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exas A&M to host raduate conference

The Program in Foreign Policy cision Making is sponsoring e second Regional Graduate dent Conference today in 15 Academic Building-West. The conference is on decision king of the president of the United ates and the use of military force. The conference is co-sponsored the James Baker Institute at Rice versity and supported by the Dement of Political Science at A&M. Graduate students from A&M. e, University of North Texas, Unisity of Colorado, University of as and University of Rochester present their research. The connce is open to the public.

Students asked to ecycle phone books

he Environmental Issues comtee of the Student Government ciation is asking Texas A&M tents to bring old phone books recycling to Rudder Fountain tofrom 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The committee also is encouragstudents to pledge to recycle hugh the Internet at http://www. ecyclesday.org.

RHA selected as Top Ten Program'

he Residence Hall Association A) of Texas A&M University was tted as a "Top Ten Program" at Southwest Affiliate of College and rsity Residence Halls

ACURH) conference last weekend. Peter Schulte, RHA vice president dministration and a sophomore eorology major, said Texas A&M's mam "Bringing RHA into the 21st ury" focused on the RHA Web at http://reslife. tamu.edu/rha/ dis use of e-mail to link A&M mers with members of other ols across the nation. Texas A&M RHA presented its ram to colleges and universifrom Texas, Arkansas, siana and Oklahoma.

Commissioner wins ducation award

The Texas A&M annual Adminise Leadership Institute presented as Commissioner of Education e Moses with the Golden Deeds Education Award Wednesday. The award recognizes educators have improved the education

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH Staff writer

The 9th annual Texas Higher Edference is today from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Rudder Tower.

The conference is a call to action for students and higher education professionals to increase their knowledge and awareness of current issues unique to college campuses. Sandra Mitchell, a 1997 conference member and administrative

assistant in the Department of Resident Life, said the conference tar-

gets a variety of diversity issues. 'Many people hear about the

conference and assume it is just about ethnic issues," she said. "The issues this year are inclusive, and topics include gender, sexual orientation and disabilities in addition to race issues.'

Dr. Maura Cullen, a full-time educational consultant and instructional speaker, is the keynote speaker. Cullen said she wants people to treat each other with respect, even if their differences make them uncomfortable.

The basis of my reflections will

Cullen said the lessons people

COLLEGE STATION • TX

learned growing up have intro-duced the ideas of being fair and just, and she wants to expand people's comfort zones.

"My take-away message is that we are all different, but unfortunately, not all differences are created equal," she said. Mitchell said Cullen has worked

with residence life issues for six years. Mitchell, a member of Residence Life since the conference began nine years ago, said the confer-

expanded to include other aspects of university life.

lieve the way they do."

conference can register beginning

at 8 a.m. today for \$10.

Becky Pettit, conference chair and coordinator of diversity education for Residence Life, said faculty from other universities attend to learn ways to make schools more tolerant of differences.

46

"The interesting thing about the other schools is that every year they send a representative," she said. "Even though someone at their school has already been to the conference, they consistently have someone getting information and networking with faculty from A&M and other universities.

Aggie Moms to attend **Fish Camp**

By KARIE FEHLER Staff writer

The largest Aggie Moms Fish Camp in history is this weekend at Texas A&M campus, and organizers expect the camp to help Aggie mothers adjust to having their children in college.

Helen Wieters, an Aggie Moms' Fish Camp cochair, said the weekend is planned to resemble the Fish Camp that thousands of A&M freshmen attend each summer.

"We try to make the Moms' Fish Camp just like regular Fish Camp because it builds so many friendships and so much unity," she said. "The only big difference is that we stay four to a room in the Hampton, and the regular Fish Campers stay in cabins."

The Aggie Moms' Fish Camp is in its fourth year, and Wieters said the camp is consistent with the first

"We look at what works with this camp, and we see that all of the original stuff was great," Wieters said. "And if it works, why try to fix it?"

Wieters said the best part of Aggie Moms' Fish Camp is learning the traditions and how to cope with having children at college.

"If you as an Aggie Mom don't know anything about A&M and your kid comes home talking about 'humping it,' you think how vulgar a tradition they have there'" she said. "The camp teaches you what these things mean, and it helps new Aggie moms to feel the connection with the traditions and feel good about having kids here.

Wieters said the common bond that the camp establishes is unlike any other.

Phil Crowell, an area police officer, plays video poker as he passes time at the Scrub Pub Thursday afternoon.

DUA considers nou NITA CONSIDERS HEW

be creating a just community and not just a community," she said. ence used to deal with campus life only, but in the last nine years it has

"The conference has grown to include the educational components of residence living," she said. "A lot of the sessions are interactive and allow people to express themselves. Hopefully, people at the conference will learn more about other people's culture and why they choose to act or be-

Students who want to attend the



50



m and lives of Texas public ol students.

fexas A&M University System ncellor Dr. Barry Thompson, year's winner, will present the rd to Moses

&M-UT tickets on sale Monday

Due to the Thanksgiving holi-ys, tickets to the Texas A&M-Uniity of Texas football game will on sale next week.

lickets will be available Nov. for seniors and graduate stuts, Nov. 18 for juniors, Nov. for sophomores and Nov. 20

Brecht's "Good

Woman of Setzuan" presented by **Department of** Theater Arts.

See Page 3

e Texas A&M Soccer Team sts SMU in round one of NCAA Tournament.

See Page 7

y: Future of NEA could be cured by the use of private hations.

See Page 9

p://battalion.tamu.edu % up with state and tional news through The re, AP's 24-hour online Ws service.

By Amanda Smith Staff writer

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) supported a proposal Nov. 13 for a one-semester trial policy permitting hall directors to keep animals in their rooms during the spring 1998 semester.

Adam Collett, a graduate hall director and an education administration graduate student, supported the pilot program. He said that RHA's support for the program is a positive step for the graduate students who want companionship.

The nature of being a graduate student is that we are more likely to come from further away (from home)," Collett said. "We don't have the option of having a roommate unless we have a spouse (living with us)."

Roy Erickson, RHA financial development director and a freshman business administration major, said that he anticipates possible problems with the pilot program, including allergic reactions and al has to go through staff council. flea and sanitation problems.

operations director and a sophomore computer engineering major, sponsored the pilot pet proposal. He said that the proposal must now win the approval of



the staff council.

'This was essentially a pat on the back from RHA," Rickerson said. "The propos-

If the staff council supports the pilot David Rickerson, RHA facilities and program, residence hall directors could begin housing pets in their rooms on a trial basis beginning on Jan. 1, 1998. During the trial semester, three meetings would be held to evaluate the pilot program.

RONY ANGKRIWAN/THE BATTALION

Lindsay Thompson, a RHA delegate from Spence Hall and a sophomore general studies major, said that the pilot program will put keeping pets in residence halls in the context of the Texas A&M environment.

"It (keeping pets in residence halls) has been successful at some universities and not at other universities," Thompson said. "If they are going to try it for a semester, then I do not think that it will be a problem. We do not know until we give the program a try."

The RHA Crime Stoppers Committee and Mosher Hall will sponsor Safety Week next Monday through Thursday to promote safety among students living on campus.

Kara Wilson, a member of RHA Crime Stoppers and a senior agricultural journalism major, said that Safety Week includes speakers and activities designed to inform Texas A&M students of safety issues.

PLEASE SEE POLICY ON PAGE 5.

awesome," she said. "We all know that our kids are the cream of the crop since they are here, and that makes us feel like really great women."

Sue Anderson, a former camper and camp coun-selor, said she first went to Aggie Moms' Fish Camp after her son had graduated from A&M to see what he had experienced as a student.

"I never understood some of the things that my son talked about and experienced, so I decided to go to the camp when it started," she said. "It's amazing how many moms you meet that feel the same way you do and are going through the same things you are. I met so many people that I still keep in touch with."

Anderson said the connection that the camp establishes with the University makes the camp special.

"You know, once you're an Aggie, you're always an Ag-gie," she said. "When you graduate from t.u., you're just an 'ex.' The camp really gives you a sense of belonging and you know that you'll always be an Aggie Mom – something like this could only happen at A&M.'

Helen Halliburton, the camp counselor coordinator, said the camp teaches Aggie Moms that they are not alone in their experiences as mothers of college students.

"The best part of the camp is finding out that you're not alone in having kids in college," she said. "You can share experiences and find out that 'hey, my kid is normal,' and it teaches Aggie spirit like nothing else."

PLEASE SEE MOMS ON PAGE 5.

A&M students prepare for end of 'Shack-a-thon'

Project to raise local awareness of substandard housing to wrap up with ceremony tonight



OBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALIC Senior business major Andre Cruz helps build a shack Tuesday as part of the Habitat for Humanity Shack-a-thon.

By RACHEL DAWLEY Staff writer

Texas A&M students braved rain and cold weather this week to promote Habitat for Humanity International with "Shack-a-thon." Participants constructed "Shack City" Wednesday night at Rudder Fountain and have lived in the shacks for the last two days. Shack-a-thon will end this

evening with a ceremony and a tear down of the shacks.

Campus groups, including class councils, Freshman Leaders in Progress (F.L.I.P.) and Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow (A.L.O.T.) bought shacks to promote Habitat for Humanity. Chris Akin, a senior environmental science major and a member of Alpha Phi Omega, said Shack-a-thon makes him thankful for what he has in life.

'You realize that there is a lot you take for granted, simple things like warmth, heating, housing and a roof," Akin said. 'We often don't think how lucky we are.'

Akin, who spent three nights at Shack City, said the Shack-a-thon increased awareness of Habitat and substandard housing in the area.

"Habitat is a great organization," Akin said. "It is a

great feeling to go out to an empty lot and build a house over a period of weeks. A&M students walking by ask questions about Habitat and the Shack-a-thon.

Representatives from organizations bought shacks through a bidding process for spots. Each group spent about \$200 dollars to buy a shack.

Robert Kimmel, a junior mechanical engineering maior and a Southside senator. said the Shack-a-thon was a good excuse to get together as a group and camp out, as well as to support the Habitat group.

'It is important for campus

groups to show their support for other organizations," he said. "The funds raised by this go to a super organization. A couple of us will curl up in the cold and get a little wet to support their work in building homes.

Shack City organizers offered participants games like "spin the bottle" and "Aggieopoly," as well as bands and a talent show.

The shacks varied in appearance, but all were built by organization members. Some shacks were made from wood and nails while others were constructed with cardboard and tape.

PLEASE SEE SHACK ON PAGE 5.