

Athletes shine in Special Olympics

By JOE JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Despite the wind, over 600 competitors showed their spirit, integrity and ability in the 1997 Special Olympics held Friday and Saturday at A&M Consolidated High School.

The event, which drew huge crowds of support, took place at Tigerland Stadium. Some track events were held at Kyle Field.

Special athletes from over 15 counties, including Brazos County, competed in such events as gymnastics, equestrian, golf, bicycling, wheelchair, track and softball throw.

In the track and field events, the top three athletes advanced to the Texas Special Olympics in Houston May 24 - 27.

Sue Calhoun, director of events, said the athletes competed well and gained a lot of self-esteem.

"That is what this is all about," she said. "This gives them a chance to be involved and have a goal to reach."

Texas A&M organizations helped out with the events. Aggies from Support Services for Students with Disabilities helped with coordination, food and events.

One event watched closely by spectators was the walking event on the track at Tigerland Stadium. Spectators cheered and clapped in the background as a racer crossed the finish line in tears.

James Spencer, a Special Olympics supporter and father of competitor Lisa Spencer of Austin, said he has never been so proud of his daughter, who suffers from

mental retardation. "Someone said life would be limited for my daughter," he said, "but she is proving [him] wrong today."

Spencer said he and his wife are at every practice and event their daughter participates in.

"Support is more important than anything," he said. "They need someone to tell them they can do it, and they will."

Betty Mitchell, a 20-year-old disabled athlete from Brenham, said she competed in last year's Special Olympics but could not participate this year because of a sprained ankle.

"I wanted to come see my friends compete," Mitchell said. "I hurt my foot in practice for the sprint, but I hope to compete next year."

Madeline Zwahr, a spectator, said she came out to watch the women's gymnastics competition.

"I admire the gymnastics competitors because they overcome such difficult obstacles to be able to do what they do," she said. "They do it because they love to do it."

Zwahr said she plans to volunteer next year in the Special Olympics after seeing the support and motivation of this year's volunteers.

"I want to help out any way I can," Zwahr said. "I feel God has made these special people for a reason. I appreciate things a little more thanks to them."

The Olympics concluded around 6 p.m. Saturday with a shot put/softball throw at Tigerland Stadium.

Winners of the events received medals, ribbons, trophies or certificates for their efforts.

Conference unites past with present

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

Former student leaders from the past 35 years gave advice on leadership roles at Texas A&M and after college to current student leaders at the Former Student Leaders Conference this weekend.

Former student body presidents, Memorial Student Center presidents and Corps commanders were invited to attend the Conference.

Kara Wilson, the conference chair and a junior journalism major, said the Conference gave student leaders the opportunity to learn from successes and failures of former student leaders at A&M and in the community.

Wilson said the former leaders had different messages, but there was one underlying theme.

"When you get involved, you need to make sure you are accountable to your organization,

and don't lose sight of what your goals are," Wilson said.

"Stay strong and be happy while you are part of the 'other education.' It is an opportunity to learn and grow as a person."

The conference kicked off Friday night with a barbecue where former and current student leaders met one another.

On Saturday, conference attendees went to workshops and discussed different aspects of leadership and the importance of giving back to A&M after graduation.

In the afternoon, the student body presidents, MSC presidents and Corps commanders were divided into three groups so leaders could focus on their organizations.

Steve Foster, Corps commander and a senior political science major, said meeting with the former Corps commanders was one of the most interest-

ing aspects of the weekend.

This is the first year the conference was held at Foster said he enjoyed attending.

"I wanted to help start a new Aggie tradition," Foster said. "It's an excellent opportunity for us to learn from the experience of others."

Wilson said the success of the conference prompted plans for another one next spring. A similar conference featuring former yell leaders will be held in the fall of 1997.

Carl Baggett, student body president and a senior accounting major, said he learned a lot about succeeding in the business world and his personal life from the former student leaders. He said leaders stressed keeping a sense of humor and being fun while working.

"I think when you have people with 25 or more years of experience than you have, you can't help but learn from them," Baggett said.

EDITORS

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She said it is important for a lot of students to apply to work at The Battalion so all organizations can be represented.

Clancy said she is looking forward to feedback from A&M students on the upcoming changes in the newspaper.

"I can't wait until the first day of publication," Clancy said, "because I think they (students) are going to be excited about the changes."

Michael Landauer, former editor in chief of The Battalion and a senior journalism major, said Milne's extensive involvement in all aspects of the newspaper will make him a good editor in chief. Milne has worked as a photographer, page designer and photo editor.

"I think it will be his (Milne's)

combination of experience and creativity that will make him a strong editor," Landauer said. "He is one of the most intelligent, creative people I have ever known."

Landauer said he saw potential in Clancy when he hired her as an AggieLife page designer.

"I think her composure and her ability to critique and find ways to improve things are definitely things that will make her a great editor," Landauer said.

Landauer also said The Battalion staff will enjoy working with Clancy because of her calm attitude.

Angie Rodgers, a night news page designer and a senior international studies major, said she has enjoyed working with Clancy.

"She's really patient and she's easy to learn from," Rodgers said. "She's really good at walking you through stuff if you don't understand something."

Joshua Miller, a night news

page designer and a freshman environmental design major, said Clancy's organization and ability to listen will help her in the position of editor in chief.

"She (Clancy) is helpful and cooperative," Miller said, "and if you need something she'll help you out."

James Palmer, a graphic artist and a senior computer engineering major, said Milne has a good eye for art and can make good suggestions.

"He (Milne) is incredibly creative and he has a real grasp of what is going on and who is doing what," Palmer said.

Palmer also said Milne's work ethic will make him a good editor in chief.

"Out of all the people I've met, he's one of the most driven and creative," Palmer said, "and he has a lot of charisma he carries over with him."

Tim Moog, photo editor and a senior bioengineering major, has

worked with Milne since spring of 1994.

Moog said Milne has helped him look at photography more analytically than technically. He said Milne has the ability to visualize things should be.

"He's got a great vision and a lot of drive," Moog said. "He's got a lot of work and respect for what he does."

Milne and Clancy said they want to rebuild The Battalion this summer, and the changes will come into the fall semester.

Milne said he is excited to be changes to The Battalion before graduates, and he hopes the newspaper continues to improve after he leaves.

"The summer is more of a transition to ease into the whole new style," he said. "If we get the whole system going, we will flow right into it in the fall."

PROPOSAL

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The Texas plan, however, would add to the Georgia plan, Ellis said, by requiring students to pay back the tuition with community service. This requirement would be erased for students who

are parents, have other family responsibilities or work more than 10 hours a week. "Every Texan deserves the chance to earn a college education," Ellis said.

"Creating a new Texas HOPE Scholarship instant ticket game would open the doors to a college education for thousands of hard-working Texas students."

WHOOPESTOCK

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"We want to inform and educate people of our culture because there are many misconceptions of our religion," Neela said.

The Hindu Student Council used henna, a dye made from the leaves of henna trees, to decorate participant's hands.

Kipe said it was good for the children to be able to share in the cultural traditions.

"The more inclusive you make it culturally, the better it is," Kipe said.

BUSH

Continued from Page 1

"I really think he likes the kind of give and take he gets with students," Hermann said.

Michael McCain, a senior international studies major, was in the classroom Bush visited. Having a person of Bush's stature visit the class, McCain said, was a unique opportunity.

"It was a pleasure to hear an ex-president speak," McCain said.

The grand opening ceremony for the Presidential Corridor was held at the A&M Riverside Campus. Dignitaries from the University

and local politicians were present.

Bush said he was excited about the projected success of the corridor. Having President Johnson's library at the other end is an honor, he said.

"[President Johnson] was very pleasant to me when I was a freshman and sophomore member of the United States Congress," Bush said. "In a way, I'm glad he's not here today because I couldn't get a word in edgewise."

The corridor will be an asset to Texas years to come, Bush said.

The former president said visiting A&M always a pleasure.

"I'm proud to be back in Aggieland,"

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	MON / Apr 14	TUES / Apr 15	WED / Apr 16	THUR / Apr 17
Dr. Haw	7-9 PM CH. 10,11	7-9 PM CH. 12,13	5-7 PM CH. 14,15	7-9 PM PRAC TESTS

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