off the campus, and in the outside community," she said.

Octevia Evangelista, chair of SISTAS and a senior political science major, said while the organization mainly targets African-American females on campus, SISTAS is open to any African-American, undergraduate or graduate at the University including people interested in issues regarding African-American goals.

"We all have something in common," she said. "We're all African-American."

Evangelista said SISTAS focuses on physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. She said the organization runs programs on social awareness, educational awareness, public relations and mental outreach. Evangelista said the programs are designed to cover all areas of growth.

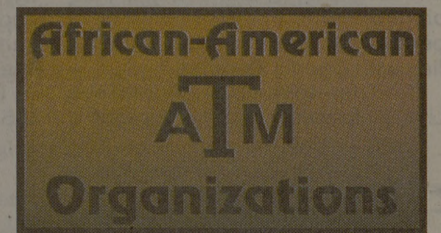
"We're trying to target every aspect of becoming a successful person," she said. "If we work on those aspects of our lives, it can help us better succeed in our daily endeavors and help us form better bonds between our people."

The mental outreach program, "Sista to Sista," provides mentors for students from kindergarten through 12th grade in the Bryan-College Station community.

Raechelle Champion, a health major, said the program allows members of SISTAS to help the younger students make choices that will benefit them throughout their lives.

"Life is all about choices," she said. "We are hoping to help the students make wise decisions."

Champion said the mentor program is designed for African-American fe-



males, but the mentors will help others who ask for it.

The organization runs programs on dating among the African-American community and health and fitness, to help maintain its focus. It also has a literature group which reads books and discusses themes by different African-American authors.

Castine said the programs have helped her discover new interests she never had been aware of.

"I felt that it has been a success overall," she said. "I've been opened up to a number of different issues that I normally wouldn't have been exposed to."

Evangelista said SISTAS joins with other organizations to help each other grow and learn from experiences.

"It strengthens the bond amongst African-American women throughout campus and then serves as a bridge to African-American women throughout the community," she said.

"We're trying to target every aspect of becoming a successful person."

Octevia Evangelista
Chair, SISTAS

UT scientists find way to starve tumors

WASHINGTON (AP) — University of Texas scientists are destroying cancerous tumors in mice by engineering blood clots that starve the tumors to death, an advance that could be tested in people within two years.

The therapy, much like killing a plant by cutting its roots, caused rapid cancer-cell death within 24 hours, Dr. Philip Thorpe of UT's Southwestern Medical Center reports Friday in the journal Science.

Two weeks later, tumors had disappeared in 38 percent of the mice and had shrunk by more than half in

another 24 percent.

Much work is needed to prove the treatment could work in people, but it could one day offer doctors a less-toxic alternative to chemotherapy for breast, lung, ovarian and other cancers.

"It would be wonderful," said Dr. James Pluda, a National Cancer Institute senior drug investigator. "What this paper demonstrates is proof of the concept that ... this kind of therapy can be effective."

Solid tumors, which represent most major cancers, depend on blood for oxygen and nutrients. Blood vessels

grow rampantly through the cancer mass, often making surgery difficult because of heavy bleeding. The vessels eventually snake into other organs and spread the malignancy.

Thorpe theorized that clogging vessels deep inside a tumor would make it die from the inside out. The question was how to avoid life-threatening blood clots in arteries throughout the body.

To create an intravenous drug, Thorpe used a human protein called tissue factor, or TF, that is vital in helping blood clot. So the TF in this

drug dose wouldn't coagulate on its way through the bloodstream to the tumor, he removed the molecule that would allow it to latch onto normal cells.

Then Thorpe attached a homing device, an antibody that recognizes a substance found only inside the tumor's blood vessels. Once that substance hooks TF to these tumor vessels, the TF starts creating blood clots inside the tumor.

Clogged vessels appeared throughout mice tumors in 30 minutes and caused rapid cancer-cell death within 24 hours.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Toss It Up | Keith Taylor, a student worker from Navasota, prepares a grilled chicken salad for customer Jennifer Ford, a freshman biomedical science major, at Alonti Deli in the Underground Food Court.

Conference reaches out to youth Students saddle up for rodeo parade

Peer advisers, workshops will encourage Texas high school students to pursue higher education this weekend.

By MARISSA ALANIS
THE BATTALION

Minority high school students from all over Texas will be encouraged to pursue a post-secondary education this weekend at the eighth annual Minority Enrichment and Development through Academic and Leadership Skills (MEDALS) Conference.

Over 850 students, parents and counselors are expected to attend the conference, whose focus is on "Knowledge... Don't Stop Until You Get Enough."

Lorinda Beekmann, an adviser for MEDALS and A&M Multicultural Special Projects coordinator, said the theme helps students realize learning does not stop once they graduate from high school.

stop is if you set barriers for yourself," Beekmann said.

She said MEDALS is not an honors program, but is geared towards the students who are uncertain and need that extra boost to go to college.

"It's easy to find those (scholarly) people," Beekmann said. "Most already know what they're going to do."

With the aid of 140 peer advisers, the students will attend informational workshops on Saturday. The workshops, presented by U-ACT, the Princeton Review, the Career Center and RHA president Jesse Czelusta, will take place in the MSC.

A new approach to the conference is the Higher Education Summit, which starts during registration at 10 a.m. in the Rudder Exhibition Hall today. Representatives from different colleges on campus, junior colleges, technical schools and institutions such as Texas Tech and Prairie View

A&M will help students gather resources for their post-secondary education.

Shantera Woodley, director of programs for MEDALS and a junior business analysis major, said with all the different programs and workshops available to the participants, she wants students to consider everything they hear to make a wise decision about their future.

"I want them to listen and pretty much understand you never stop trying to learn more," Woodley said.

Beekmann said former conference participants now constitute around 50 percent of the MEDALS executive staff and peer advisers, indicating the degree of influence the event has on individuals.

"We have, over the years, had students come to A&M because they had exposure to A&M through the conference," Beekmann said.

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By BENJAMIN CHENG
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students are preparing to head to Houston to perform in the 65th Annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Kickoff Parade Feb. 8.

A total of 52 cavalry members will participate in the parade. The mounted seniors and juniors will parade through downtown Houston, trailed by sophomores, known as the "scooper crew."

Jim Boles, cavalry commander and a senior agricultural development major, said the cavalry is limited in the parade due to the confining streets of downtown Houston. The horses are kept at a distance from the spectators for safety reasons, Boles said.

"What I don't want is some horse getting loose and kicking some kid," Boles said.

Boles said he hopes cavalry members enjoy the experience.

"I most enjoy waving to the small children in the stands," he said. "We're generally there to have a good time. Some guys take it too seriously."

Paul Simone, Cavalry first sergeant and a junior agricultural systems management major, will ride in the parade for the first time.

"Road trips are a lot of fun," Simone said. "It's what everybody lives for."

The cavalry's next performance is in Laredo at the Washington Day Celebration Parade Feb. 22.

The Catalena Cowgirls, a local precision horseback drill team, will ride in the Rodeo Kickoff Parade and open every rodeo performance in the Astrodome. The team is a diverse group ranging from 19- to 37 year-olds, consisting of A&M students, housewives and working women.

Robbie Oates, Class of '96 and a third-year member, will carry the American flag leading the kickoff parade and the grand entry into the Astrodome.

"It's overwhelming and really exciting," Oates said. "You go down the ramp to the floor and you look up. You have to tilt your head up to the stands. It's just huge."

Pete Catalena, co-sponsor and trainer, said the cowgirls' horse-

manship requires more than just being able to ride a horse.

"It's highly demanding," Catalena said. "You're controlling 1,500 pound horses, holding a flag and thinking about what you're going to do next."

The team's operation is based in College Station. Oates said members practice up to four hours a day on weekends.

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