

NEWS BRIEFS

Former student joins Peace Corps

Richard Field, Class of '91, accepted a position with the Peace Corps and will leave the United States today to begin training for a year stint in Bulgaria. Field, who received a degree in education, park and tourism studies from Texas A&M, will serve as an environmental management officer for Peace Corps efforts in Bulgaria, where he will focus on the establishment and management of community-based parks programs. Field is currently about 6,300 miles away from Texas A&M. He is currently helping give assistance in education, agriculture, health and nutrition and small-business development in 91 nations worldwide.

Jury awards woman \$900,000 in lawsuit

DALLAS (AP) — A woman who sued her truck in Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and lay pinned in place for almost three days has won \$900,000 in court. The jury's verdict, announced Monday in the court of state District Judge William Hartman, divided blame for the accident between the airport and construction companies T.J. Lamont Construction Inc. and the Parsons Co. Another company, H.B. Zachry, was also held responsible. The lawsuit also found Ms. Peavy partly at fault. At least two believed the argument that she was wearing and not wearing a seat belt.

Cyclospora outbreak continues to grow

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration warned today that people suffering from diarrhea who have recently eaten fresh raspberries should have a doctor diagnose whether they were infected in a growing outbreak of cyclospora. The parasitic infection has struck at least seven states — California, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island and Texas — since mid-April. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention counts 110 laboratory-confirmed cyclospora cases, and said doctors have diagnosed several hundred more patients, although the CDC would not give final numbers Tuesday.

TODAY IN BATTALION

OPINION

Disney's remake of a cartoon classic contributes to problem of animal abandonment.

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SPORTS

Wayne: The expansion of the Field is not only necessary but about time.

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ONLINE

http://bat-web.tamu.edu

Book for the Batt's Classified Ads online.

Fewer minorities apply for fall

By MICHELLE NEWMAN
THE BATTALION

Minority applications to Texas A&M University decreased between Fall 1996 and Fall 1997, and some in the education field suggest the decline is tied to the Hopwood decision outlawing race-based scholarships.

James Ashlock, executive director of University Relations, said the number of black students who applied dropped 13 percent, and the number of Hispanic students who applied dropped nine percent.

Of the 15,832 applicants for Fall 1997 admission received by A&M, 742 were black and 1,846 were Hispanic, down from 855 black applicants and 2,018 Hispanic applicants for Fall 1996.

Jim Dallas, a high school counselor at Elsie High School in Houston, said he sees such declines as a direct effect of the Hopwood decision.

"A revolving-door admissions effort does not help these students," Dallas said. "If the student is admitted and is not offered financial aid, they cannot attend the university."

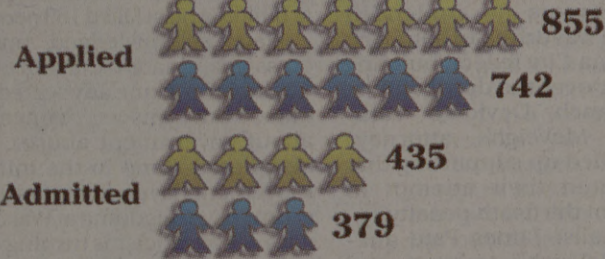
Mary Jo Powell, associate director of University Relations, agrees the lack of racially based scholarships will affect minority enrollment at A&M.

"It's about the loss of scholarships," Powell said. "If a school can offer students the money, they will go where the money is."

Keryl Douglas, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Houston, said Texas universities are losing minority students to historically black colleges and universities offering racially based financial aid. Douglas said this is a positive effect of Hopwood.

"Hopwood will probably transcend the number of black students seeking degrees at historically black universities," Douglas said.

Black Freshmen



Hispanic Freshmen



Total Freshmen



Hopwood's Fallout?
Figures for Black & Hispanic Freshmen Applicants

Fall '96 Fall '97

Applications by black students for Fall '97 have declined 13% from Fall '96.

Applications by Hispanic students for Fall '97 have declined 9% from Fall '96.

SOURCE: University Relations

GRAPHIC: Tim Moog

A&M has little difficulty finding minority students who fit the admission criteria, Ashlock said. The problem lies in finding funding for the students, he said.

"If Hopwood would have regulated admissions, we would have no problem," Ashlock said. "But when the scholarships were taken

away, that's what hurt us." Prior to the Hopwood decision, A&M offered a wide range of scholarships and financial aid to students of minority ethnicities. The President's Achievement Award Scholarships, the Collegiate Achievement Award Scholarships, and the Distinguished Achievement Award Schol-

arships were offered only to black, Hispanic and other minority students, but the Hopwood decision dissolved the race requirements. The scholarships are still available, but are open to students of all races. Diversity among the student body at A&M may become more limited because of Hopwood, Dou-

glas suggested. The ruling was meant to consolidate minority and majority classes, yet some, like Douglas, fear it has done the opposite. "Hopwood results have been misapplied," Douglas said. "It has had an adverse effect on diversity at universities with fewer minorities."

GOP struggles to write new disaster bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Confronted with fresh attacks from the White House on one hand and internal divisions on the other, congressional Republicans struggled Tuesday to produce an alternative to a vetoed \$8.6 billion disaster-aid bill.

Senate Democrats launched an all-night series of media appearances in a Capitol suite just off the Senate floor to dramatize the urgency of the issue.

"I'm ready, I'm willing and I want to work with you," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott told Democrats, indicating he was prepared to pass a less costly measure that included "urgent disaster relief" for Midwestern flood victims without the provisions that sparked President Clinton's veto.

On the other side of the Capitol, though, the House GOP leadership met without deciding their next step. Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, told reporters there would be "discussions with the White House" to see what compromise was possible.

Clinton vetoed the bill Monday and demanded Republicans drop extraneous provisions.

One is designed to avert a government shutdown this fall regardless of whether Clinton and Congress reach agreement on regular spending bills. Republicans say the provision is necessary to avoid a repetition of the shutdowns of two winters ago, but Clinton said it would cut \$18 billion from the amount envisioned in the balanced-budget agreement recently reached with the GOP leadership.

The second provision would ban the use of sampling in the nation's census in 2000, a step designed to correct for an expected undercount that traditionally falls heavily on minorities.

Republicans argue that sampling is of dubious constitutionality, and they say they are willing to provide enough money to physically count everyone. Beyond that, Republicans fear that if sampling is used, their majority in the House could be in jeopardy when legislative district lines are redrawn in several states before the 2002 elections.

Whatever the outcome, the issue produced a quarrelsome Senate session during the day in which Democrats made good on their vow to block all business unrelated to the disaster-aid measure.

In an attempt at embarrassment, Lott sought to force consideration of a bill to attack birth defects, but Democrats objected to that proposal, as well as numerous others.



Clinton

Northgate revitalization

Business owners express concerns about relocation



PHOTOGRAPH: Robert McKay

As part of the Northgate revitalization project, the lot where Burger Boy now stands will be replaced by a 150-space parking lot.

By ROBERT SMITH
THE BATTALION

Northgate will bear a new look when renovations approved by the College Station City Council are completed, but not all area business owners favor the changes.

One controversy surrounding the Northgate project involves Burger Boy owner George Sopasakis.

The Patricia Street building where Burger Boy is located is targeted for replacement by part of a 150-space parking lot now under construction.

But Sopasakis, who has refused to vacate the building, said the city has not given him a fair offer to relocate his business to a new location.

"The city offered to relocate us in another building in Northgate," Sopasakis said, "but the rent of the building is double what we are paying now."

Sopasakis said the amount College Station proposed for relocation expenses would not cover the costs of renovating another building.

Skip Noe, College Station city manager, would not com-

ment on details of negotiations with Sopasakis, but did say the city made Sopasakis a fair offer.

Noe said College Station has been working with Sopasakis for 21 months to reach an agreement on relocation.

"The parking lot is now under construction, and we are hoping to have it completed by the start of this school year," Noe said.

The new paid-parking lot will cover part of Patricia Street, which will be closed, and the area where Burger Boy now stands.

Todd McDaniel, Northgate project coordinator, said a promenade will be built in the area next to the parking lot to attract tourists visiting the forthcoming George Bush Presidential Library.

The Northgate area includes the land between South College Avenue and Wellborn Road and between University Drive and the College Station city limits.

Some Northgate business owners have voiced concerns and complaints in response to the city's revitalization plans.

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Poll: Races differ in attitudes on relations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black people see a problem. Whites don't.

The gulf in American perceptions of national race relations is laid out starkly in a comprehensive survey of attitudes released Tuesday by the Gallup Organization.

Blacks are far more pessimistic about how the races get along and how they are treated than whites, according to the survey. Whites see little to be concerned about when it comes to opportunities for blacks in jobs, education and housing.

Just 34 percent of whites feel the government should make greater efforts to support minorities, while 59 percent of blacks see a need for greater governmental remedies for inequality.

"White Americans don't see a major problem," said Frank

Newport, vice president of the Gallup Organization. "Ergo, they don't see a need for governmental intervention."

The survey's results illustrate the challenge President Clinton faces as he steps up efforts to promote racial harmony. He plans to open a dialogue on race Saturday in a commencement speech at the University of California at San Diego.

Clinton also is scheduled to name a seven-member multiracial panel to encourage Americans of all races and ethnicities to talk frankly about race. The panel also is expected to develop actions that the president, individuals and corporations can take to achieve greater racial understanding.

Newport said the different perceptions of blacks and whites in assessing race relations is part of the challenge.

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