

THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

Volume 103 • Issue 89 • 12 Pages

The Batt Online: [http:// bat-web.tamu.edu](http://bat-web.tamu.edu)

Monday, February 10, 1997

Forum addresses changes in Senate

Students discussed proposals that would restructure the Student Senate and change the caucus leader system.

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

Proposals to restructure the Texas A&M Student Senate were presented to senators, Student Government members and students at Sunday night forum. The forum followed a Feb. 6 meeting where

these groups gave suggestions and ideas to Senate executives.

The proposals covered Student Senate committee restructuring, the Legislative Aid team, caucus leaders, Senate public relations and the size of the Senate.

Curtis Childers, the Rules and Regulations Committee chair and a junior agricultural development major, said there was a consensus at the meeting that the Senate needed to make the senators more accountable to their constituents, rather than altering its structure.

"The feel of the group Thursday night (Feb. 6) was there isn't a problem with the structure of the Senate, but with the responsibilities of senators," Childers said.

Speaker Chris Reed, a senior finance major, said changes in the caucus leader system will help define the role of caucus leader and provide a framework for the caucus system.

Caucus refers to senators from the same constituency, for example, the College of Engineering or the Northside senators.

Currently, the caucus leaders are chosen by their own caucus, but the proposal will allow the Senate officers to choose the caucus leaders through an application process.

In the application, candidates must provide a detailed description of their plans to make each caucus more responsive to their constituencies.

Reed said one of the main roles

of a caucus leader would be to organize their caucus into "an effective team."

This role includes providing constituency reports, assisting in the selection of filling senatorial vacancies and developing a public relations network.

Childers said senators are not held accountable to anyone in the Senate now, but redefining the role of the caucus leader could ensure senator responsiveness to constituents.

Committee restructuring

proposals include allowing the chairs of Senate committees to select committee members through an application process. The applicants would present a list of goals or ideas concerning the committee to which they apply.

Reed said the changes in the Legislative Aid team would help improve the internal operations of the Senate.

The Legislative Aid team also will be appointed through an application process. Applicants

would be restricted to the incoming freshman class.

The senators would be able to use the members of the team for help with research or legislation, while the team members would learn the workings of the Senate.

Changes in Senate public relations include mandatory candidate meetings before the elections which describe the function of the Senate, the requirements of senators and the way to run for an office.

Other changes in Senate public relations include constituency reports given by a maximum of two senators for each group encouraging more interaction with constituents.

See SENATE, Page 10



► Aggie Wranglers

Dancers to appear on TNN

By GRAHAM HARVEY
THE BATTALION

The Aggie Wranglers, Texas A&M's country and western dance organization, will appear on The Nashville Network this week.

Pam Goralski, a member of the Aggie Wranglers and a senior accounting major, said the group will be spotlighted this afternoon on TNN's taped programs "The Wildhorse Saloon" at 4 p.m. and "Club Dance" at 5 p.m.

The Aggie Wranglers appeared Friday on "Club Dance" and will appear again on "The Wildhorse Saloon" Tuesday and Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Goralski said since the group has successfully performed on TNN in five of the past six years, senior Aggie Wrangler Brandon Vaughn had no problem organizing the trip to Nashville.

"It was exciting getting to see how television programs run," Goralski said. The Aggie Wranglers were orga-

nized 13 years ago. Eleven couples now make up the dance group.

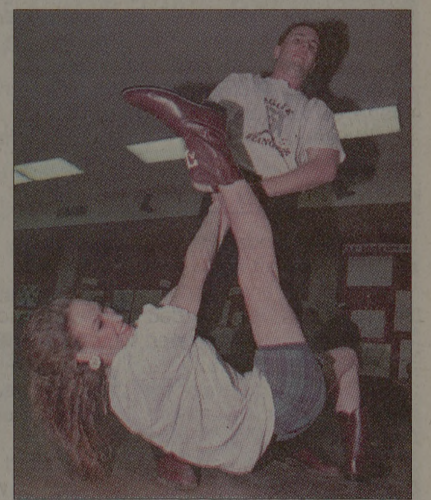
The dancers host dance lessons twice a semester with around 50 couples in each session. They teach principles of country and western dancing and the jitterbug. The next session starts after spring break.

"We are just a performance group," Goralski said. "We teach lessons also, but we do not compete. Our purpose is to promote the Aggie spirit."

Goralski said the Wranglers will be busy this semester. On April 11, the organization will participate in a United Way philanthropy by judging a jitterbug contest at Hurricane Harry's.

Tryouts for new members of the dance group will take place on April 27. Prospective members show their ability to jitterbug, polka and two-step. Goralski said the chief qualification for hopeful members is a love of dancing.

See DANCERS, Page 10



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Pam Goralski, a senior accounting major, and Jason English, a senior industrial engineering major, practice between classes at G. Rollie White.

Judge to rule on charges against Hurricane Harry's

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

The fate of Hurricane Harry's will be decided in early March, after a judge rules on charges brought against the bar by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

The commission filed an administrative case against Hurricane Harry's in response to allegations of alcohol license misuse.

In a hearing Thursday, Judge Cathleen Parsley requested that both parties put final arguments in writing so she can make a decision. She also will consider testimony of witnesses on Hurricane Harry's behalf.

Allegations brought against Hurricane Harry's are serving and contributing to an already intoxicated

person and serving minors. The charges result from two complaints reported by the College Station Police Department.

The first incident, in November 1995, involved the death of Joseph Cotton, 24, who was killed in a car accident after leaving the bar. The driver of the car, Doug Sparks, was reportedly served alcohol at Hurricane Harry's, after he was already intoxicated. Sparks pleaded guilty to charges of intoxicated manslaughter and was sentenced to a six-year prison term.

The second complaint, which will not be considered in Parsley's final decision, involves several citations of minor in possession and public intoxication issued on and near the premises of Hurricane Harry's.

Lt. Scott McCollum, public infor-

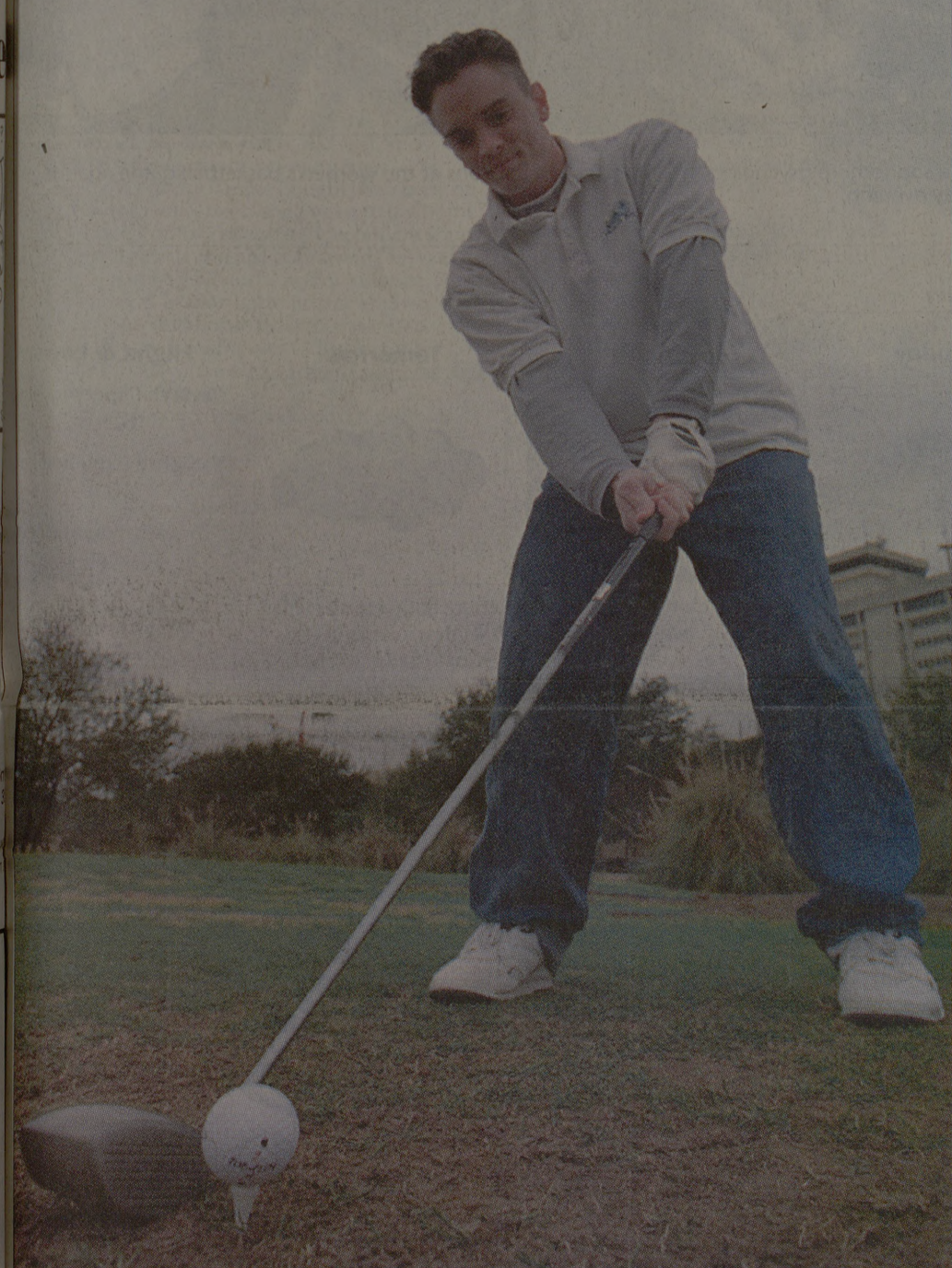
mation officer for the College Station Police Department, said several minors have been charged with possession of alcoholic beverages and public intoxication at Hurricane Harry's.

"Our main focus is to do a source investigation to try to determine how the alcohol was obtained," McCollum said.

The police department decides who is at fault in providing the minor with the alcohol, McCollum said.

"It is difficult to obtain direct proof," McCollum said. "We have to see the source. If the bartender sells to a minor or even someone who, in other words, has had too much, then a case can be filed against the bartender as well."

See JUDGE, Page 10



Rogge Heflin, THE BATTALION

Tee Time James Jernigan, a senior bioengineering major, practices his swing at the Texas A&M golf course Sunday.

Fair focuses on communications Delta Gamma welcomes members

Students will have the chance to meet with recruiters from fields in public relations at a fair sponsored by PRSSA.

By JACKIE VRATIL
THE BATTALION

At the first Communications Fair on Tuesday, students interested in careers in communications or public relations will have a chance to meet with recruiters and work on their résumés and portfolios.

The fair, sponsored by the Public Relations Student Society of America, will be from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the fifth floor of Rudder Tower.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at Rudder or the MSC. Money from ticket sales will go to the society.

Melodie Layman, president of the society and a senior journalism major, said the purpose of the fair is to get publicity and to get the fair off the ground.

"Because this is the first year for the fair," Layman said, "our main focus was to get the word out and target the journalism, speech commu-

nications and English majors."

A speech called "Formula for Success: Getting Outside the Box" given by the vice president of public relations from Nations Bank will kick off the fair. Layman said the message of the speech is that all careers have communications and public relations facets.

Students can get information on dressing for success, visit recruitment booths and participate in résumé and portfolio critiques, and a round table question and answer session. Layman said the fair is more informal than the Business Career Fair and is more job-specific.

"We are offering so much more to students," she said. "We are bringing in more of the people and topics that apply to PR types of careers."

Layman said PRSSA also caters to students who want to go into careers dealing with public relations, but do not know where to start.

"We go about looking for a job differently; we actually have to search," she said. "We need the tools and we have to be more proactive."

Melissa Bush, a junior English major, said she took her disk résumé to the Career Center looking for a public relations internship and learned students rarely bring in résumés looking for public rela-

tions internships.

"I just get frustrated when nobody can tell me where to go to find the type of experience I need," Bush said. "The only advice I have received is from a friend of my dad's who deals in public relations."

Layman said engineering majors have no problem finding a job after graduation.

She said the Liberal Arts Fair is helpful to some degree, but it brings in companies irrelevant to communications majors, such as businesses in the social sciences.

"The Liberal Arts Fair does bring in a lot of companies," she said. "But they don't have the companies we want, and the people there cannot tell us anything about how to set up a portfolio."

"That is the main reason we are bringing in the people that we are. Students who will need to have a portfolio can learn how to do it, and we also give students a place to start."

Layman said this is the first year for the Communications Fair and she hopes at least 200 people will attend the activities.

"I would like to see it get as big as the Business Career Fair," she said. "That way, if we build up our reputation, more companies will want to come."

A&M's newest sorority extended bids after five days of interviews

By MARISSA ALANIS
THE BATTALION

Delta Gamma, Texas A&M's newest sorority, welcomed 130 charter members into its founding colony over the weekend.

After five days of informational sessions and interviews conducted by a team of recruiters, bids were extended in the Koldus Building early Saturday morning.

Ronda Stevens, charter member and a freshman marketing major, said meeting the alumnae of Delta Gamma and seeing the display of spirit and sisterhood helped her decide to join the sorority.

"I just knew this was my home, and this is where I needed to be," Stevens said.

She said being a part of the founding class is a great opportunity because they will be able to make a name for themselves as a sorority.

"I don't think many people have the chance to become the founding mothers of sororities," Stevens said.

Delta Gamma, a national women's sorority established in 1873 in Oxford, Miss., has expanded to 142 collegiate chapters including the recent addition at A&M. The A&M chapter is the seventh chapter in Texas.

Last semester, Panhellenic delegates chose Delta Gamma to join the Greek community, making it the 12th sorority on campus.

Anne Signore, director of expansion for Delta Gamma, said since A&M sororities have some of the largest pledge classes in the nation, they needed to provide another sorority for women to join.

"They (Panhellenic Council) saw there was a need to bring another group on campus, and their strong Greek systems could support a new group," Signore said.

Signore said Delta Gamma expressed interest in A&M from the beginning, but it was just a matter of

everything working out for both sides at the right time.

"It (A&M) is an outstanding university with many students, and it's a strong and viable community," Signore said. "We understand the high caliber of student that goes here and are thrilled to be here."

During the weekend of April 26 and 27, the sorority will be officially initiated and installed as the Eta Gamma chapter of Delta Gamma. In the meantime, the founding class is considered a colony.

Jennifer McCreary, colony consultant for Delta Gamma, will be living on campus this semester and working with the colony by holding meetings and socials and electing officers in March to prepare for initiation weekend.

"I am just thrilled with the women who have just pledged the new colony," McCreary said.

Delta Gamma's symbol is an anchor symbolizing hope. The sorority's flower is a cream-colored rose. Its philanthropic foundation is the Sight Conservation and Aid to the Blind.

Signore said future plans for the sorority include having a house within five years.

THE BATTALION INSIDETODAY

LLANO: Viacom attempts to shut down all unofficial Star Trek websites. Opinion, Page 11	Aggielife Page 3
	Sports Page 7
	State Page 9