



## Seniors dance away last days at Aggieland

By REBECCA TORRELLAS  
THE BATTALION

Ring Dance will be held Saturday night, bringing to close this year's Senior Week activities. The tradition began in 1947 as a chance for seniors to gather one last time in a formal setting before graduation.

The theme of this year's Ring Dance is "Step Into The Spotlight," a movie-type theme carried into each of eight rooms.

The dance will be held in the Memorial Student Center and Rudder, with entertainment such as a piano bar, a country room, Big Band and reggae music.

David Wellman, a Ring Dance committee member and a senior business management

major, said there is more to Ring Dance than just taking pictures.

"You're getting so much more than a high school dance," Wellman said.

The country room is titled "Tombstone" while the Big Band room is called "We've Never Been Licked."

Kevin La Vergne, a senior theater arts major, said he is looking forward to his first Ring Dance.

"I like the idea of having different rooms," La Vergne said. "I'm looking forward to the Big Band room."

The Big Band room has 20's and 30's music supplied by the Brazos Valley Orchestra.

See RING DANCE, Page 10

## Singing in the sunshine Century Singers, Reveliers to hold spring concerts

By REBECCA TORRELLAS  
THE BATTALION

Music from Bach, Beethoven and Broadway will be performed on campus this weekend as the Century Singers and the Reveliers hold their spring concerts.

The Century Singers will present "The Bountiful Beauty of B-ing" tonight at 8 in Rudder Theatre.

The singers will be performing pieces by composers whose last names begin with the letter "B."

Jess Wade, director of the

Century Singers and assistant coordinator of music, said he chose the theme on a whim.

"It is [just] a musicological journey with the letter 'B,'" Wade said.

The 80-member group will perform pieces by such composers as Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Berlin, Bernstein and Bruckner.

Wade said past themes have been included religion and the Century Singers' trip to Spain and France.

Nathan Grison, public relations manager for the Century Singers and a

sophomore marketing major, said Friday's show will be full of variety.

"We're doing pieces from baroque to Broadway show tunes," he said.

Grisom said the choir will be performing Latin, French, Slovak and English tunes.

The Reveliers will hold their Spring Concert Sunday at 3 p.m. in Rudder Forum.

Amy Crittenden, a member of the Reveliers and a senior education major, said the Reveliers, although considered a jazz group, have a lot of different types of songs

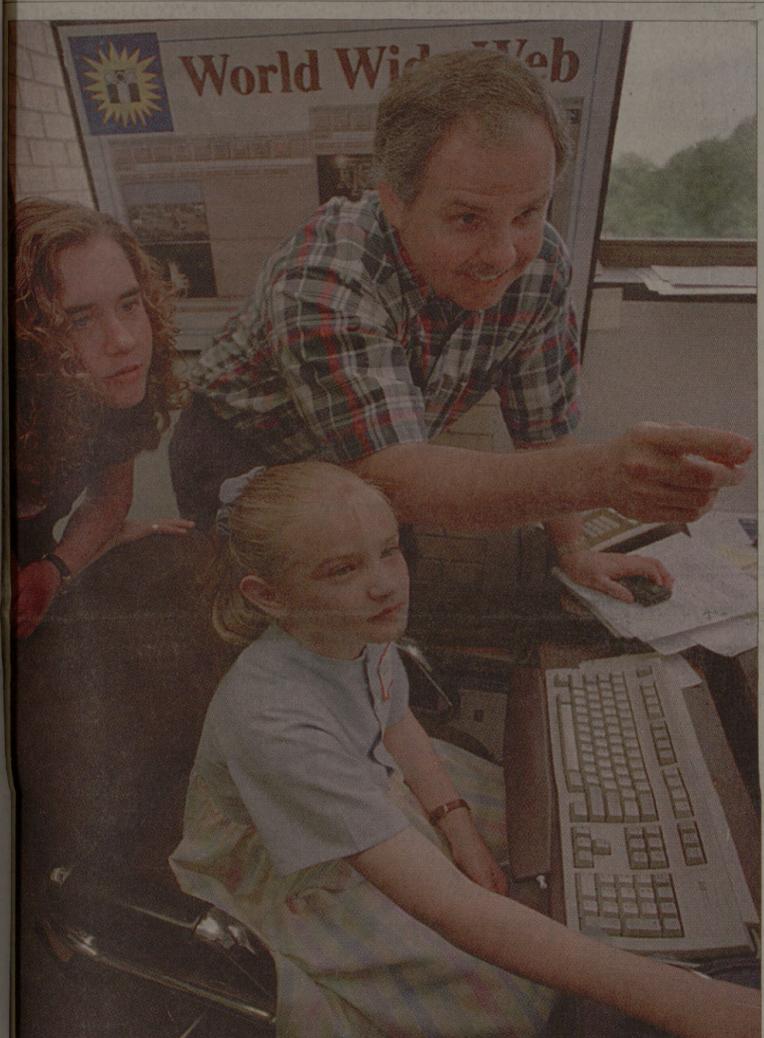
planned for the show.

"We have a Lionel Richie medley and a Broadway medley," Crittenden said. "Each singer has a solo."

Crittenden said the group performs in several events throughout the year, such as baseball and softball games, induction ceremonies for honor societies and the Christmas concert in the fall.

The Reveliers is composed of eight vocalists and three instrumentalists, a drummer, a bass guitarist and a pianist.

Tickets for both concerts are \$5 at the MSC Box Office.



Amy Dunlap, THE BATTALION

### A Family Thing

Bill Ambrose, an employee with Computing and Information Services, gives his daughters, Lauren and Erin, a tour of his office during Take Your Daughter To Work Day.

## Earth Day to focus on community Festival celebrates, promotes environmental awareness

By JACKIE VRATIL  
THE BATTALION

To celebrate Earth Day, Friends Just Peace Institute in cooperation with Texas Environmental Action Coalition organized Brazos Valley Earth Day '97 to raise community environmental awareness.

The festival will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the archery fields.

The festival will have over 70 booths with exhibits on ways to preserve the environment such as hands-on arts and crafts, Earth-friendly product displays, children's games and a lady-bug release.

Allison Moran, president of TEAC and a senior geography major, said she hopes to educate people on ways to conserve natural resources.

"I want to show people how to be stewards of the environment," she said. "There are simple things they can do to incorporate it into their lives. We're trying to give a holistic approach to looking at the earth."

Susan Scott, Earth Day coordinator for the institute, said the purpose of the day is for adults to learn how to become more environmentally responsible.

"They can learn how to use fewer pes-

icides," she said. "We can also teach them about recycling and reusing things so fewer items are going to the landfills."

"As for the kids, we just want them to be more aware of the wildlife, the predator-prey relationship and how to make new things out of old things. We are bringing in wildlife that is specific to this area and we will have lots of hands-on things for the kids to do in order to teach them."

Jennifer Nations, Earth Day coordinator for the Sierra Club, said the Sierra Club's purpose is to protect wild places. Nations said she intends to raise awareness that the Sierra Club is just one of many environmental organizations.

"We (the Sierra Club) will be selling t-shirts, giving out information about Sierra Club, and informing people about a conservation project that we are working on," she said. "We want to become an active, vocal member of the community."

I want people to feel comfortable coming to our meetings I want people to realize we are not a tree-hugger sort of society. We just want to be a resource for environmentally conscious people."

This year the festival will incorporate more activities.

There will be a demonstration on how to turn junk mail into stationary, and the Zoological Society will bring species of some uncommon native Texas animals.

Moran said the Green Business Awards will be given out during the day as well. Last year Junction 505, a recycling center, and Cafe Eccell took home the award.

"The Green Business Award is an award given to businesses that are trying to be more environmentally conscious," Moran said.

"We think Earth Day is a celebration of the earth and what we have and how we can make sure we have it 100 years from now."



### March to the Brazos

## Cadets to train leaders, raise money

By ERICA ROY  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets will march 14 miles to the Brazos River and back Saturday to raise money for the March of Dimes and to pass down leadership positions to the junior, sophomore and freshman cadets.

The event will begin at 8 a.m. on the Quadrangle. Cadets will march west on Highway 60 to the Brazos River. At the Brazos River, lunch will be served and

individual outfits will compete in such events as tugs-of-war and foot races.

Since last December, the cadets have collected over \$51,000 from the local community and their hometowns.

The Corps has held March to the Brazos for 20 years and has raised over \$700,000.

Mark Maltzberger, March to the Brazos committee chair and a senior speech communications major, said the purpose of the Corps is to train leaders, and contributing to the community

is an aspect of leadership.

"We take a lot from the community," Maltzberger said, "and this is an opportunity for us to give back."

Maltzberger said the fundraiser also serves as a rite of passage for cadets.

Cindi Ericson, deputy Corps commander and a senior international studies and political science major, said seniors hand down leadership positions to underclassmen during the march.

"It's a good opportunity for

us to make an informal change of command before final review," Ericson said.

The senior cadets ride buses back to campus, and juniors lead the Corps on the march back to A&M.

Sharon Spies, the Bryan-College Station division director of the March of Dimes, said the money raised by the Corps comprises the majority of the March of Dimes funds for the surrounding ten counties.

See CADETS, Page 10

## Senate approves measure to crack down on kids who smoke

AUSTIN (AP) — Minors would face up to a \$500 fine and could lose their driver's license for smoking or possessing tobacco products under a bill approved by the Texas Senate Thursday.

The measure, if passed by the House, would give Texas one of the toughest anti-smoking laws for minors in the country. Currently, the state prohibits minors from smoking but has no criminal penalties.

Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, the sponsor of the bill, said she used to be a smoker. But she said her mind changed

after interviewing 14- and 15-year-olds about the subject.

"One in particular told me, 'Nothing happens if you get caught,'" Ms. Zaffirini said. "That showed me kids had no respect for the law. They could break it and nothing happens."

"That changed my position. Today I stand here and support penalties for children. If they break the law, they must be held accountable and they must be punished."

Minors convicted of using or possessing tobacco products would be required to attend a tobacco awareness program or face suspension of their driver's license. After completing the awareness program, the minor could apply to the court to have the conviction cleared from their record.

Currently, the only penalties are for retailers who sell to minors.

The bill was approved on a voice vote after adoption of an amendment that would create a new \$160 fee retailers would have to pay for a two-year permit to sell tobacco. Currently, retailers pay nothing for tobacco permits.

The fees would be used for programs to educate children on the ill effects of smoking.

A number of steps are taken in the bill to limit minor access to tobacco, including prohibiting outdoor advertising of tobacco products within 1,000 feet of a school or church.

## Prosecution calls McVeigh misguided 'patriot'

DENVER (AP) — Seething with rage against his own government, Timothy McVeigh blew up the Oklahoma City federal building in a twisted plot to spark a second American revolution, a prosecutor said in opening statements Thursday.

"McVeigh liked to consider himself a patriot," Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Hartzler said. "Our forefathers did not fight innocent women and children. ... They didn't plant bombs and run away wearing earplugs."

Jurors listened grim-faced as Hartzler, who has multiple sclerosis, leaned forward in his wheelchair and spoke softly about the deadliest act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

"It was an act of terror intended to serve selfish political purposes," Hartzler said. "The truck was there to impose the will of Timothy McVeigh on the rest of America ... by murdering innocent men, women and children in hopes of seeing blood flowing in the streets of America."

But in equally forceful terms, McVeigh attorney Stephen Jones declared in his opening statement: "My client is innocent."

He accused the government of trying to elevate McVeigh's political beliefs — which Jones said many share — into a motive for mass murder.

Making no effort to soften the emotional power of the bombing, he began by spending six minutes reading off the names of each of the 168 people killed when the truck bomb tore apart the nine-story building April 19, 1995.

As Jones solemnly read the names, bombing victim's relatives quietly cried in their special section of the packed second-floor courtroom.

McVeigh, wearing a plaid shirt and khaki pants, showed little emotion in court. He leaned forward to listen, sometimes resting his head on his folded hands as the prosecutor portrayed the 29-year-old Gulf War veteran as a selfish, deluded coward.

Hartzler said that on the day of the bombing McVeigh was wearing a T-shirt that bore the Thomas Jefferson quote: "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

Hartzler contended that McVeigh's hatred of the federal government was fueled by what he saw as the government slaughter of innocents at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, two years to the day before the bombing.

"He told people the government deliber-



McVeigh

ately murdered people," the prosecutor said, adding that McVeigh described Waco as the "government's declaration of war against the people."

McVeigh was arrested on traffic charges 90 minutes after the explosion, and when federal agents searched his car they found a slips of statements quoting "The Turner Diaries," a 1978 fictional account of an attack on a federal building that is eerily similar to the Oklahoma City bombing, Hartzler said the book "served as a blueprint."

McVeigh planned the bombing for months, the prosecutor said, and hoped it would rival the first shots of the American Revolution, which also occurred on an April 19 — in 1775.

"He envisioned he would bring liberty to this nation," Hartzler said.

"Well, this was not just talk for McVeigh. He was ready for action. He knew from literature how to make a bomb and how to get the ingredients."

In a new revelation, Hartzler said federal agents later found a file in his sister's computer that "McVeigh obviously wanted them to read." It was marked "ATF READ."

"You'll see the chilling words, 'All you tyrannical m— f— will swing in the wind some day for your treasonous actions against the Constitution. ... Die, you spineless, cowardous bastards.'"



### THE BATTALION INSIDETODAY

**Fun with Nunn:** Country performer Gary P. Nunn is in town tonight to deliver toe-tappin' music.  
Aggielife, Page 3

Toons . . . . . Page 4  
Sports . . . . . Page 5  
Opinion . . . . . Page 9