

THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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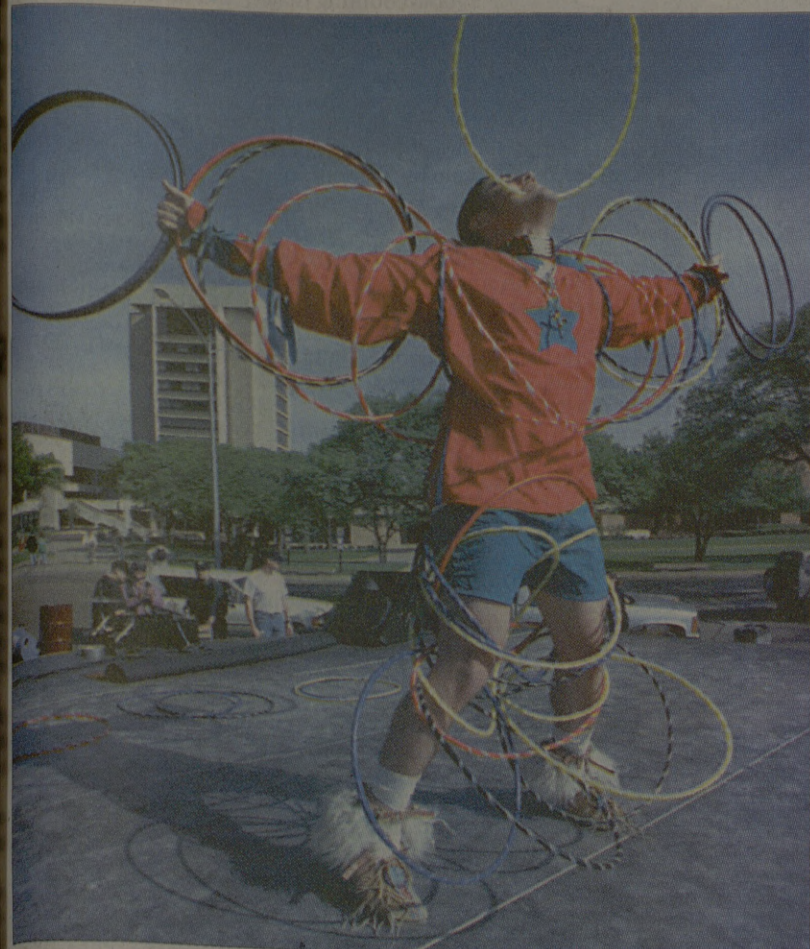
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Monday, April 14, 1997

Under the Sun

Whoopstock celebrates unity with music, games

By REBECCA TORRELLAS
THE BATTALION



Whoopstock, one of the newer Texas A&M traditions, took over Simpson Drill Field Saturday as participants spent time outdoors listening to bands, playing games and sampling foods from different cultures.

Gary Kipe, master of ceremonies for Saturday's activities and a senior agricultural development major, said Whoopstock is moving from a student event to a family day.

"We all share the same culture of family and that's the one thing that unifies everybody," Kipe said.

Whoopstock is not an event comparable to Big Event or Parents Weekend, he said.

"It's like a family reunion," Kipe said. "It's good to have the college students and kids here."

Racheal Crafton, part of the entertainment staff for the event and a junior biomedical science major, said Whoopstock attracted as many people as event organizers expected.

"It's a pretty good turnout considering it is cold," Crafton said. Entertainment included bands Fysher, Bobby Hall's Ice Cold Blues Band and Rock-A-Fellas.

Comedians, dancing groups and games for children and college students alike also were part of the entertainment.

International associations provided food from their respective countries for Whoopstock participants to enjoy.

Padma Neela, a member of the Hindu Student Council and a junior biomedical science major, said the association's goal is to introduce people to the Hindu culture.

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TOP: Sonny Spearman, a member of the American Indian Association and a sophomore general studies major, performs "the eagle" during his hoop dance at Whoopstock Saturday.

Amy Dunlap, THE BATTALION

LEFT: Jason English, a senior industrial engineering major, dances with **Pam Goralski**, a senior accounting major, and other Aggie Wranglers.

Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

RIGHT: Padma Neela, a junior biomedical science major, paints the hands of **Shilpa Triparhi**, a sophomore microbiology major. Mendhi, a type of Indian hand painting, was sponsored by the Hindu Student Council.

Rogge Hefflin, THE BATTALION



► HIV/AIDS Awareness Week

Events focus on AIDS education with free testing

By GRAHAM HARVEY
THE BATTALION

HIV/AIDS Awareness Week began last night at Rudder Fountain, starting a week of AIDS education and free HIV testing for the students and faculty of Texas A&M.

Aggie Representatives Educating about College Health and the Division of Student Affairs HIV/AIDS Committee organized the week's events with the Executive Council on Health Organization and the Biomedical Society.

Marc Wade, public relations director for Aggie R.E.A.C.H. and a sophomore bioengineering major, said all people employed by A&M or enrolled in classes should participate.

"HIV and AIDS are real dangers that the students and faculty need to be educated about," Wade said. "Sexual transmission of HIV, as well as transmission through IV drug use, do occur here at Texas A&M. It could happen to anyone."

Last night participants held a candlelight vigil and read names from the national AIDS Memorial Quilt.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Week continues this evening at 8:30 in 308 Rudder Tower, with a panel discussion led by four men and four women students entitled "Sexual Abstinence — The Whys and Hows."

Wednesday night, "HIV/AIDS Update" will be held at 8:30 in 308 Rudder. Led by Margaret Griffith of the Department of Student Health Services, Heather Clark of Planned Parenthood and Charles Triplett of AIDS Services, the seminar will address new discoveries, treatments and testing procedures concerning the AIDS virus, Wade said.

The week will wrap up Thursday at 8:30 p.m. in 301

Rudder. A panel discussion, called "Living with HIV/AIDS," will include testimonials from carriers of the disease.

Brazos County is a high-risk area for AIDS transmission, Wade said. Reportable sexually transmitted diseases in Brazos County are above the state average because of the influx of so many people from large cities, he said.

In addition to the nightly events, AIDS Services and Planned Parenthood will provide free HIV testing in the lower level of the MSC throughout the week. Testing hours will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A&M President Ray Bowen, has issued a formal proclamation of HIV/AIDS Awareness Week. Bowen included survey information in the proclamation to support the need for a week of education and testing.

"AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease, and ... according to the 1995 College Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted by the AIDS Consortium of Texas Colleges and Universities, 82 percent of students surveyed reported having had sexual intercourse," Bowen said. "Forty percent of adolescent/adult AIDS cases cite heterosexual contact as the means of transmission."

Margaret M. Griffith, faculty adviser for Aggie R.E.A.C.H. and assistant health education coordinator for the Department of Student Health Services, is in charge of events for the week. She invited students to call her if they need information relating to HIV or the AIDS virus.

"We want people to really think about AIDS," Griffith said. "It is every person's responsibility to protect himself. No one can do it for you."

Proposal would fund scholarship with lottery plan

By GRAHAM HARVEY
THE BATTALION

Pending in the State Senate Finance Committee is Senate Bill 180, or the Texas HOPE Scholarship Program. If passed, the bill would provide college tuition for selected high school graduates who hold a B average and who agree to perform community service.

Sen. Rodney Ellis of Houston, author of the bill, proposed an instant ticket lottery game on April 2 to fund the free tuition grants. The proposal is scheduled for a hearing tomorrow before the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Dedication of the Lottery Fund.

Rafe Bemporad, legislative aide and press director for Ellis, said Ellis believes if the lottery plan was properly organized, marketed and advertised, there would be sufficient funding for the HOPE plan with no negative effects on the state budget.

"According to the Texas Lottery Commission, in fiscal year 1996, instant ticket games generated more than \$2.1 billion in sales," Bemporad said. The two most popular instant ticket games, Cactus Cash and Scratchman, have generated more than \$500 million in sales.

The fund would provide annually full or part-time college education for about 30,000 drug-free, low to middle-income students, Bemporad said.

"The HOPE bill has received enormous positive feedback," he said. "The legislators are very excited about the program. There is bipartisan support for the bill's general idea."

A press release from Ellis' Austin office included figures from a report by the University of Texas and the Texas A&M University systems, a lobbying effort to support funding for higher education in Texas.

According to the report, Texas ranks 22.5 percent below the national average in producing college graduates and 14 percent below the national average in attendance rates at four-year universities.

"Texas students receive only 60 percent of aid for which they qualify," the report said, "and the state's investment in higher education for each student has declined by 24 percent in constant dollars since 1985."

Ellis said these facts, along with his observations of a similar, successful lottery game in Georgia, make such a system in Texas necessary.

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Bush stresses public service at A&M visit

By BRANDON HAUSENFLUCK
THE BATTALION

Former President George Bush and his wife Barbara visited the Texas A&M University campus Friday to inaugurate the William Waldo Cameron Forum on Public Affairs and participate in the grand opening of The Presidential Corridor Highway.

The highway will link the Lyndon Johnson Presidential Library at the University of Texas at Austin to the Bush Library Center on the A&M campus by way of Highways 21 and 290. The library will open in Fall '97.

Bush emphasized the importance of service and leadership during his address at a luncheon in the Memorial Student Center.

"I believe public service is a noble calling," Bush said. "There is no defini-

tion of a successful life that doesn't include service to others."

Bush said young people are turned off by today's mudslinging partisan politics, and they need to become more involved.

"We need to encourage [young] people to turn things around," Bush said.

During his welcoming comments at the luncheon, A&M President Ray Bowen joked about how he wished Bush would have waited to skydive until after the funding for the library had been raised.

"But after I saw him give the 'Gig 'em Aggies' sign on the way down, I thought it was OK," he said.

Bowen said the president and Mrs.

Bush can call A&M their second home.

"[President Bush] is very much a part of the A&M family — Mrs. Bush too," he said.

Established through an endowment from Flora Cameron Crichton in memory of her father, the forum was designed to bring distinguished leaders and recognized experts on domestic and foreign policy matters to the Bush Library Center and the Texas A&M community twice a year.

Visiting speakers were on campus throughout the day making themselves available to students in select classes, informal seminars and workshops. Speakers also addressed an audience of invit-

"There is no definition of a successful life that doesn't include service to others."

George Bush
Former President

New editors plan to take Batt to new heights

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

The summer and fall editors in chief of The Battalion plan to take the newspaper in a direction that will modernize the visual aspect of the paper while increasing the depth and coverage of Texas A&M University news.

Stew Milne, the current visual arts editor and a graduate student in visualization sciences, will be the summer editor-in-chief. Milne has worked at the newspaper since the spring of 1994.

Helen Clancy, a night news editor and a junior English major, will take over the position in the fall, having been at The Battalion since the fall of 1995. Clancy will also serve as managing editor during the summer.

Clancy said the direction The Battalion will take in the coming semesters will be marked by an increased use of visual arts. Neither Milne nor Clancy are journalism majors and each comes from sections focusing on the appearance of the newspaper.

Clancy said she and Milne are approaching their positions with enthusi-

asm and want to improve the newspaper with creativity and innovations.

"We're going to take a new approach to visual design," she said. "We're going to be a lot more open-minded and we're going to consider new techniques and layout."

Milne said the new design will have a more modern and free look and will make better use of graphics and photographs.

The current designs are conservative and static, Milne said.

"Right now it seems very cookie-cutter [in design]," he said.

Clancy said the visual part of the newspaper can draw a reader to a story.

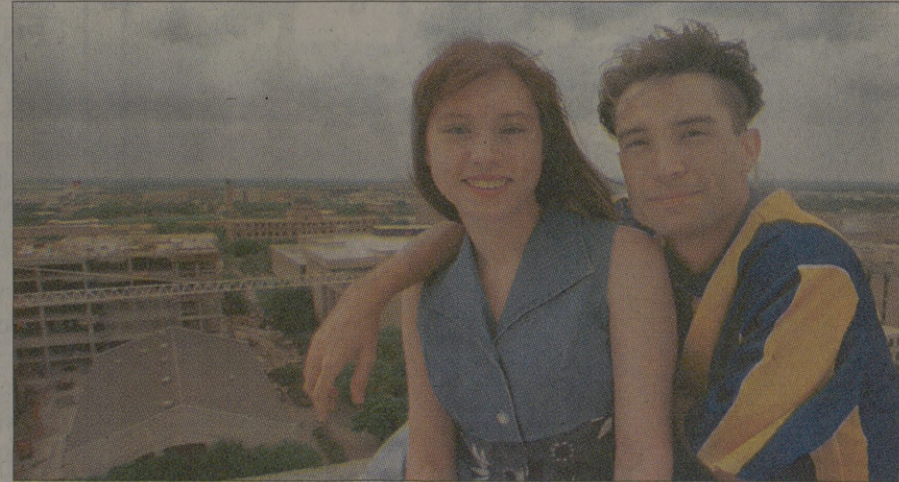
"Design is the first thing people see about a page," Clancy said.

Milne also said design is the part of the newspaper that will catch a reader's attention before the content of a story.

"When people see The Battalion and are deciding whether they want to pick one up, they see the visual aspect of the paper first," he said. "If a photo is good, they look at that first as opposed to some catchy headline."

Milne said he wants to expand the coverage of campus and community events.

"There will be better news coverage of A&M, and [better] localizing of na-



Dave House, THE BATTALION

New Battalion Editors in Chief **Helen Clancy**, a junior English major, and **Stew Milne**, a graduate student in visualization sciences, sit atop the O&M building overlooking the A&M campus.

tional events and how they apply to A&M," he said.

Clancy said a well-rounded staff is the key to complete news coverage.

"I think we need to provide more

comprehensive coverage," Clancy said, "and the only way we can do that is to have a diverse staff."

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