

# THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

Volume 103 • Issue 132 • 14 Pages

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

Friday, April 18, 1997

## Muster resolution awaits approval

### The bill calls for university excused absences on the afternoon of Muster

By ERICA ROY  
THE BATTALION

Missing class after 3:35 p.m. on April 21 attend Muster will not be considered a university excused absence this year. The Student Senate and Faculty Senate passed Muster resolutions this year that made missing class after 3:35 p.m. on the day of Muster a University excused absence,

but the resolutions have not been approved by Texas A&M President Ray Bowen. Dr. Bill Perry, dean of faculties, an associate provost and a mathematics professor, said the administration is not opposed to the resolution, but there was not enough time to enact the resolution this year. "There's no resistance to it (the resolution)," Perry said. "It's just a matter of going through all the administrative hoops."

Perry said the administration wants to enact the resolution because they realize how important Muster is to A&M students. "I understand the importance of Muster as part of the uniqueness of A&M," Perry said. "I am supportive of the Muster resolution." Dr. Sallie Sheppard, an associate provost, said this type of resolution needs to go through the proper channels before it can be enacted, and that a committee

should be formed to work on enacting the resolution. "I would anticipate there will be an implementation committee formed shortly," Sheppard said. Perry said there will be more time next year to enact the Muster resolution. Alice Gonzalez, speaker of the Student Senate and a sophomore agricultural development major, said the Senate wants to

work with the administration this summer to enact the resolution. "In the future, it looks like this will be something that will happen," Gonzalez said. She said the resolution will likely be approved because of the support the faculty has given the Senate. "I know how much support we had from the Faculty Senate and the Academic Operations Council," she said.

### Parent's Weekend

## Weekend festivities include Casino Night, Variety Show

### The Parents of the Year will be announced Sunday at the All-University Awards Ceremony on Sunday.

By LAURA OLIVEIRA  
THE BATTALION

The invasion begins today as parents will be greeted on arrival with over 50 activities that will fill the 78th annual Parents' Weekend calendar.

Among the many activities are the traditional Residence Hall Association Casino Night and MSC Variety Show.

SEE PARENT'S WEEKEND SCHEDULE, PAGE 7

Katie Groff, MSC Variety Show chair and a junior elementary education major, said this year's show will offer a mix of talent.

"It contains acts that are diverse and will be appealing to all ages," she said. "Everyone from the little brothers and sisters to the students and their parents will enjoy it." The show begins Friday night at 7:30. Tickets are \$8 and will be available until show time at the MSC Box Office.

Following the Variety Show will be a midnight yell practice featuring "Two-Gun Herman from Sherman," who started the tradition in 1932.

Brian Myers, marketing subchair for Parents' Weekend and a senior business analysis major, said the event will bring about 15 to 20 old army yell leaders.

"You always hear the story about how midnight yell started and how they were not supposed to be out at that time," he said. "This is the guy that this story [is about]

and we will be able to see him."

Saturday's highlights include the Bevo Burn barbecue on Deware Field at 11 a.m.

Marcie Ahrens, barbecue subchair for Parents' Weekend and a senior biomedical science major, said there will be 10 varieties of award-winning brisket from which to choose.

"I think it will give you a time just to kick back with your parents," she said. "My parents laugh at me and say, 'How hard is it to organize a barbecue?' But I have been working on this since September ... but we are very ready and very excited."

The Parents of the Year Award will be announced at the All-University Awards Ceremony on Sunday morning in Rudder Auditorium. Nominations are taken throughout the year and a student committee chooses the winners with an emphasis on community service.

Myers said the award is a token of appreciation for all the work the parents have done for Texas A&M and their communities.

"The people who win the Parents' Award are the type of people that we want to be when we get out of college," he said. "And [the award] coming from the students shows that we value the special things they do."

About 15,000 parents are expected to visit the campus and finding lodging in Bryan-College Station will be a problem.

Victoria Krisanits, Fairfield Inn manager, said reservations are made a year in advance for Parents' Weekend.

"Parents get really frustrated because they can't find a room," she said. "It is really unbelievable, but I know it is hard for freshmen parents who do not know how crazy it gets."

See PARENTS, Page 7

## Survivor recounts Holocaust experience to history class

### Waxberg was in the camp portrayed in *Schindler's List*

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER  
THE BATTALION

The story of one man's experience in a World War II concentration camp was presented to a Texas A&M history class Thursday morning.

Sol Waxberg recounted his life experiences in Germany and Poland during the war.

Over 90 percent of the Jewish population in Poland, more than 6 million Jews, was killed in the Holocaust.

Arnold Krammer, a history professor at A&M, invited Waxberg to speak with his History of the United States (History 106) class because he said he wanted students to know how the Jews were treated.

"I think it is important for students to touch history," Krammer said. "Waxberg will let them do just that."

Waxberg, who is of Polish descent, began by recounting his experiences and survival through the Holocaust.

"German planes bombarded us and machine gunned our town," Waxberg said. "After that, life changed. We didn't go to school anymore. We didn't do what we used to do."

Waxberg was relocated to a German concentration camp where he unloaded trucks and performed strenuous tasks.

The living conditions Waxberg faced were horrible, he said.

"There was no heating, and we only had the clothes we were wearing," Waxberg said. "The food was bread and water, and at night, we were served spinach leaves."

Waxberg said the spinach leaves were actually sugar beet leaves that were cooked and served to them.

The most tolerable time in the camp, Waxberg said,

was when the camp was quarantined and no prisoners had to work. He said he was fed well and had time to relax.

At one time, Waxberg lived in a two-story building crowded with 8,000 people. There were no sanitary sinks for bathing and only one latrine.

"Some never made it through the night," he said. "It sometimes was the lice that killed people. You could take your hand and put it [under your arm] or [between your legs] and you could pull out hundreds of lice."

Waxberg was placed in the same concentration camp which was portrayed in the movie *Schindler's List*.

He said the hatred of the soldiers in the camp grew out of Hitler's anger.

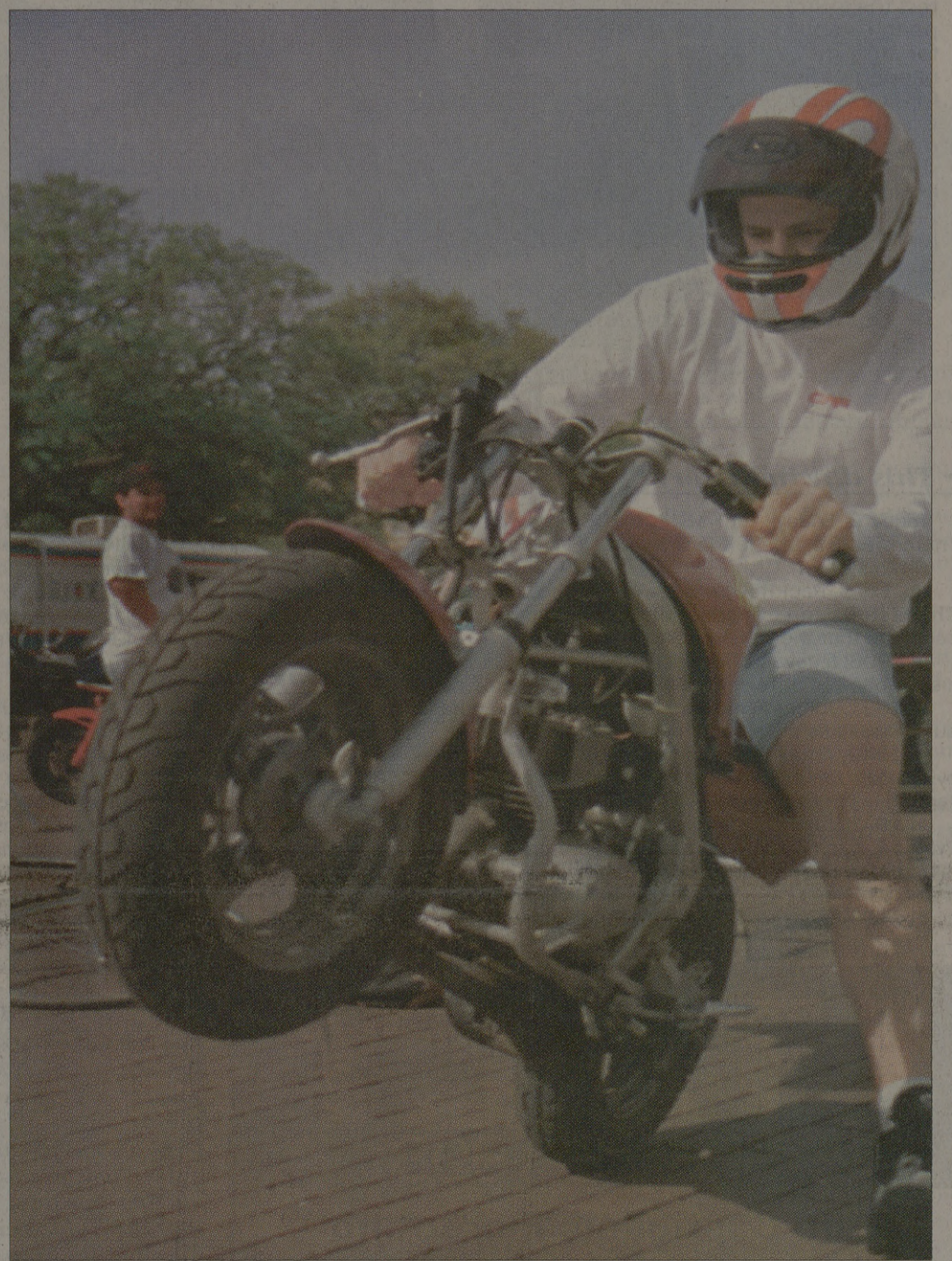
"Jews were stacked up in trucks like sardines and covered with a tent," he said. "Then the soldiers would connect a hose to the exhaust pipe and drive around for an hour or two until all of the people were dead."

Waxberg was liberated just after the end of the war in 1945. He came to the United States in 1949 and moved to Houston in 1952.

"I am one of the fortunate ones to survive," he said.

**"German planes bombarded us and machine gunned our town. After that, life changed. We didn't do what we used to do."**

Sol Waxberg  
Holocaust survivor



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION

### Daredevil

Mike Wilmington, a senior computer engineering major, rides his motorcycle outside the MSC Thursday. The Texas A&M Motorcycle Club had around 30 bikes on display outside the MSC.

## Teleconference focuses on role of Web in education

### Software to conduct courses over the Web is being developed.

By BENJAMIN CHENG  
THE BATTALION

The reality of students attending a course by just clicking on hypertext on the World Wide Web was addressed in an international teleconference yesterday at Rudder Tower.

Texas A&M, along with 293 other universities in the United States, Mexico and Canada, linked up with the teleconference that originated from Florida Community College in Jacksonville. A five-member panel in Jacksonville discussed topics related to the role of the Web in education.

Dr. Bernard Robin, a professor at the University of Houston, maintains a Web site that offers course material to his students. Robin said the Web site reduces printing costs and creates

an electronic archive of information.

Students in his courses can go back to past classes by clicking on the hypertext.

"The students like this because if they miss class, they can get the information," Robin said.

Dr. Linda Harasim, a professor at Simon Fraser University, is developing a software called Virtual U that is a course conducted entirely over the Web. Harasim said students become more active learners in such a class.

"Learning is no longer what's happening in a three-hour period," Harasim said.

The Web site allows role-playing and debate sessions. Harasim said students participate more and the environment is more balanced among students and teachers.

Stephen Gilbert, a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said professors should consider whether it is necessary to conduct a course on the Web.

See WEB, Page 7

### THE BATTALION INSIDETODAY

**NEW SKIPPER:** UT's Augie Garrido discusses the storied past of the Longhorn baseball program. Sports, Page 9

Weather . . . . . Page 2  
Aggiefife . . . . . Page 3  
Opinion . . . . . Page 13

## Yell Leader Run-off Bill interprets referendum's wording

### The Student Senate bill clarified the meaning of the 'decreased proportionally' section of the referendum passed this spring.

By ERICA ROY  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate referred the Yell Leader Run-off Bill to the Rules and Regulations Committee and elected commit-

tee chairs Wednesday night.

The Yell Leader Run-off Bill interpreted the wording in the referendum passed by the student body in March. The original referendum stated that if one of the yell leader candidates won the majority of the votes, then "the number of run-off candidates will be decreased proportionally."

Drew Howard, an off-campus senator and a senior mathematics major, said Wednesday's bill does not address whether there should be run-off elections but clarifies the interpretation.

"All this (the bill) is doing is clarifying the phrase 'decreased proportionally,'" Howard said.

It is the responsibility of the student body president to interpret the meanings of referendums.

Carl Baggett, the former student body president and a senior accounting major, interpreted the referendum to mean if one candidate received the majority, then the number of run-off candidates should be reduced proportionally to four candidates.

The Student Government Judicial Board ruled in April that the referendum was interpreted incorrectly, and the Student Senate should interpret the meaning of the "decreased proportionally" section of the referendum.

The interpretation bill states that if one junior yell leader candidate won the majority of

the votes, then the candidate wins the position and the two candidates receiving the next highest number of votes will proceed to the run-off election. If one senior yell leader candidate receives the majority of the vote, then the candidate wins and the four candidates with the next highest number of votes will proceed to a run-off for the remaining two positions. If two candidates receive the majority of the vote, they win and the two candidates receiving the next highest number of votes will be in the run-off for the remaining position.

See REFERENDUM, Page 7