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COLLEGE STATION • TX

TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 16 • 1997

BRIEFS

MSC hosts forum on photojournalism

A program on the legal and ethical aspects of photojournalism will be presented by MSC Great Issues tonight at 7 p.m. in 292 MSC. Speaking at the program will be Donnis Baggett, editor and publisher of the Bryan-College Station Eagle, Dr. Douglas Starr of the Texas A&M Department of Journalism and Mary Helen Bowers of University Relations.

Moderate quake rattles Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A moderate earthquake rattled Mexico's southwestern Pacific coast on Monday and set skyscrapers swaying in the capital. No injuries or damages were reported. The quake occurred at 10:38 a.m. and was located off the Mexican state of Guerrero, it reached approximately 150 miles south-southeast of Acapulco, seismologists said. Mexico's seismology institute said the quake measured magnitude 5.2.

Court rules out added redistricting

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal court has rejected a Republican voter group's request for more court-ordered congressional redistricting in the Houston and Dallas areas. The group, led by Houston investment broker Edward Blum, lobbied for the original redesign of the districts devised by a three-member panel of federal judges last year, but asked for more changes earlier this year. In the Monday ruling, the panel found that voters would be confused needlessly if districts were redrawn so close to the 2000 census, after which the districts would be redrawn anyway.

69 project lacks federal funding

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — A proposal to link the Rio Grande Valley with a free-trade superhighway has been given priority status in federal highway legislation, but the bill commits no money toward the project. That brought no discouraging words from Valley officials, who are looking for any progress toward incorporating the area into the nation's interstate highway system. I-69, dubbed the "NAFTA Superhighway," currently stretches from the Canadian border at Port Huron, Mich., to Indianapolis. Because of commerce brought by the North American Free Trade Agreement, federal legislators have recognized the need to extend it to Mexico, identifying U.S. 59, U.S. 281 and U.S. 77 as possible corridors for an extension. U.S. 59 passes through Laredo, while U.S. 281 and U.S. 77 run through the Valley.

INSIDE lifestyles

I'm a joker, I'm a smoker: Students pick up one of the latest trends, cigar smoking.

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sports

The A&M Inline Hockey Team heads to Las Vegas in search of a National Championship.

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opinion

Water: Aggie tradition of playing 'Howdy' deals with decline in its value.

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online

http://bat-web.tamu.edu Hook up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.

UT, A&M react to prof's remarks

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN — The comments of a University of Texas law school professor about black and Hispanic students, which ignited a firestorm of controversy at a school struggling to boost minority enrollment, were condemned Monday by the university's top officials. "Personally, we find his comment abhorrent," three top officials said. "We reaffirm today that the University of Texas belongs to all the people of this state."

The response came in a written statement distributed to newspaper editorial pages across the state. It was signed by Donald Evans, chair of the UT Board of Regents; William Cunningham, chancellor of the UT system; and

Peter Flawn, interim president of the flagship campus, UT-Austin. Their reaction followed remarks made by UT law professor Lino Graglia last week at the announcement of a new student organization supporting a federal court ruling outlawing race-based admissions policies in Texas. Graglia is a faculty adviser for the group.

"Blacks and Mexican-Americans are not academically competitive with whites in selective institutions," Graglia said then. "It is the result primarily of cultural effects. They have a culture that seems not to encourage achievement. Failure is not looked upon with disgrace."

Graglia said it was unfortunate he and his remarks would be la-

beled racist. But he said the facts regarding most minority students' study habits and their educational

Graglia, a tenured professor, simply for expressing his opinion.

Curtis Childers, Texas A&M student body president and a senior agricultural development major, said this incident should be a catalyst for change in Texas universities.

"It's time for leadership on the [diversity] issue," he said. "We've done a lot of talking about diversity. It's time to go out and do something about it."

Childers also said he hopes public interest in the National Post-Hopwood Summit in October increases after Graglia's comments.

"There's a mixed message [to the public] if students are coming together to support diversity and people who the public perceives as being associated with the Uni-

versity of Texas are saying things like this," he said.

Childers said the comments could cause some universities to act on the issue of diversity.

"It's unfortunate, but sometimes it's this kind of controversy that allows change to happen," he said.

In a news release, Randy Cooke, Student Government vice president at UT, said although Graglia has the right to voice his opinion, his comments are not indicative of UT's position on diversity.

"It must be made absolutely clear that Professor Graglia does not speak on behalf [of] the University of Texas at Austin, nor do his comments reflect the University's prevalent attitudes toward minorities," Cooke said.

PLEASE SEE LAW SCHOOL ON PAGE 5.

"We've done a lot of talking about diversity. It's time to go out and do something about it."

CURTIS CHILDERS
A&M STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

background are clear and called affirmative-action programs attempts to ignore those facts.

Since then, students, state lawmakers and others have called for Graglia's ouster. University officials have said they can't remove

Spreading the word

Group aims to revive 'Howdy'

BY DANIEL THEVIS
Staff writer

An organization known as Howdy Ags was established this semester to revive the use of "Howdy" at Texas A&M and to renew the Aggie spirit.

Pat Moran, co-founder of the group and a senior industrial distribution major, said the organization was formed because each year fewer students par-

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ticipate in A&M traditions than in past years.

"Over the years, participation in the ["Howdy"] tradition went down," Moran said. "The goal of Howdy Ags is to get people reinvolved with the tradition and show people how friendly A&M is."

Moran said the group has several ways to encourage participation in the "Howdy" tradition. The organization sells T-shirts with the word "Howdy" printed on the front and "Save the Word" printed on the back.

"We want to do whatever it takes to make A&M the friendliest campus in the world."

CHRIS MAY
CO-FOUNDER OF HOWDY AGS

Moran said the organization also wants to distribute signs reading "Say Howdy" for students to display in residence-hall windows as reminders to those walking on campus.

Chris May, co-founder and a senior finance major, said the "Howdy" tradition sets the University apart from other institutions.

"One of the reasons I came to A&M was because the campus was so friendly," May said. "We want to do whatever it takes to make A&M the friendliest campus in the world."

May said Howdy Ags received 120 applications for committee membership. Of those, 35 applicants will be asked to join. The committee will meet regularly and participate in activities to revive the tradition on campus.

Moran said the committee will work with the Traditions Council in some of its activities.

The Traditions Council holds "Howdy Week" once a semester, during which stickers are passed out and students are reminded of the tradition. Moran said Howdy Ags hopes to make the event more exciting than ever.

He said the committee will talk with other campus organizations, including the Corps of Cadets, fraternities and sororities, about becoming involved with saving the "Howdy" tradition.

May said Howdy Ags hopes to see every student become a part of the revival.

"Not everyone at A&M says 'Howdy,'" May said, "but all Aggies do."

Pit stop



Rob Mahin, show car coordinator for Texaco racing, shows off their Formula One car (foreground) and Stock car outside the MSC Monday afternoon

Chinese delegation visits campus for training in the business aspect of sports

BY KARIE FEHLER
Staff writer

The Chinese Delegation of University Sport School Principals visited Texas A&M Sunday and Monday to learn more about sport management programs in the United States.

Texas A&M was the only southwestern U.S. university the delegation visited. Last week they visited the University of Windsor in Canada and the University of Michigan. The delegation's next stop will be San Jose State University in California.

Frank Ashley, associate dean of the College of Education and coordinator of the Texas A&M sport management program, said the group wants to learn more about administration, organization and business aspects of sport management.

"Sports are big business," he said. "Just look at Tiger Woods — he's the perfect ex-

ample. He's making \$60 million whether he wins or loses. There's also big money in contracts, advertising and marketing. This is part of what the Chinese delegation is interested in."

The Chinese delegation visited the Neum Steed Laboratory, where they learned about scientific research and training programs in high-performance sports.

Karl Mooney, associate athletic director of academic affairs, spoke to the delegation about the combination of sports and academics during a tour of Cain Hall.

"I gave the delegation a complete view of what we do in terms of academic athletic support," Mooney said. "They learned about housing, Cain Hall computer support and tuition support."

Mooney said the delegation was interested in A&M's sport-computer programs and screening processes.

"They were intrigued at how we keep

track of all of our athletes," he said. "They were also amazed at how we screen athletes — they begin watching for talent much younger than we do. If the Chinese see a young child proficient in gymnastics, they will generally steer that child toward that sport. We don't do that, and this interested them."

Tim Cassidy, assistant athletic director for football operations, spoke with the delegation about the criteria A&M uses in selecting athletes and coaches.

Cassidy said universities typically review high-school coach recommendations, character references and academic recommendations when looking for potential recruits. He said coaches also visit high-school games and watch video tapes to evaluate talent.

These practices are not common in China, Cassidy said.

PLEASE SEE DELEGATION ON PAGE 5.

NASA manager promotes leadership

BY COURTNEY SEE
Staff writer

A manager from NASA told MBA students Monday morning that a master's degree, along with leadership skills, would enable them to advance in their careers.

Lucy Yates, manager of the International Space Station business management office for NASA at the Johnson Space Center, spoke about the space program and how business skills are incorporated into its operations.

"At NASA, a master's [degree] is necessary to advance," she said. "Besides education, it's how you apply the skills you learn in academics that makes you successful."

Yates discussed the development of the International Space Center from a business perspective and gave students insight into the daily obstacles facing the

small management team as they try to make NASA function in a more business-like manner.

"Even with education, you must develop personal leadership," she said. "You have to apply those skills to solve problems efficiently, in a positive manner. That's how you set yourself apart from the others."

Shelley Walls, a second-year MBA student, said she was impressed by the effort Yates said business managers put forth.

"Government work seemed a lot more challenging and interesting after she explained the logistical challenges," Walls said. "When she first said that there were only 60 people managing, I thought that was insane. And then when she explained the complications of working with the current business environment and the internal sensitivities involved, I thought that it was just amazing that anything gets done."

Michael Trott, a second-year MBA student, said he had a better understanding of the NASA program after Yates' presentation.

"It gave me more of an idea of the interaction between business and politics involved in the NASA program," Trott said.

Patrick Buzzard, a director of A&M's MBA program, said students become more encouraged to work on their master's degrees after hearing former MBA students' experiences.

"My responsibility is to get speakers and alumni to come and speak with the students," he said. "People don't see a direct relationship between education and their future. They're [former MBA students] doing a lot for the MBA program."

Yates, who graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in political science, worked on her master's degree at the University of Texas at San Antonio.



AMY DUNLAP/THE BATTALION
Lucy Yates, a manager from NASA speaks to graduate students Monday morning.