



THE BATTALION

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Drum majors ready for new challenges



Dave House, THE BATTALION

John Fugitt, a junior history major, was chosen as head drum major.

Three students chosen to lead '97-'98 band

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

The Texas Aggie Band drum majors for the 1997-1998 school year were named Wednesday night after a competitive showing on the Band Drill Field.

John Fugitt, a junior history major, was chosen as head drum major. Chris Sullivan, a junior accounting major, will be infantry band side drum major, while John Pluff, a junior industrial distribution major, will be artillery band side drum major.

Fugitt said being drum major will be the greatest challenge of his life.

"It is an extreme privilege and they (Sullivan and Pluff) are some of my best friends in the band, so it is going to be great working with

them," Fugitt said.

Fugitt, a trumpet player, was the second candidate to try out Wednesday, and said he was nervous as he entered the competition.

"When I heard the band play, all my fears went away," he said. "I knew this is what I wanted to do."

Drum major responsibilities include teaching the band drills and leading the band on Kyle Field at football games and other events.

Fugitt said support from the band helped him reach his goal.

"Every band member has done something to help me and make me a better person," he said. "My goal is to give something back to them, give them a band they can believe in."

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Annual unity fest promotes diversity

Whoopstock will feature performances, sports activities, face-painting, and chalk drawings.

By MARISSA ALANIS
THE BATTALION

When the Ku Klux Klan held a rally in the Bryan-College Station area in 1993, the response from Texas A&M students, campus organizations and faculty members was to band together and help produce a unity festival called Whoopstock on the Polo Fields.

The event, which has become an annual celebration with the purpose of unifying a diverse community, will kick off once again Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. on O. R. Simpson Drill Field.

Karen Collymore, chair of the Whoopstock committee and a junior psychology major, said the festival's theme of "Peace, Love and Gig'em" illustrates the idea diversity education is a fun thing.

"It (diversity) doesn't have to be a serious classroom experience," Collymore said. "It can be a festival."

Diversity will be manifested through

such performances as the Aggie Wranglers, Ballet Ffolklorico, the Kappa Alpha Psi step show and Bobby Hall's Ice Cold Blues Band.

New additions to the entertainment lineup include Bryan rap artist C-Ride and Krump, a professional comedian from Louisiana.

Karri Wilson, director of fund-raising for Whoopstock and a senior zoology major, said any event that includes a variety of performers will offer something for everybody.

"It's like a little slice of America right on Simpson Drill Field," Wilson said.

The upcoming festival has expanded this year to involve children of the Bryan-College Station community. Children can participate in a storytime set aside for them and a fun run at the event site, with the money raised to benefit Sheltering Arms, a charity in Brazos County.

Ron Going, director of publicity and a senior philosophy major, said one reason the Whoopstock committee chose to involve more of the community is difficulty in talking about unity in a limited perspective.

"It's kind of hard to talk about 'Well, we should be united on campus but ignore the community,'" Going said. "I think that attitude is sometimes far too prevalent."

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Freshmen gear up for Beach Ball

The event is open to all students

By WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

Sun, surf and fish will adorn the Fish Beach Ball tonight at the Student Recreation Center, sponsored by the Class of '00.

Canceled last weekend because of weather, the Fish Ball has been rescheduled for tonight from 8 until midnight. Unlike past Fish Balls, the dance will be open to all students.

Kyle Valentine, Class of '00 vice president elect and a freshman biomedical science major, said the class council decided to hold the ball at the Student Recreation Center to bolster attendance.

"We thought this would be a good time of the year to do that," he said.

Previous Fish Balls have been held at the Memorial Student Center.

Gregg Nichols, a sophomore agricultural business major, served as Class of '99 vice president during last year's Fish Ball.

The class of '99 Fish Ball was a semi-

formal dance attended by about 100 students and their dates.

"We had fish everywhere and 99's hanging from the ceiling," Nichols said.

Kendall Kelly, a sophomore psychology and Spanish major, was Class of '99 secretary last year. Kelly said although the council advertised the event, not as many students attended as they had planned.

"I think that a lot of people didn't know about it," she said.

Nichols said although the dance did not draw a large crowd, the class did profit from the dance.

"I know in the past they didn't make money," he said. "We actually made a little bit."

Kelly said the efforts of the Class of '00 to advertise the Beach Ball have been commendable.

"They've really done a great job with advertising," she said. "It almost reminds me of campaigning."

Valentine said the freshman council has been "causing a ruckus around campus" this week to inform students

Fish Beach Ball

WHERE: Pavilion Area of the Rec Center

EVENTS: Volleyball, basketball, swimming, dancing, Singled Out, door prizes and refreshments

Tickets are \$5 at the door

of the reschedule.

"We're trying to let everyone know it is this weekend and not last weekend," he said.

Mike Lemonds, Class of '00 president and a freshman political science major, said the event will be held rain or shine.

"We feel this is a tradition and that we have an obligation to freshmen and the student body to keep that tradition alive," he said.

He said if the weather is bad, the event will be held in the archery room of Student Recreation Center.

Senate approves bill seeking diverse college admissions

AUSTIN (AP) — Race-neutral factors such as economic status and family background would be emphasized in college admissions under a bill approved by the Texas Senate on Thursday.

The bill by Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, attempts to address a court ruling that has resulted in the elimination of race as a consideration in admissions and financial aid policies in Texas.

The ruling in the *Hopwood* case has become a lightning rod of controversy after Texas Attorney General Dan Morales interpreted the ruling to apply to all schools.

Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education Norma Cantu has said the ruling should ap-

ply only to the University of Texas law school, which was successfully sued by four white students who argued the school's admissions policy unfairly favored minorities.

Several lawmakers pointed to declining minority enrollments at Texas colleges in the wake of *Hopwood* while arguing in favor of West's bill.

"It wasn't that many years ago that our country kept people in bondage," said Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin. "This legislation is not about trying to give one person an advantage over another. This legislation is essentially going to provide people who haven't had all the breaks in life a chance to go to college."

The bill was approved by the Senate 23-7 and sent to the House for consideration.

The bill says that 50 percent of a college's enrolling class should be admitted based on traditional criteria, such as grade-point averages and standardized test scores.

Forty percent should have their academic record considered along with factors such as family background, socioeconomic status or whether a student is bilingual, according to the bill.

The remaining 10 percent of the enrolling class would be made up of students whose academic record may be borderline, but who show potential to succeed during personal interviews.



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION

Work of Art

Bao Hunh, a senior environmental design major, works in the woodshop in the Architecture Building. The woodshop is open to all students who pass the shop safety class.

THE BATTALION INSIDETODAY

OPERA: OPAS presents *La Bohème*, a tale of the struggles of youth in France in the 19th century.

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First lady compares Whitewater probe with UFO fixation

She rejected suggestions that the White House hoped to discourage Webb Hubbell from talking to investigators.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton denied Thursday that administration officials tried to silence a key Whitewater figure and said the long investigation reminds her of "some people's obsession with UFOs and the Hale-Bopp comet."

President Clinton threw back his head and laughed when he heard

about his wife's cosmic comparison. "Did she say that?" he asked. "That's pretty good."

Publicly addressing the question of hush money for the first time, Mrs. Clinton rejected suggestions that White House officials hoped to discourage Webb Hubbell from talking to Whitewater investigators by helping him find work after he resigned from the Justice Department under an ethical cloud in 1994.

"There isn't anything to be hushed up," she said on WAMU's "Diane Rehm Show."

Mrs. Clinton, who was a law partner of Hubbell's in Arkansas, said he was "somebody who people wanted to help to get through what they

thought was a rough patch in his life."

Hubbell has acknowledged lying to President Clinton and telling him

that there was no basis for charges against him. He later pleaded guilty to bilking his former law firm and its clients of hundreds of thousands of dollars and agreed to assist Whitewater prosecutors.

In recent interviews, Hubbell has said he is sorry for deceiving the Clintons, his longtime friends.

"I accept this apology," Clinton said



Clinton

Thursday during a Cabinet Room photo session. "I'm not angry at him anymore because he paid a very high price for the mistake he made."

Frustrated by Hubbell's memory lapses in the probe of the Clintons' finances, prosecutors are investigating whether the financial assistance he got after resigning was designed to improperly influence his cooperation.

"There's no evidence of that," Mrs. Clinton said. "There will not be any evidence of that." The president last week said there was nothing improper in the effort to steer work to Hubbell, characterizing it as an act of compassion.

The first lady went on to dismiss the notion of hush money as "part

of the continuing saga of Whitewater, you know, the never-ending fictional conspiracy that, honest to goodness, reminds me of some people's obsession with UFOs and the Hale-Bopp comet some days."

Asked if she had any concern about being indicted, she said, "None whatsoever."

In her radio interview and a subsequent TV appearance on CNN, Mrs. Clinton also addressed questions about Democratic fund-raising abuses in last year's presidential campaign.

"Mistakes were made," she told one radio caller who said his faith in the administration had been shaken. "But I hope that you will follow this entire matter before you reach any conclusions."