



# THE BATTALION

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## Presidents celebrate holiday

By JACKIE VRATIL  
THE BATTALION

Presidents all around the Texas A&M campus will celebrate Presidents Day today.

Toby Boenig, former student body president, spent last year's Presidents Day holding up a sign reading, "Honk if You Love Your President" for cars to read as they passed by. Boenig said this year's holiday will be spent differently because of injuries he sustained in an accident last spring.

"I am still doing rehab," he said. "I will be doing it for another three or four months."

Boenig's birthday coincided with Presidents Day last year.

"I had balloons up to the ceiling in my office and the Women's Chorus came and sang," he said. "So all that happened to me on that day was for my birthday as well."

Because of allegations of hazing against the Fish Aides after last year's kidnapping of Boenig, student body president Carl Baggett said he did not know if the Fish Aides were planning anything this year.

"The day will be just like any other day, going to school and working to fulfill my job as student body president," he said. "There will be no kidnapping."

Kelsey Temple, a freshman journalism major and Fish Aide, works with Baggett on a daily basis. She said the members of Fish Aides were planning to get Baggett a cookie cake, and maybe serve him breakfast in bed or decorate his office.

"We are going to keep things really mellow," she said. "Because of last year, we don't want to do anything that even comes halfway close to being [considered] hazing."

Baggett said, although the issues he faces are nothing in comparison to what world leaders face, he still respects the extensiveness of their jobs.

"It is important to look back and reflect on the great leaders of our country," he said. "We are extremely fortunate we have great people to follow and look up to."

Temple said she has a greater understanding of Baggett's job because she takes his messages and knows exactly who calls and how many times they call him.

"Working with Carl has changed my perspective on what being [student body] president entails," she said. "I not only have a more personal relationship with him, but I understand more about how he handles people and the amount of work he really has to do."

### ► Texas Task Force I

## New team plans strategies, goals

By GRAHAM HARVEY  
THE BATTALION

International terrorism and natural disasters have a new enemy as Texas' first urban search and rescue team, Texas Task Force I, kicked off Saturday in Rudder Tower.

The event provided an overview of the efforts to begin the team, an explanation of the composition and functions of the team itself and an introduction to the Federal Emergency Management Association's Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

Brenda Sims, director of public relations for the Texas Engineering Extension Service, said the new team consists of 124 emergency service specialists from across Texas.

"They have been tapped to serve Texas as part of a team that will respond to mass-casualty disasters, such as the Houston Northline Mall tragedy, had there been a large number of victims," Sims said. "The USAR Team, which is sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service, a member of the Texas A&M University System, is seeking a national designation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency."

Texas Task Force I consists of search, rescue, medical and technical teams. Team members are experts in their fields. They were issued a pager and a photo identification badge Saturday to aid in prompt response to potential disasters.

G. Kemble Bennett, chair of the advisory board for Texas Task Force I and director of the engineering extension service, said the team was started because of recent terrorist activity in the United States.

"Our freedom and our lives have been invaded," Bennett said. "The Oklahoma incident brought it home to Texas personally."

In the fall of 1996, an advisory board was created with the goal of joining the prospective team and the national urban search and rescue task force, Bennett said.

Over 200 people applied to join the team.

"Lots of people applied," Bennett said. "We put together an excellent proposal [for FEMA]. I'm convinced that if we don't win this round, another will come. We're confident."

Only 18 national FEMA urban search and rescue teams are currently deployable, none of which are located in the Midwest. Bennett said this will work to Texas

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G. Kemble Bennett  
Chair, Texas Task Force I  
advisory board

Task Force I's credit when FEMA considers the proposal.

"This is a milestone for Texas," Bennett said. "We have come together to put first the best interests of the state, namely saving lives. This team will play a significant role when disaster strikes within our borders. I am proud to be associated with all those involved in this important undertaking."

The team's budget is \$750,000, enough to fund it as a statewide organization. However, \$2 million is needed from the state before FEMA will accept the proposal for membership.

State Senator Steve Ogden said he supports this funding in the state legislature.

"This group of people [the search and rescue team] represents what's right about America and what's right about Texas," Ogden said. "I pray that you are well funded, well trained, well prepared and that we never have to use you."

Patrick Dubose, a new Texas Task Force I member and a nine-year rescue specialist for the San Antonio Fire Department, said he is proud to have joined the team.

"We've been talking about and expecting this for a long time," Dubose said. "I'm looking forward to being able to help throughout the state, and if we become a FEMA team, to help throughout the United States."



Dave House, THE BATTALION

**Face Off** | Kyle Nelson, #15 of the A&M roller hockey team and a junior engineering major, battles it out with an opponent during a game against the Sherman Fury in a Dallas tournament Sunday. The Aggies won the tournament after their fourth victory in a series of games. See related story, Page 7.

## NASA orders spacewalk to repair Hubble damage

### Astronauts will conduct an extra spacewalk to fix thermal insulation tonight.

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — NASA ordered Discovery's astronauts today to conduct an extra spacewalk to patch insulation on the Hubble Space Telescope that's peeling off worn wallpaper.

Spacewalking astronauts will repair the damaged thermal insulation with swatches of spare material carried on the space shuttle.

Although the repair is not considered urgent, scientists do not intend to wait until the next servicing mission in late 1999. Additional sun damage to the tissue-thin, reflective insulation could allow Hubble's electronics to overheat and could unbalance its mirrors.

"We've got a \$2 billion investment here," said Ed Weiler, NASA's chief Hubble scientist. "Why take chances?"

Mission Control added a little of mending to Sunday night's al-

ready scheduled spacewalk — the fourth of the mission — on which they were to equip Hubble with new drive electronics for its solar panels and sturdier caps for its two magnetometers, instruments that are part of the telescope's guidance system.

The bulk of insulation repairs will be conducted during the newly scheduled spacewalk No. 5 on Monday night by Mark Lee and Steven Smith, who installed three Hubble parts Saturday night. The crew was supposed to have Monday night off.

Americans have conducted five spacewalks on a single mission just once before — during the 1993 mission to correct Hubble's blurred vision.

Discovery's astronauts discovered the ruined insulation late last week. The worst damage was on the side of the telescope most often exposed to the sun's heat and intense ultraviolet radiation during the seven years since its launch.

Hubble's exterior is subjected to extreme temperature changes each time the telescope's orbit carries it in and out of sunlight — from 400 degrees Fahrenheit to 400 below zero.

Only the outermost layer of Teflon insulation has peeled away in six places on the telescope, which is 43 feet long and 15 feet in diameter. The 16 remaining layers of tissue-thin reflective insulation do not appear to be damaged; neither do any of the telescope components.

The peeling insulation does not seem to be brittle, easing scientists' initial fears that flakes could drift toward the telescope's open aperture and contaminate Hubble's sensitive optics.

Astronauts on the 1993 repair mission noticed spidery cracks in the insulation but no peeling. This crew is equipped with more powerful cameras, however, and has had more time to survey the telescope.

### ► Greek Week

## Students to take part in festivities

By MARISSA ALANIS  
THE BATTALION

Greek Week begins Tuesday when fraternities and sororities will celebrate being "United in Tradition" by taking part in activities throughout the week.

The festivities kick-off Tuesday when fraternities and sororities showcase their organizations with information tables at Rudder Fountain. Week-long activities include the Grab-a-Greek date auction, intramural sports, a barbecue at the Grove and a Corps of Cadets vs. fraternities basketball game.

Proceeds from the events will be donated to the Koldus Endowment Fund for the Betterment of Student Life.

Order of Omega, the Greek Honor Society, coordinates Greek

Week events.

Susan Goss, a co-chair of Greek Week and a senior biology major, said the week showcases Greek life, allows the opportunity to dispel misconceptions and provides a time to give back to the community.

"It's unity, community and A&M," Goss said. "Those are our main focuses."

Goss said Greek Week is the one time during the year when all the Greek organizations unite.

"We came to be Aggies first, and then we joined the organizations," Goss said. "Our goal is to reach all Aggies and let them know what we are doing."

On Tuesday night Bryan Boruff, a national speaker, will discuss driving under the influence of alcohol. Boruff, who has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show, survived a

drunk driving accident while he was a member of a fraternity in college.

Shelly Shrader, Order of Omega president and a senior industrial engineering major, said students who are not in fraternities or sororities say Greeks do nothing but have parties, and they are unaware of their philanthropic causes.

Shrader said the parties are much more publicized than all the contributions made by Greeks.

More understanding of Greek organizations is needed to dispel these misconceptions, she said.

"We would really just like them to take time to find out about Greek life, because it might not necessarily be what they think," Shrader said. "I feel it's better to learn [about] what you're not a part of."

Date packages will be auctioned off Thursday night as part of the Grab-

A-Greek auction. Fraternities and sororities will auction off a representative from their organization. The date packages have to be within \$50.

On Friday night, members of Greek organizations will attend the Corps of Cadets vs. fraternities basketball game with the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Brazos Valley.

The week's activities will culminate with the championship intramural games at the Polo Fields on Saturday morning.

Eric Vroonland, Interfraternity Council president and a senior finance major, said people will be impressed that everyone will be working together during Greek Week.

"I like the fact that it promotes interfraternityism," Vroonland said. "It allows the opportunity for individual chapters to interact in a friendly environment."

## Church leaders break ground for student center

### St. Mary's Catholic Center plans to complete new facility in 1998

By KATHLEEN STRICKLAND  
THE BATTALION



Amy Dunlap, THE BATTALION

Church leaders participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new student center.

St. Mary's Catholic Center of College Station broke ground Sunday for a new student center which is set for completion in 1998.

The facility will be constructed to the east of the church on Nagle Street and will serve thousands of Texas A&M Catholic students.

Church leaders said the current center, which was constructed in 1954, was showing wear and tear and was unable to meet the needs of the growing student population.

At the time the center was built, Texas A&M had only 7,000 students. Now with 43,000 students, about 10,000 of them Catholic, the center could not meet the ministry needs of the church. It will be demolished and the area will be used as a green park.

Peter deKeraty, St. Mary's development director, said the center will provide much needed space.

"We'll have 30,000 additional square feet," deKeraty said. "We'll have a small chapel for daily mass and small weddings, an activity center which will allow 300 students to sit for a meal, complete with a commercial kitchen, and a 20,000-square-foot, two-story ministry center."

The ministry center will include six classrooms and meeting rooms, two conference rooms, a workshop room and a theological library. The center also will house a nursery, an administrative suite with 10 offices, three small group study rooms and a set of study carrels for individual study. The computers will be equipped with modems for students to access the Internet.

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### THE BATTALION INSIDETODAY

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