

BATTALION

84
57
TODAY

84
64
TOMORROW

TH YEAR • ISSUE 113 • 12 PAGES

COLLEGE STATION • TEXAS

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 25 • 1998

Women leaders promote positive thinking

By SARAH GOLDSTON
Radio Producer

Several notable women in state government gave the female students in a panel sponsored by the MSC Executive Lecture Series (ELS) and MSC Political Forum last night at the Forsyth Gallery.

Mary DeLeon, MSC program advisor for ELS, said the Executive Lecture Series sponsors these events to give professionals a chance to speak to students about keys to success.

This particular panel, 'Women in Government' will allow women

who are active in politics to speak about being a woman in the field and adversity that they have had to overcome," she said.

Sally Shipman, director of the Coalition for the Homeless and former city council member of Austin, offered advice to women planning to pursue a political or public service career.

"As leaders, remember public services offers opportunities for you to make a difference," she said. "Set priorities, settle disputes and make goals for the future, and you will be successful."

Arlene Wohlgenuth, State representative of the 58th District,

said she wants to restore the attitude that elected officials are public servants.

"I want to continue to work for the state and work for better government, restoring integrity to public offices," she said.

Susan Weddington, state chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, entered politics later in her life and said her experiences as a mother taught her valuable skills that she incorporated into her political career.

"Before I entered politics, as a mother, I learned to balance budgets and manage people," she said. Weddington suggested people

should look for opportunity in obstacles.

"Where most people would see a dead end, look for a path that is just beginning," she said. "A good leader has two qualities: a positive attitude and preparation."

Mary Denny, State Representative of the 63rd District, agreed with Weddington's philosophies.

"Life prepares us for so many things; don't sell yourself short."

Sherry Boyles, grassroots director for the Texas Democratic Party, said her experiences as the student body president at the University of Texas and the time she spent working as a legislative aide in Austin helped her

understand the role government has in the lives of citizens.

"Every decision that is made affects many people," she said. "Financial aid has become a concern that I am working on. After graduate school I realized that in the span of 25 years I will have to pay back loans that I had taken out for college and law school. Education issues motivate me to do more."

DeLeon said the Executive Lecture Series is planning more discussions.

"We try to bring professionals from politics, business and law to talk to students about how to succeed in life," she said.



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION
Susan Weddington, the state chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, speaks at the "Women in Government" program.

NEWS BRIEFS

MSC OPAS sponsors week of Elvis Presley

A week-long program about Elvis Presley, sponsored by the MSC Opera Performing Arts Society, will lead to the Southwest premiere of the Suede Shoes.

During the week, students, faculty and staff members will have an opportunity to win T-shirts and tickets to the Suede Shoes. Today from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., a trivia contest will be held in Rumours.

This evening, MSC OPAS and the Film Society will present a screening of "Blue Hawaii" at 7 p.m. in Biochemistry-Biophysics. From 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday an Elvis Presley and dance contest will be held in the Rudder Fountain area.

Dr. Rosen, professor of psychology, will speak on the life and times of Elvis at 7 p.m. Monday in 308 Rudder. "Don't Be Cruel to a Heart That's True: The Myth of Elvis Lives On" is the title of the lecture, which is free and open to the public.

Deal effectively with those pesky fire ants

Spring is here, drawing thousands of fire ants outdoors.

In order to enjoy the great outdoors even more, it may be necessary to apply the Two-Step Method to those red imported fire ants.

In fully-infested areas (five or more mounds for each quarter-acre of land) or where there is little or no control for preserving native ant species, the Two-Step Method — promoted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service — may be the best of defense, Drees said.

The first step is the broadcast application of one of several effective products. The second step uses individual mound treatments to treat nuisance mounds.

INSIDE

aggielife

MSC Cepheid Variable hosts its 29th annual AggieCon.

See Page 3

sports

MSM Softball Team gets ready for last game before 12 play starts.

See Page 7

opinion

Drummacher: New blood alcohol limit will not affect drinking and driving.

See Page 11

online

http://battalion.tamu.edu
Keep up with state and national news through The Battalion, AP's 24-hour online news service.

Old times revisited

By KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

The Association of Former Students will host Aggie Hostel from June 21 to 27 and are looking for student hosts.

The program is designed to provide 40 former students, ages 65 and older, and their spouses the opportunity to return to the Texas A&M campus. They will participate in specialized courses taught by A&M faculty and attend special events planned for them by the Aggie Hostel committee including a senior Ring Dance.

Christa Fenoglio, a junior biomedical science major and coordinator of student hosts, said campus leaders are chosen as student hosts because they are the connection to campus.

"We're the hosts and hostesses of the campus," she said. "We show them the A&M of today and how it is different yet also the same."

Students do not have to be enrolled in summer school to participate and May 1998 graduates are welcome to apply. Participants must be available for all pre-Hostel meetings and for the entire week of Aggie Hostel.

The Aggie Hostel Committee pays for admission to events, two T-shirts and all meals. Students are asked to pay a \$20 membership fee to subsidize costs.

Student hosts are required to attend four

meetings prior to Aggie Hostel, participate in committees to prepare for Aggie Hostel and attend activities during Aggie Hostel week. The week is filled with classes, field trips and special events where current students interact with former students.

A.P. Gandy, Class of '42 and an Aggie Hostel participant for nine years, said the classes are the best part of Aggie Hostel.

"The classes are the most informative because I can learn more about A&M than I would be able to do otherwise," he said.

Angela Winkler, graduate student and coordinator of campus programs for the Association of Former Students, said that Aggie Hostel is a good opportunity to build relationships.

"I think that the best part is the relationship that gets built between the participants and the hosts," she said.

Student host applications are available at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center, MSC Student Programs office and Student Activities office in Koldus. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, April 3. An interview list will be posted April 7. Interviews will be held April 8 to 9, 13 to 14 and 15 to 16. A list of 20 student hosts will be posted April 20.

For further information about Aggie Hostel visit the Web site at <http://aggienet.tamu.edu/aggiehostel>.

Professor says old I.Q. test should be tossed

By MARIUM MOHIUDDIN
Staff writer

A State University of New York professor Tuesday night dismissed a theory that relates intelligence to race and said the long-standing I.Q. test should be eliminated.

Mark Cohen, professor of anthropology at SUNY-Plattsburg, spoke at Rudder Auditorium about his recently published book, "Culture of Intolerance: Chauvinism, Class, and Racism in the United States."

Cohen wrote his book in response to "The Bell Curve" and other works which try to show genetic inferiority of certain groups compared to others in the United States.

"When the Bell Curve came out Newsweek and Time drooled all over it because the statistics looked impressive," Cohen said, "but there is not any difference in intelligence when it comes to race. There are 22,000 genes that differentiate people. Only six are related to color of a person's skin. This can not be considered a factor to explain a difference in I.Q."

Cohen said the I.Q. test is not an adequate test of the intelligence of people.

"We should get rid of it because it is only a representative of affirmative action for white males," Cohen said. "There is a 15-point average difference between white males and black males. If genes for color have nothing to do with intelligence than there has to be something that is causing the difference."

Cohen said the I.Q. test cannot be applied to everyone.

"Some say the I.Q. test is the single fair test to measure intelligence, but even some questions have been refuted because they only cater to white middle class males and do not take into consideration people coming from different communities," he said.

Dr. Katherine Dettwyler, assistant professor of anthropology at Texas A&M, said Cohen was invited to the University because he has a message that many people agree with but few have spoken about.

PLEASE SEE PROFESSOR ON PAGE 2.

Ambush leads to four deaths

JONESBORO, Ark. (AP) — Two boys in camouflage lay in wait in the woods behind their school, then opened fire with rifles on classmates and teachers when they came out during a false fire alarm Tuesday. Four girls were killed and 11 other people were wounded, including two teachers.

An 11-year-old and a 13-year-old boy were caught trying to run away shortly after the midday ambush at the Westside Middle School, police said. A third boy who allegedly pulled the fire alarm was being sought.

Authorities said as many as 27 shots were fired. Youngsters ran screaming back inside the school as their classmates fell bleeding, then cried as they waited for emergency workers.

"Someone pulled the fire alarm inside and they went outside, and two people in camouflage clothing started shooting," said Connie Tolbert, a secretary.

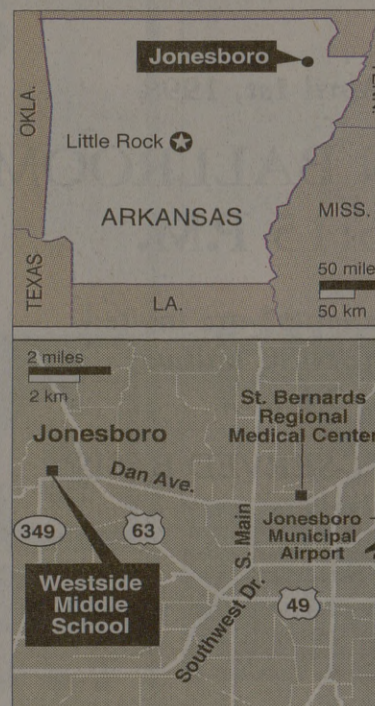
Said paramedic Charles Jones: "We had children lying everywhere. They had all been shot."

Sheriff Dale Haas cried as he recounted the shootings. Authorities identified the dead girls as Natalie Brooks, Paige Ann Herring, Stephanie Johnson, all 12, and Britthey R. Varner, who was 11.

The school has about 250 students in sixth and seventh grades. Jonesboro is a city of 46,000 about 130 miles northeast of Little Rock.

The boys, both students at the school, were being held at the county jail.

Investigators said the boys were running in the direction of a white van found about a half-mile away from the school.



A swinging good time



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION
Jeff Archer, a forestry science graduate student, takes advantage of the weather by sinking a putt on hole 3 at the A&M golf course.

Russia faces year 2000

With Yeltsin's term up in 2000, Russia awaits new president, uncertain future

MOSCOW (AP) — While Russia awaits a new government, the larger question looms of who will replace President Boris Yeltsin when his term ends in 2000.

The political turmoil created this week by Yeltsin's surprise government shakeup has spurred the speculation. At least five men appear likely contenders, but all have major weaknesses. Yeltsin, wary of becoming a lame duck, coyly declines to say whom he favors.

"As of today, nobody can play the role of official heir to the throne," said Boris Makarenko, a political analyst with the Center for Political Technologies.

It is widely expected that the "party of power" — a term encompassing Yeltsin, his allies, and the country's business elite — will settle on a single candidate and lavish him with campaign resources.

But if an election were held now, opinion polls indicate it would be a wide-open affair and the "party of power" candidate might not be the favorite. Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, ex-general Alexander Lebed and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, a Yeltsin ally, all could be in the race.

Yeltsin, 67, has made contradictory comments about his plans in 2000, but his age, his questionable health and the Russian constitution all appear to rule out a third

term. There has been speculation he might run again if the Constitutional Court rules that his first term, which began under the old Soviet constitution, does not count toward Russia's two-term limit.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's presidential hopes may have been dashed Monday when Yeltsin fired him along with the rest of the Cabinet.

"We can pronounce the once super-powerful premier politically dead," said Kommersant, the country's leading business daily, which is usually sympathetic to Chernomyrdin.

In a vague statement, Yeltsin told Chernomyrdin to begin making preparations for the 2000 election. But that didn't mean Chernomyrdin would be a candidate, and many analysts saw it as a gentle way for the president to say goodbye to the loyal premier.

Short on charisma, Chernomyrdin lags far behind the other potential candidates in opinion polls, and without the machinery of the government behind him, he'll have a tough time mounting a credible campaign.

Yeltsin is inclined to postpone naming a successor until the "last possible moment," said Makarenko, the analyst. "As soon as he appoints someone, his own sources of power will begin to wither."