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Blame it on the rain

Inclement weather prompts reroute of March to the Brazos

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

Thunderstorms prevented the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets from heading to the Brazos River for the March to the Brazos Saturday, so cadets marched to the polo fields instead.

Steve Foster, Corps commander and a senior political science major, said cadet leaders made the decision not to go to the Brazos River Saturday morning.

March to the Brazos is the Corps' annual fund-raising campaign for the March of Dimes. Cadets usually march 14 miles to and from the Brazos River. This year the cadets raised over \$50,000 from the Bryan-College Station community and their hometowns.

March to the Brazos is also an informal passing-down of leadership positions in the Corps from the senior cadets to the junior, sophomore and freshman cadets.

Foster said cold weather, the possibility of lightning storms and hazardous road conditions influenced the decision to keep the march on campus.

Cindi Ericson, deputy Corps commander and a senior international studies and political science major, said these factors could have endangered the cadets.

"We were all cold enough and wet enough to realize we'd done the right thing," Danny Feather Corps commander-designate

"The main intent of changing March to the Brazos from the Brazos River to the polo fields was to ensure the safety

of the 2,200 cadets participating," Ericson said. Danny Feather, Corps commander-designate and a junior economics major, said the cadet leaders did not want any of the cadets to get sick from the rain before final exams. He said he realized the wisest decision had been made after the march was over.

"We were all cold enough and wet enough to realize we'd done the right thing," Feather said.

The cadets went on a traditional Corps run around the A&M campus at 8 a.m. and then ran around the polo fields.

The seniors passed their positions to the junior cadets at the polo fields. The juniors then led the Corps to Duncan Field where they passed their positions down to the sophomores and freshmen. The march ended at 11 a.m.

Ericson said the march was successful, despite the changes.

"It (the march) was not as elaborate as it has been in the past," she said, "but the basic mission was accomplished."

Feather said although he was disappointed the Corps could not march to the Brazos, the spirit of the march remained the same.

"It was an emotional time because of the passing down of the positions," Feather said.

Ericson said the spirit of the march was not affected because the spirit is not based on where the march goes.

"It's contained within the motivation and



Armando Banch, a sophomore business analysis major, performs physical training leg lifts at the polo fields during March to the Brazos Saturday.



The Aggie Band runs from the Quad for March to the Brazos Saturday.

the desire for these classes to take on their brass for the next year," she said.

Foster said the cadets seemed to have the same amount of enthusiasm about passing down the positions as if they had marched to the river.

"I didn't see too many people holding back the spirit," Foster said.

Mark Maltzberger, March to the Brazos committee chair and a senior speech communications major, said the destination of the march does not affect the amount of money raised.

"I think it (the march) was still successful," Maltzberger said. "We still accom-

plished everything we wanted to. We still passed down positions."

Ericson said it was an indescribable feeling to watch the junior, sophomore and freshman classes take over leadership in the Corps after being in their position a year before.

"I felt very confident in stepping aside," she said.

Foster said the march was successful, despite the changes because of the amount of money raised for the March of Dimes.

"We still raised a lot of money for the charity," Foster said, "and that is one of the main reasons for March to the Brazos."

Faculty Senate

Meeting focuses on minority recruitment

By KATHLEEN STRICKLAND
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate resumed discussion on the report and recommendations of the Faculty Senate Minority Conditions Subcommittee at a special meeting Monday.

The Senate held the meeting to continue business from its last meeting, which was delayed because too few senators were present to vote.

Dan Robertson, director of graduate studies, commented on the minority graduate student enrollment data in the report.

"In my opinion, we failed to acknowledge something that I believe reflects achievement by several of the people that are in this room — and some of our current graduate students," Robertson said. "If you look at the numbers of African-American or Hispanic graduate students, the numbers that were enrolled last fall have never in the history of Texas A&M University been larger."

Diane Kaplan, chair of the minority conditions subcommittee and a visiting assistant professor of curriculum and instruction,

clarified the purpose of the report and recommendations to the Faculty Senate.

"On the minority conditions committee, we absolutely acknowledge that there have been a number of individuals, a number of individual departments, a number of individual faculty, staff [and] students who have done an incredible job to increase minority representation on campus, and we applaud their efforts," she said.

"When we come together and look at this report, we end up looking at the broad survey of everything that has gone on, and that is what our recommendations are based on."

The Senate approved the subcommittee's recommendations, calling for the development of a new three-year plan to recruit and retain minority and women professors. The recommendations suggest the University provide \$3 million a year for minority recruitment and retention and \$1 million a year for recruitment and retention of women.

In other business, the Faculty Senate approved the proposed changes to the University Statement on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, Tenure and Promotion.

Students take part in rodeo despite delay

By MELISSA NUNNERY
THE BATTALION

Barrel racing, steer wrestling, calf riding and bull roping all were part of the Texas A&M University National Intercollegiate Rodeo this weekend. The rodeo was postponed Friday because of rain and lightning, but competition began Saturday.

About 30 A&M students participated in the rodeo, where competitors tried to qualify for the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's College National Finals.

Saturday's rodeo at the Brazos County Arena on Tabor Road in Bryan was the last of the season for the Southern region.

Richie Harris, a steer wrestler and a senior agricultural economics major, competed for the last time on the college level this weekend and placed fourth in steer wrestling.

"I made a pretty good run at it and came up a little short," he said. "That's the way it goes."

The men's events included rough/stock saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, steer wrestling, calf roping and team roping. Women competed in events such as barrel racing, break-away calf roping and goat tying. The top two competitors and top two teams in each event go on to the

College National Finals. No individual competitors or teams from A&M advanced to the finals.

Keri Gard, president of the A&M Rodeo Club and a junior biochemistry and genetics major, said the teams managed to do well, despite the rain delay.

"We ran one round on Thursday, when it was dry, [so] those people had an advantage," Gard said. "It (the rain) was distracting, of course, [but] I'd say it was about even."

Gard said most people who participated in the rodeo are probably experienced enough to have competed successfully in the rain.

"Rodeo is something you've done all your life," she said. "It's not something you just decide to do your freshman year in college."

Harris said some schools offer scholarships for rodeo, but A&M students must pay their own way.

"We pretty much do it on our own," Harris said. "We earn our own money and that kind of stuff."

He said most students who rodeo at A&M put education first and participate in rodeos on the side.

"We're athletes and we're proud of that fact," he said, "but we're here to get a good education and that comes first, second to none."

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Friday, May 2	
MW 5:45 - 7 or later	7:30 - 9:30
MWF 8 - 8:50	10 - 12
TR 9:35 - 10:50	12:30 - 2:30
TR 11:10 - 12:25	3 - 5
Monday, May 5	
MWF 9:10 - 10:00	8 - 10
MWF 12:40 - 1:30	10:30 - 12:30
TR 8:00 - 9:15	1 - 3
MW 4:10 - 5:25	3:30 - 5:30
Tuesday, May 6	
MWF 10:20 - 11:10	8 - 10
MWF 3 - 3:50	10:30 - 12:30
TR 3:55 - 5:10	1 - 3
MWF 1:50 - 2:40	3:30 - 5:30
Wednesday, May 7	
TR 12:45 - 2:00	8 - 10
MWF 11:30 - 12:20	10:30 - 12:30
TR 2:20 - 3:35	1 - 3
TR 5:30 - 6:45 or later	3:30 - 5:30

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Separatists trade hostages for jailed member

FORT DAVIS (AP) — Armed members of a group demanding a referendum on Texas independence were locked in a standoff with authorities Monday after freeing two hostages in exchange for a jailed comrade.

State and federal officers ringed the mountainous Davis Mountains Resort Community and more were on the way.

Authorities were negotiating with Richard McLaren, self-styled "ambassador" of one faction of the separatist group called the Republic of Texas. McLaren said in a news release that discussions were taking place at his "embassy," a trailer in the development.

"He continues to invoke the laws of the Republic of Texas. He wants the United Nations," said Mike Cox, a spokesperson for the state Department of Public Safety. Republic members have told negotiators that "they will defend their sovereign soil."

It was not known exactly where the group was holed up or how many members were there, or what type of weapons they have. Authorities urged other resi-

dents of the sprawling, remote community to leave the area. But "No one else is considered in harm's way," Cox said.

The confrontation started Sunday when two men and a woman wearing military-style fatigues fired assault rifles at the front door of community residents Joe and Margaret Ann Rowe and took them hostage.

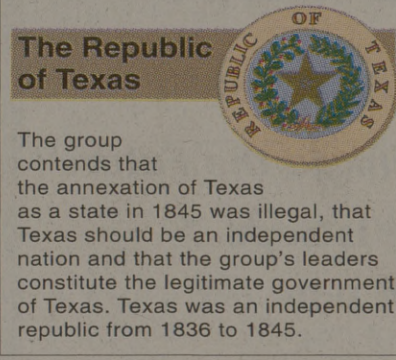
They were held for 12 hours while their captors demanded the release of two followers who had been arrested. Early Monday, they exchanged the Rowes for Robert Jonathan Scheidt, identified as "captain of the embassy guard" of the Republic of Texas. It was unclear who authorized the release of Scheidt, who was arrested Sunday on weapons charges.

Rowe said she and her husband believed the attackers were willing to kill them.

"It wasn't an empty threat. If somebody will come shooting in your door, they mean it," Mrs. Rowe said at a medical center in Alpine, where her husband was in stable condition with shrapnel wounds to

Separatist group digs in after hostage trade

Law enforcers are continuing to treat the standoff with the Republic of Texas as a hostage situation because between 90 and 150 residents of the resort area are unable to leave their homes.



The group contends that the annexation of Texas as a state in 1845 was illegal, that Texas should be an independent nation and that the group's leaders constitute the legitimate government of Texas. Texas was an independent republic from 1836 to 1845.



AP

his shoulder.

Scheidt joined the three people who took the Rowes hostage.

After the exchange, the armed group left the Rowes' home and authorities did not know where they were within the forested, mountainous development of widely separated homes. Reporters were being

kept several miles from the entrance to the community, about 175 miles southeast of El Paso.

The attack followed months of conflict between Rowe, head of the remote community's property owners' association, and McLaren.

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