



58
37

TODAY



65
54

TOMORROW

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Hopgood names Corps commander, deputy

By Sarah Goldston
Radio producer

The Corps of Cadets announced last week that Tase Bailey will be the Corps commander and Kelly Garrity will be the deputy commander for the 1998-99 school year. Bailey, a junior aerospace engineering major, said he was amazed he was selected as Corps commander. "I look at all the people who have come before me," he said. "It's overwhelming to be the shoes I will have to fill." Bailey is the first sergeant of company E-2. Garrity, a junior journalism major, will be in leading the Corps and serve as deputy commander in Bailey's absence. Bailey said she was surprised she was chosen as deputy commander. "I hope to continue with what has al-

ready been established by Danny and Ken this year and to help Tase lead the Corps," she said.

In the ceremony, Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. M. T. "Ted" Hopgood commended current Corps Commander Danny Feather and Deputy Commander Ken Evans for leading the Corps of Cadets this year.

Evans said he and Feather will prepare Bailey and Garrity to do their best.

"These people have the utmost capabilities, and we will mentor them for the next two months so that they may be able to handle the responsibilities that come with their positions," he said.

Feather said he was pleased with who was selected.

"I think back to a year ago today and this last year has been one of the most reward-

ing and exciting of my life," he said. "The Corps is going to be in great hands."

Tom Gillis, the oldest living Corps commander and author of *The Cadence*, the code book for the Corps, presented Bailey with one of the first editions of the book in the ceremony.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of Student Affairs, said all of the candidates were qualified to be Corps commander.

"The quality of the young people interviewed makes me feel confident about the future of the Corps of Cadets," he said.

Feather says Corps commander and deputy commander are encompassing jobs, and Bailey and Garrity should expect a change of lifestyle.

"They should expect over a year of little sleep, phone calls and activities," he said. "It is a rewarding experience."

The selection process drew from 23 candidates. A panel of eight military officers and eight cadets voted for and held interviews before choosing the leaders.

Feather said it is a very democratic process.

"The candidates go through an interview process," he said. "They are asked questions pertaining to gender issues, alcohol policies, hazing, scholastics, leadership philosophies and a number of other topics."

Jim Reid, Marine Colonel commanding officer for the Naval ROTC at Texas A&M, served on the selection panel.

"The selection was difficult," he said. "There was tremendous quality to draw from. Narrowing it down to one person was challenging. The class of '99 is blessed with talent."



Brandon Bolloom/The Battalion
Tase Bailey is congratulated by Dr. J. Malon Southerland.

NEWS BRIEFS

TAM students host middle school group

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences hosted a group of students from Kirby Middle School in Houston participating in the Exxon Kids in College Partnership Program Thursday. Activities included an orientation to the college and a tour of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

The program is a multi-faceted outreach program that involves middle school students, universities and the Exxon Company, U.S.A., along with the school's distributors and retailers. The primary objectives of the program are to provide middle school students with a college campus experience typical to that of a college student and to help motivate middle school students to set goals and preparing for college.

Medical professor leads lecture series

Samuel H. Black, a professor of microbiology and of humanities in medicine in Texas A&M's College of Medicine, recently has established a endowed lecture series in the Department of Humanities in Medicine. The series has been named in honor of Black's wife, Elisabeth Black-Zandveld.

The Black-Zandveld Lectureship in the History of Medicine will bring eminent scholars from around the world to campus. Black said it is his hope that the lecture series "will serve as a fitting tribute while enriching the academic experiences of students and faculty alike."

In addition to the gift made by Black, many other friends of Elisabeth Black-Zandveld have contributed to the endowment to establish the lecture series.

A roach by any other name



Robert Mckay/The Battalion

Cordelia Rasa, an entomology graduate student, takes a break from insect toxicology class to show a specimen of *Gromphadorhina portentosa*, a Madagascar Hissing roach.

Students see South on civil rights tour

By Jennifer Wilson
Staff writer

Spring Break for 12 Texas A&M students will be spent on an educational journey through six states on a week-long civil rights tour, March 13 to 19.

The tour will take students through Selma, Ala.; Montgomery, Ala.; Atlanta, Ga.; Birmingham, Ala.; Oxford, Miss.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Little Rock, Ark., and will give students an in-depth view of the leadership of people involved in the civil rights movement.

The students were required to apply for a space on the tour, sponsored by the Department of Multicultural Services, by submitting an essay on an unsung hero of the civil rights era. The students were then enrolled in a leadership class to learn more about the tour and how to sharpen their leadership skills.

Rodney McClendon, coordinator of student retention and development for the Department of Multicultural Services, said students will visit famous sites of the civil rights movement and will meet people whose names are not famous, but who were greatly involved in the movement.

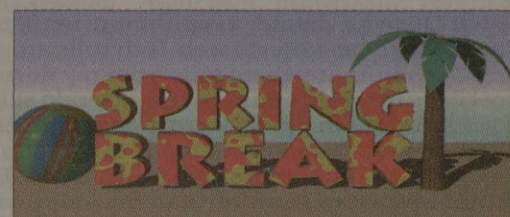
"We've made arrangements to visit with people involved with the movement or their families, who were lynched, water hosed or involved with the freedom marches or riots," he said.

McClendon said the tour will give a historical look at people who supported integration and those who supported segregation. He said students can look at these leaders and analyze their skills to learn from them.

Anthony Edwards, a junior biomedical science major, said he is going on the tour because he wants to continue to gain a perspective on how many people suffered to give him the chance to attend A&M.

"I want to learn as much as I can about what it was like and to understand what the people before me had to do for civil rights," he said.

Edwards said his unsung hero of the civil



rights movement is O.Z. White, a minister in San Antonio, who was stabbed trying to protect Martin Luther King Jr. at a hotel when a fight broke out.

Edwards said the leadership class helped him form and become president of the Association of Black Leaders in Science.

"All of these events have helped to show me that I need to take more of an initiative on campus and to maintain and increase my focus for why I am here," he said.

Francisco Maldonado, a junior political science major, said he wants to understand more about what happened during the civil rights movement that can not be learned in textbooks.

"This will be an opportunity for me to see what went on and how much courage these people had to have and the sacrifices they made not for themselves, but for those who came after them," he said.

Maldonado said his unsung hero of the movement is his grandfather who made many sacrifices so his children could have an education and inspired him to become an attorney for civil rights and immigration law.

"It is so inspirational to see what these people did and it gives me a great appreciation for everything I have at A&M," he said. "It has helped me realize that I take everyday things for granted that people had to fight for only 35 years ago."

McClendon said the students will get together at the end of the tour to reflect on what they have experienced.

"We want the students to gain an appreciation for the blood, sweat and tears that were given for lost lives that resulted not only in the freedom of blacks in America, but in freedom for all people," he said.

INSIDE

aggielife

Spring Break vacationers head to the hot spots for fun in the sun and a little relaxation.

See Page 2

sports

Aggie Baseball Team heads to Oklahoma State for a three-game series.

See Page 6

opinion

Sumacher: Parents should be held responsible for the behavior, attire of children.

See Page 5

online

Check up with state and national news through The Battalion's 24-hour online news service.

Rate of cancer cases lowers for first time

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rate of new cancer cases among Americans inched down for the first time, meaning over 70,000 fewer people than expected were diagnosed between 1992 and 1995, the government said Thursday.

The good news comes after two decades of increasing cancer cases — and almost two years after doctors spotted the first-ever drop in cancer deaths.

But everybody didn't benefit: Some cancers, such as deadly melanoma, still are rising, and black men and Asian women have missed out on the progress.

"We have to make sure the best (medical) practices are being applied to everyone," said National Cancer Institute Director Richard Klausner, warning that cancer remains "a daunting problem."

"As exciting as today is, and it is historic, the gains ... are fragile," agreed Assistant Surgeon General John Marks, who said problems such as recent increases in teenage smoking threaten to fuel a rebound.

What's happening? Scientists couldn't say exactly — they're still analyzing 23 different cancers. But

they said tobacco use, blamed for one-third of all cancer cases, has dropped. Also, people are getting better testing, meaning not just that cancer is treated earlier but that, for example, pre-cancerous colon polyps can be removed before ever turning into tumors.

At least one-fourth of all cancers could be prevented by eating more fruits and vegetables and less fat, but scientists were skeptical that diet had an impact yet — obesity actually is rising.

The rate of new cancer cases increased 1.2 percent a year between 1973 and 1992, says a study by American Cancer Society and government scientists.

But from 1992 to 1995, the cancer rate suddenly dropped 2.7 percent a year.

Preliminary results from 1996 suggest the trend is continuing, said Dr. Edward Sondik of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As reported previously, the rate of death from cancer dropped by a total of 2.5 percent between 1990 and 1995 — representing about 30,000 fewer deaths than expected, Klausner said.

Asteroid poses no threat to Earth, scientists say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Relax, Earthlings. That asteroid streaking toward our planet is going to miss by miles. Actually, by 600,000 miles, according to new calculations.

Just a day after one group of astronomers reported that an asteroid was expected to pass within 30,000 miles of the Earth's center and could possibly collide, astronomers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said their calculations — based on newly uncovered data — indicate the asteroid will pass no closer than 600,000 miles away.

"We are saying now that the probability of an impact is zero," said Donald K. Yeomans of JPL. "It poses no threat to the Earth whatsoever."

Yeomans said he and fellow astronomer Paul W. Chodas dug out some eight-year-old pictures of the heavens taken by the Palomar Observatory telescope and found that the photos contained images of asteroid 1997 XF11, which then was just an unidentified point of light.

Using the 1990 pictures and

recent observations of the streaking space rock, Yeomans and Chodas recalculated the orbital path of the asteroid and found that it would miss the Earth by 600,000 miles in its closest approach in October 2028.

Brian G. Marsden of the In-

Society, said that Marsden's calculations were based on very limited data.

"They got more information about the orbit," Maran said of Yeomans and Chodas. "They should have a much better estimate. This should certainly be more reliable because it is based on more data."

By looking at the 1990 pictures, Maran said Yeomans and Chodas, in effect, have a total of eight years of orbital measurements about the asteroid.

"You really do need an intensive set of observations to really nail it down," he said.

On Wednesday, Marsden had issued a notice that the asteroid was expected to pass within only 30,000 miles of the Earth's center. "The chance of an actual collision is small, but one is not entirely out of the question," he concluded.

Those calculations were based on short measurements taken just last week and included less of the asteroid's orbital path than the old, archival pictures from Palomar.

"We are saying now that the probability of impact is zero."

Donald K. Yeomans
Jet Propulsion Laboratory

International Astronomical Union, the astronomer who made the calculations released on Wednesday, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Steve Maran, an astronomer with the American Astronomical