

THE BATTALION

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Friday, February 7, 1997

Pow Wow to show intertribal heritage

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

Native American warrior dancing can be seen at the fifth annual Pow Wow on Friday and Saturday, marking the end of Texas A&M Native American Week. The Pow Wow which will demonstrate the Kiowa Gourd Dance and intertribal dancing, hosted by the Native American Student Association and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Cass said. Sonny Spearman, president of the association and a sophomore general studies major, said the event will increase awareness of the Native American culture. "This is a chance to learn that the Native American people are not extinct," he said. "We keep the heritage alive by putting these Pow Wows on."

"This is a chance to learn that the Native American people are not extinct."

Sonny Spearman
President, Native American Student Association

The Pow Wow will be from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday at the Louis Pierce Pavilion in College Station. Sandra Medina, adviser for the association and a student development specialist with multicultural services, said interacting with the students has taught her about the Native American culture. She said she enjoys the the anecdotes behind everyday activities of Native American culture. "My favorite thing about the culture is that there is always a story behind why things are done," she said. "Whether it is why they wear certain dresses or why they do certain dances, everything is done for a reason." The Gourd dance is an example of symbolism in the Native American culture. The dance originated after a Kiowa warrior saw a red wolf dancing and shaking a rattle on the side of a hill. The warrior took the dance back to his tribe.

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The dance originated after a Kiowa warrior saw a red wolf dancing and shaking a rattle on the side of a hill. The warrior took the dance back to his tribe.

Spearman said the intertribal dancing is open to anyone who wants to learn.

The dancers will be adorned in traditional Native American dress and accompanied by singers. The singers stand in the middle of the dance arena as the most respected participants.

Spearman said the dances are physically demanding.

"The first dance witnessed by a white man lasted six days and six nights," he said.

"As time has gone by we have gotten a little smarter. Our dances last about five or six minutes."

Traders will be selling Native American print art, pottery and other crafts at the Pow Wow.

Council cancels Class Ball

Due to lack of participation in previous Class Balls, the council will shift its focus to fund raising.

By JOE JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Lack of student participation in the past canceled the combined Class of '98 and Class of '99 Ball which had been slated for tonight.

Classes at Texas A&M have held class dances since the 1960s as a student social activity, but attendance has declined recently.

Nolan Barkhouse, Class of '98 president and an international

studies major, said the Class Ball attracted only 200 to 300 students out of the combined sophomore and junior classes in the past.

"The focus of Class Ball is to get class participation," Barkhouse said. "Students were not participating enough."

Peggy Philpot, adviser for the class councils, said the Class Ball did not bring in enough money to make it worthwhile. The council could focus more on fund raising, she said.

Stephanie Hayes, a sophomore journalism major, said she has never attended a class ball because she did not know about it.

Barkhouse said the Class of '98 will focus on Boot Dance, a junior tradition.

"Right now we are working on having a bash before Boot Dance," he said. "We want stu-

dents to know that Boot Dance is not just for Corps members.

All Class of '98 [members] are invited."

The senior class has Ring Dance, the junior class has Boot Dance and the freshman class will celebrate Fish Ball.

Gregg Nichols, Class of '99 President and an agricultural business major, said he would like to see a sophomore ball, but considered the idea unrealistic because of low student participation and profit.

"Class activities have a goal to unify the class," Nichols said. "It is hard to get students to go, especially when spring is so busy."

Nichols said the class council worked on ways to increase attendance, but was unsuccessful.

Class of '99 has left a new tradition to leave for the freshman

class, Nichols said.

The class council coordinated with the Association of Former Students to help host reunions in the fall, council meetings and general activities.

Barbara Kasper, director of Campus Programs and Class of '82, said the Class of '99 has started a positive experience for students.

"We're excited about this," Kasper said, "and we hope more students will get involved."

The sophomore and junior classes are concentrating on fund-raising to help pay for a class gift.

The Class of '98 will finish selling T-shirts and sweat shirts within the next two weeks and begin selling baseball caps later in the month.

The Class of '99 will sell window stickers beginning March 19.

Board of Education questions program

Members say New Standards Project will bring 'kooky' ideas to the Texas school curriculum.

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas is spending \$2.1 million without public scrutiny on a national education project that could inject radical ideas into the school curriculum, State Board of Education members backed by religious conservatives said Thursday.

"It's public funds that have been spent and given to a private entity... funding a national agenda," said board member Donna Ballard of The Woodlands.

Ballard and others said they're concerned the so-called New Standards Project is promoting "outcome-based education," a concept that may have different definitions depending on who's describing it.

As described by Ballard, outcome-based education is "a very controversial method of teaching that emphasizes process rather than content," including such ideas as doing away with honors programs and promoting group grades instead of individual grades.

Backers of the project, however, said it's aimed at strong academic standards.

Several board members said they were concerned that they didn't have say on spending the money. "Public money is being spent without public scrutiny, and quite frankly, this is abuse of the taxpayers of Texas," said board member Richard Neill of Fort Worth, who contends a project leader has "kooky" ideas.

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Moses said the state's curriculum rewrite isn't being driven by the New Standards Project, a joint effort of the Washington-based, nonprofit National Center on Education and

the Economy and the University of Pittsburgh's Learning Research and Development Center.

The state has spent \$1.6 million on membership dues for the program over several years, and is obligated to spend \$500,000 more, said Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Debbie Graves Ratcliffe.

Moses and Senate Finance Committee Chair Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant and former Education chair, are listed as governing board members of the project, as are officials from other states and from Fort Worth.

Former Education Commissioner Lionel "Skip" Meno originally entered into the contract, Moses said. He said he also has some concerns about the project's leadership, but he bristled at criticism he said was meant to "blindsided" TEA.

"At some point in time, we probably need to concentrate on what kids need to learn," Moses said.

Andy Plattner of the National Center on Education and the Economy said early criticism of outcome-based education focused on those who wanted to test such outcomes as students having self-esteem and abiding to working well in groups.

"That is about the last thing we want. What we're focused on is rigorous academics," Plattner said. He said input has been sought from diverse groups of parents and others on standards.

The Taiwanese Student Association will host a potluck supper Saturday at the Baptist Student Center.

Chih-Hao Lu, president of the Chinese Student Association and a junior environmental design major, said preparing for the celebration is difficult because he is away from home.

"If you want to prepare traditional Chinese food, it is hard," he said. "You have to go to Houston's Chinatown to get the materials."

In addition, the China Club will host a stage performance on Friday night in 201 MSC and a dance Saturday night at 7:30 in the MSC.

Liu Duan, China Club vice president for coordination and a molecular biology graduate student, said the stage performance will include singing, dancing and



Puppy Love

Erin Witt, a freshman chemistry major, holds her canine friend Patches, a blue heeler puppy who is up for adoption at the Brazos Valley Animal Shelter.

Students celebrate Chinese New Year

By MELISSA NUNNERY
AND LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

The year of the Ox begins today for students who observe the Chinese lunar calendar instead of the Western solar calendar.

The Chinese follow the lunar calendar to bring prosperous crops to farmers.

The New Year will be celebrated by members of Texas A&M Asian student organizations.

The Taiwanese Student Association will host a potluck supper Saturday at the Baptist Student Center.

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Liu Duan, China Club vice president for coordination and a molecular biology graduate student, said the stage performance will include singing, dancing and

Chinese Kung-Fu. "You would be overwhelmed by the fine art presented," Duan said.

Duan said the traditional Chinese New Year celebration consists of large family dinners and a holiday from work or school.

Lu said most A&M students from Asia will still attend class.

"It is not a religious holiday," he said.

"We pay out-of-state tuition, so most [students] will not take the day off."

Duan said families in China watch a popular television program on New Year's Eve.

He compared it to the Times Square New Year's Eve party in

New York.

The program usually lasts five or six hours and features performers singing and dancing.

"[It is] the most popular television program in the whole world," he said. "There are one billion people who watch the program every year."

Duan said he never misses the program.

"Here we can see the broadcast tomorrow (Saturday) on the international channel," he said. "I have been here (in the U.S.) four or five years and always manage to watch it."

"I do not know any Chinese who do not do that (watch the program)."

A&M president's housekeeper takes pride in job

Holmes strives to make mansion a welcoming place

By BRANDON HAUSENFLUCK
AND LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Onie Holmes has maintained the President's Mansion for almost 10 years.

Onie Holmes has been the housekeeper at the Texas A&M President's Mansion for almost 10 years and has never missed a day of work.

Holmes said she is proud of the work she does for the University president's home.

"When people come to see the house, they are seeing a part of A&M," she said.

"I love for people to see how beautiful the house is."

Holmes got the job solely on the basis of a good recommendation and began working during the presidency of Dr. William H. Mobley.

Over the years, Holmes has been involved in the coordination of parties hosted by the Bowsens. She also has assisted in tours of the home.

Holmes said the first time she experienced Parent's weekend was overwhelming. Six hundred site-seers tour the home during Parent's Weekend.

"I was at the back door and said goodbye to everyone when they left," she said.

"It was so great to see everyone smiling. It gave me a great feeling."

Holmes holds two other housekeeping jobs during the week and walks over seven miles a day. She said her positive outlook on her job is sometimes considered unbelievable.

"My friends think I'm not telling the truth, but I honestly have not one negative thing to say about my job," she said. "Every day I come to work with a great feeling."

She said happiness is the key to doing a job right. "I love my job," Holmes said. "If you work at a place, you should enjoy it because you'll produce better, and you'll make the people around you happy."

She said she has developed a good relationship with the Bowsens, and although she only works part-time, she enjoys visiting with the president and his wife.

"[The Bowsens] and I have developed a great working relationship," she said.

One of her main goals, she said, is to make people feel welcome at the home.

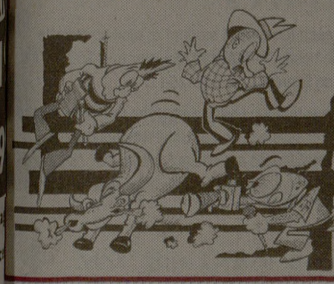
"I want people to feel that they can always come back," she said.

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RODEO TIME: The Houston Rodeo gives Aggie interns a behind-the-scenes look.

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