

**BRIEFS**

**by scheduled Saturday's game**  
 Four Air Force F-15 fighters will fly over Kyle Field tomorrow during half-time of the football game between Texas A&M and the University of Southwest Louisiana.

**JETS**  
 The fly-by is in honor of American pilots who are missing in action or prisoners of war.

The fighters will fly in the "Missing Man" formation as a wreath-laying ceremony is conducted on the field. The Angel Flight-Silver Wings and the Old Air Society are sponsoring the events.

**Cadets to become Aggies for a Day**  
 Approximately 2,100 Junior ROTC cadets from 50 Texas high schools will visit Texas A&M Saturday as part of the Corps of Cadets' "Aggie For a Day" program.

The visiting students will tour the Corps housing area and the Sam Houston Sanders Corps Center, attend a Corps presentation in Rudder Auditorium and the Texas A&M-University of Southwest Louisiana football game.

The program is intended to motivate high-school students to attend college and to give them a glimpse of life on the Corps.

**Robber sentenced to 33-year term**  
 BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A Brownsville man has been sentenced to 33 years in prison for robbing half a million dollars in a string of bank heists.

A federal judge sentenced Rafael Garcia Guerrero Wednesday. He was arrested in June on six counts of armed robbery of three banks in April 1994 and January 1995. Prosecutors alleged Garcia was part of a sophisticated crew of robbers that made off with \$531,982 from Rio Grande Valley banks. No suspects have been arrested. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mervyn Backer lauded the long prison sentence, saying this kind of crime "deserves a harsh penalty."

**Audit critical of Health Commission**  
 AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Health Services Commission has done little to provide leadership and guidance in serving Texans in need, according to a state audit. The report, released Wednesday, said Health and Human Services Commissioner Mike Kinney had failed to lead the six-fold agency in planning and budgeting for the state's health and human services needs. The state's expectations for the increased effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery in health and human services programs and activities are yet to be realized," the audit said.

**INSIDE lifestyles**

**The Party Never Ends: Country musician, Robert Earl Keen to perform at Aggie Kickoff.**  
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**sports**

**Aggies seeking revenge against USL after last season's disappointing loss.**  
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**opinion**

**'Generation X' label implies student population implying laziness.**  
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**online**

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

**A&M minority enrollment decreases**

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER  
 Staff writer  
 The effect of the Hopwood decision on minority enrollment at Texas A&M is evident in enrollment figures for the 1997 fall semester, A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said yesterday.  
 The enrollment for Texas A&M's main campus is 41,461 students. Last year, A&M had an enrollment of 41,892 students.  
 Freshman enrollment is 6,233 students, a 2-percent drop from last year's 6,387 students. Of the freshman class, 178 are African-American and 607 are Hispanic, a drop of 23 percent and 15 percent respectively from last year (230 and 713). In August, the University estimated this decline.

The number of white freshmen dropped as well, from 5,136 students last year to 5,015 this year, a two-percent decrease.  
 Bowen said the Hopwood decision played a role in the decrease of minority freshmen at A&M.  
 "The anticipated impact of the Hopwood decision on new freshmen is evident in the percentage decrease of both African-Americans and Hispanics enrolled at the College Station campus this fall," he said.  
 Enrollment figures for A&M have decreased for all ethnicities except Native Americans and International students, who saw a slight increase.  
 A&M's minority enrollment, which includes black, Hispanic, Asian and Native American students, makes up 16 percent of

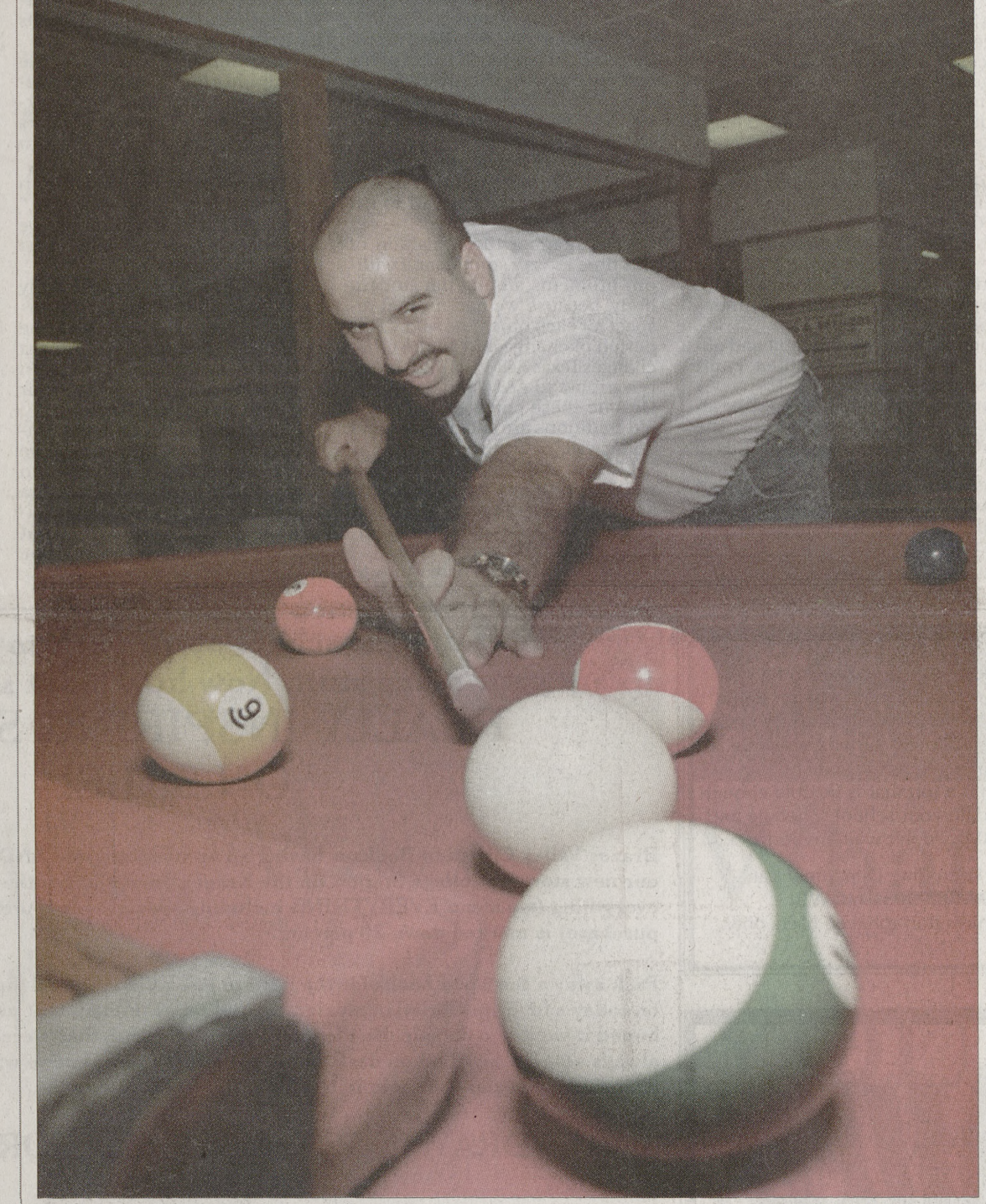
the student body.  
 African-Americans make up three percent of the student body with 1,252 enrolled, compared to last year's 1,320 (a 5-percent decrease). Hispanics make up 10 percent with 3,972 students, as compared to last year's 4,052 students (a 2-percent decrease).  
 White students make up 77 percent with 31,735 students, as compared to last year's 32,241 students.  
 Bowen said the figures are what the University expected for this year.  
 "Enrollment this fall on the main campus at College Station is only one percent below the 41,892 of a year ago and right on target with our controlled-enrollment plan," he said.

Ethnicity	1997	1996	% Difference
Native American	29	24	21%
Asian	224	177	27%
Black	178	230	-23%
Hispanic	607	713	-15%
White	5015	5136	-2%
International	50	45	11%
Other/Blank	130	62	110%

BRAD GRAEBER/THE BATTALION

PLEASE SEE ENROLLMENT ON PAGE 5.

**Chalk it up**



Gilbert Saldivar, a junior sociology major, lines up a shot in the basement of the MSC Thursday afternoon.

**AIDS victim delivers motivational speech**

By KARIE FEHLER  
 Staff writer  
 A Christian speaker with AIDS said last night that most circumstances people encounter in life are beyond their control, but they allow the circumstances to control their behavior.  
 The Texas A&M Campus Crusade for Christ hosted speaker Steve Sawyer last night in Rudder Theater. Sawyer, who has hemophilia, contracted HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C from blood transfusions to treat his condition when he was eight years old.  
 Sawyer was diagnosed with HIV in 1990, when he was a sophomore in high school.  
 Sawyer said he learned early in life to deal with situations out of his control.

He said he coped with his pain by punching walls and doors, and was in denial of his condition.  
 "I would look at myself in the mirror and say, 'I don't look sick. I don't look like I'm dying,'" he said.  
 Sawyer said he allowed these circumstances to control his behavior and attitudes. He denied his condition until his senior year in high school, when he became ill.  
 "When I looked in the mirror, I no longer saw someone who was healthy," he said. "I now saw someone who looked like they were dying."  
 Sawyer lost 40 pounds, and his white blood count dropped to near the level of full-blown AIDS. The doctors gave Sawyer one year to live.  
 PLEASE SEE SPEECH ON PAGE 5.

**Senate celebrates 50th anniversary**

By BRANDYE BROWN  
 Staff writer  
 The Texas A&M Student Senate and former senators will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Senate this weekend.  
 More than 500 former senators have been invited to A&M, including officers who served on the first Senate in 1947.  
 Mandy Gomez, external affairs chair and a junior political science and speech communications major, said she is excited to meet former senators and learn from their experiences.  
 "This is important for the Senate, because we plan on drilling the former senators with questions," she said. "They went through so many important changes here at A&M. Just to hear what they have to say will be im-

portant as students continue on for 50 more years of success."  
 The Senate will have a special session tonight at 7 p.m. in the MSC Flag Room. After the session, the group will watch a presentation in the Koldus Building on the history of the past 50 years of the Student Senate. Also, the senators will attend Midnight Yell.  
 On Saturday, senators will tour the campus and attend the football game between A&M and the University of Southwest Louisiana.  
 After the game, a senator from 1947 will speak, and then senators will divide into smaller groups for discussion.  
 The weekend will conclude Sunday morning with a breakfast and a presentation at the Sam Houston Sanders Corps Center.  
 PLEASE SEE SENATE ON PAGE 5.

**'97 Yell Leaders maintain Aggie traditions, spirit**

By RACHEL DAWLEY  
 Staff Writer  
 Got a little story for you, Ags...  
 It started back in 1910, when Aggieland was different than it is today. Seniors in the Corps of Cadets wanted to impress their dates, who seemed bored with the Aggie football games.  
 Freshmen were sent to the sidelines to entertain spectators. Soon, the freshmen began coming up with sayings to yell at the audience and were so entertaining that the seniors often found their dates in the arms of these "yell leaders." When the seniors pulled them off the field and took their place, the tradition of Yell Leaders began.  
 Three seniors and two juniors are elected by the student body each year to carry on this tradition.  
 This year's Yell Leaders are Tim Duffy, Brandon Meche, Kyle Sparkman, Sam Bluntzer and Brandon Neff.  
 Duffy, head Yell Leader and a senior marketing major, said the Yell Leaders' focus is to ensure the 12th Man is excited about A&M athletics and traditions.  
 "We act as a liaison between the athletic teams and the students," he said. "It is an honor and privilege to represent the student body as a member of the 12th Man."  
 Kyle Sparkman, a senior yell leader and a biomedical science major, said Yell Leaders are working to improve interaction between student leaders and ath-

letes. The Yell Leaders gave freshmen athletes tours of the campus and attended the A&M soccer game last Sunday.  
 "Athletes need to know that we are there for them," Sparkman said. "If we didn't have them, then there would be no Yell Leaders. Our goal is to make a difference and be the best five Yell Leaders."  
 The five Yell Leaders attend athletic events and various speaking engagements during the year. They speak on behalf of Texas A&M athletics and traditions at Aggie Moms' Clubs, Freshmen Orientation Week and Fish Camp.  
 Jill Newman, chair of the Traditions Council and a senior journalism major, said Yell Leaders are the basis for many Aggie traditions, including Midnight Yell, the 12th Man, Elephant Walk and Fish Pond.  
 "The Yell Leaders are such a wonderful representation of the student body," she said. "Yell Leaders symbolize our heritage as Aggies. Their origins hail back to O' Army days, and they set us apart from other schools."  
 Because Texas A&M is the only school with Yell Leaders, rivals are confused but amazed by the position and the unity of the 12th Man, Duffy said.  
 Rick Perry, Texas commissioner of agriculture and Class of '72, served as a Yell Leader. The Yell Leaders are a focal point of the spirit of Texas A&M, Perry said.  
 PLEASE SEE LEADERS ON PAGE 5.

**Plans announced for Northside remodeling**

By COURTNEY SEE  
 Staff writer  
 The Residence Hall Association (RHA) was informed Wednesday about the Department of Residence Life's plans to remodel some Northside residence halls.  
 Dan Mizer, assistant director of the Department of Residence Life, presented renovation plans for Fowler, Hughes, Keathley, McInnis, and Schuhmacher Halls.  
 Mizer said the halls were built in the mid-1960's and are in need of repair.  
 "The renovation work needs to be lasting," he said. "We're looking to the future."  
 Mizer said one idea is to knock out walls in the residence hall rooms and convert the rooms into apartment-style living areas with kitchens, living rooms and sleeping quarters. Other improvements being considered include parking areas, TV/study lounges and computer rooms.

Mizer said a survey will be conducted to give students an opportunity to voice their opinion.  
 "A student survey is coming out, asking students' opinions on the residence hall styles," he said. "We want to gain student input to make sure the student voice is heard on the type of facility they'd like to see in renovation."  
 Eric Williams, president of RHA and a senior biomedical science major, said he is skeptical of resident reaction to the project.  
 "One concern I feel students may have is about the loss of low-income housing," he said. "One fear that many residents will have, if there are major renovations, is the loss of the five halls. Low-income halls house many people. Over 1,000 spaces of low-income housing will be lost. It would be nice to see new buildings, but at the expense of current paid-for buildings? That would be a hard  
 PLEASE SEE PLANS ON PAGE 5.