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TOMORROW

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NEWS BRIEFS

Two Aggies in car accident, one dies

Manuel David Gonzales, a Texas A&M University student, died Tuesday night in Houston after being involved in a one-car accident.

Gonzales, 19, was a freshman biomedical science major from Houston.

Jeffrey Lee Nash, who was riding in the car with Gonzales, was treated for injuries and released from Grimes St. Joseph Health Center in Navasota.

Nash is a freshman microbiology major.

Halls of the Year announced by RHA

RHA members were awarded for outstanding participation in RHA for the 1997-98 year at the annual Hall of the Year Awards last week.

Mc Fadden received Hall of the Year for work done to promote programming in the halls. Lechner was named Co-ed Hall of the Year. Davis won Female Hall of the Year and Crocker earned Male Hall of the Year. Crocker took home five awards for the 1997-98 year.

Toan Duong, the incumbent president of Crocker Hall and a junior computer science major, was recognized as the Resident of the Year. Duong will serve as the Crocker Hall president and as the External Affairs director on the RHA board next year.

Duong said he is looking forward to improvements in RHA and specifically within Crocker Hall next year.

"Getting Male Hall of the Year is a great end to an entire year of hard work by the residents," Duong said. "I am really happy with the group of hall council members that we have elected for the next year. We are in a position to move ahead."

Journalism receives reaccreditation

Texas A&M's Department of Journalism was unanimously approved for reaccreditation recently by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

The department has been accredited nationally since 1956. "We believe accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication is concrete proof to our students, our peers and our university that Texas A&M offers a quality journalism program," said Charles C. Self, professor and head of the department.

Fewer than one-third of all journalism-mass communication programs in the United States are accredited. In Texas, only five of about 30 programs have been accredited.

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David Kersh to bring the sound of country to Brehm on the Wal-Mart music tour.

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online

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

Universities try to level admissions field

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

Following the lead of smaller private universities, public universities across the nation are using new recruiting tactics to keep top high school students from fleeing to other schools.

Randy Mills, senior associate director of admissions at the University of Kentucky, said admissions counselors at Kentucky are using a small-school mentality to recruit prospective students.

"We are trying to do things the way smaller schools have always done by mailing personal letters and

calling students who have been admitted," he said. "I came here from a private liberal arts school, and I brought a lot of that with me."

Mills said competition for top students has increased so it is essential for public schools to make recruiting more personal.

"Big universities used to say 'Hey you know where our admissions office is, so come get an application,'" he said. "Now we knock heads with top private schools, so we have to shower a lot more attention on students."

Ric Gonzalez, recruitment coordinator at Texas A&M University, said A&M recruiters have changed

their strategies in order to attract top Texas students.

"Students are getting smarter and wheel and deal more, causing us to do the same," he said. "Now we are doing what small, private universities have always done, by writing letters and making phone calls to students."

A&M students contact admitted students to congratulate them, answer any questions and encourage them to commit to A&M.

The University of Texas Office of Admissions has similar recruiting strategies and also calls admitted students through the program SHARE, Students Helping Recruit-

ing Efforts. Annie Holand, student government president and a junior psychology major, said 300 students volunteered this year for SHARE, with the goal of calling every high school senior who was accepted.

"This was the first year to do blanket phone calls, trying to talk to everyone who was accepted," she said. "A lot of campus groups have gotten lists and made phone calls too."

"The student volunteers just call and talk about U.T., and classes, majors, the campus environment and what there is to do. I think in addition to helping recruit stu-

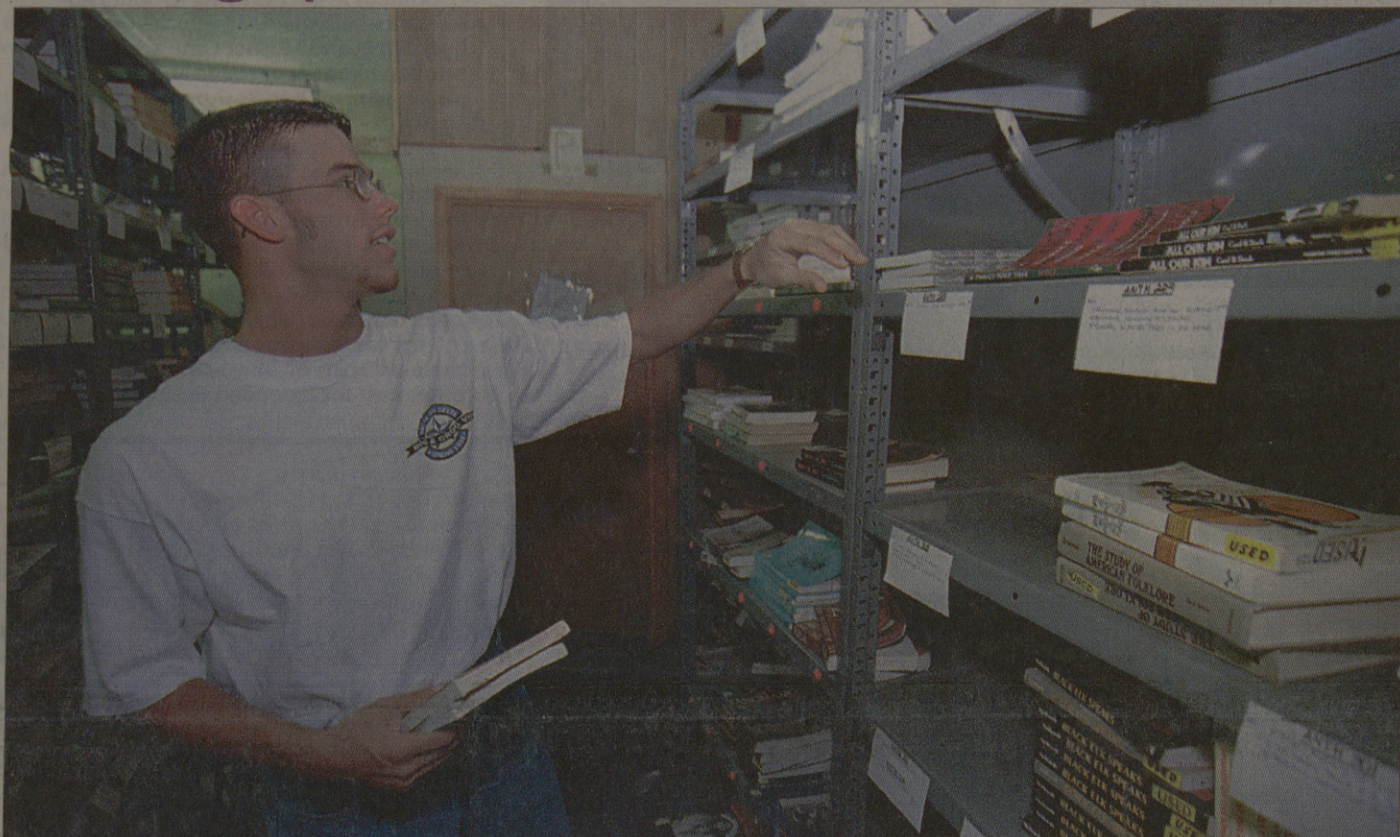
dents, SHARE has been beneficial to our campus as a whole in creating a sense of community."

Summer Calvin, a high school senior from McAllen, Texas, received her first call from a SHARE volunteer two weeks before her scholarship application was due in December.

"I have gotten many calls since then," she said. "I decided to visit after talking to a student about U.T. who convinced me to visit the campus. My decision was between U.T. and Stanford, and after visiting the campus and loving it, I chose U.T."

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Stacking Up



Jason Jones, a civil engineering major, restocks the shelves of a bookstore with used books Thursday.

ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

More road work on the way

By RACHEL DAWLEY
Staff writer

Construction has become a part of life for students at Texas A&M.

Although construction on Texas Avenue is entering its final month of activity, officials from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) said there are several other projects planned for the summer, including pavement repairs on several major roads and highways.

FM 2818 is currently undergoing pavement repair and getting a hot-mix overlay from FM 60 to just north of Texas 21. TxDOT officials said the work should be completed within a week.

TxDOT will build a center left-turn lane and apply a hot-mix overlay on Texas 6 from FM 2154 to just north of the Navasota River, with a completion date sometime this summer.

The Texas Avenue widening project, which began in February 1996, will be completed no later than May 31, said TxDOT spokesperson Paul Sturrock.

Construction on the \$5 million first phase project is complete. It expands Texas Avenue from four lanes to six lanes from University Drive to Dominik Drive. In addition, left-turn bays and a raised center median have been added. An 8-foot sound barrier now protects residential areas from Gilchrist Avenue to Kyle Avenue.

Most lane markings are complete in the area. Street lighting up and down the project length is almost finished and new sidewalks are complete, Sturrock said.

Sturrock said one of the biggest remaining tasks will be cleaning up the project areas. When TxDOT inspectors are satisfied with the work, traffic barriers will be removed and the project officially finished.

Phase two of the Texas Avenue widening project is scheduled to begin in 2001. Phase two, estimated to cost \$5.7 million, will create three-lane roadways from Dominik Drive south to FM 2818.

There are also several construction projects on the Texas A&M campus.

Joe Estill, manager of A&M's facilities construction division, said his office is working on the Cushing Library expansion project and parking garage and the Kyle Field expansion.

The library construction project began in April of 1996 and is scheduled for completion in June.

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KKK to make stop in College Station

By JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

Despite the success of the recent Whoopstock Unity Festival, which celebrated the diversity of people on the Texas A&M campus and in the community, the Ku Klux Klan Knights of the White Kamellia will rally in College Station on May 9 in celebration of their national holiday.

The Knights of the White Kamellia national headquarters in Vidor, Texas, is sponsoring the rally, which celebrates the founding of the Ku Klux Klan on May 6, 1866, and the founding of the Knights of the White Kamellia on May 22, 1867.

Rev. Darryl Flinn, imperial wizard of the Knights of the White Kamellia, said the rally is being held to discuss issues such as freedom of speech, race mixing and white rights.

"We're hoping to wake some people up,"

Flinn said. "We really need to have a rally in that area (Bryan-College Station)."

The Klan plans to meet at Bee Creek Park in College Station from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, he said.

Flinn said their organization has never been to College Station before and they are hoping to recruit many new members.

"Every city we have ever been to has accused us of picking on them," Flinn said. "We have not been invited to College Station, but we will exchange ideas on what we stand for and exercise free speech to reach people in a legal means."

Flinn said their organization stands up in all legal ways possible for white rights and white history, to legally regain the rights that they believe have been taken from the Aryan race.

"We have a legal means of doing these things," Flinn said.

Holly Doughty, public relations director

for Whoopstock and a senior agriculture development and entomology major, said Whoopstock was originally created five years ago when the KKK came to College Station to hold a rally. Instead of going to the rally and protesting, people decided to hold a festival to celebrate diversity.

"It was created so that people would not go to the rally and protest," Doughty said. "We do not want to bring any attention to the KKK."

Doughty said she thinks people will be less likely to protest because of the great success of Whoopstock this year.

"People are more accepting now because they see that there is diversity on the campus, and the majority of people went to Whoopstock to celebrate unity on campus," she said.

PLEASE SEE **KKK** ON PAGE 9

A&M to honor four alumni at graduation

By KATY LINEBERGER
Staff writer

Four Texas A&M former students will receive Distinguished Alumni Awards at commencement ceremonies next week. The awards, given annually by the Association of Former Students, recognize outstanding contributions to the honorees' professions and communities.

This year's recipients are W. Mike Baggett of Dallas, Robert E. Bolen of Fort Worth, Raymond E. Galvin of Houston and Ronald L. Skaggs of Dallas.

Randy Matson, executive director of the Association of Former Students, said the honorees were chosen from nominations by a committee of four faculty members and four former students.

"This is one of the greatest honors that a former student can receive," he said. "When you consider there are 200,000 former students and we choose four a year, this is a pretty ex-

clusive group. The recipients are all very distinguished."

Matson said it is fortunate that the awards, started in 1962, are presented at the commencement ceremonies.

"It's inspirational to seniors," he said. "They can say, 'Hey, I could do that someday.' It also brings recognition to the University for the accomplishments of its graduates."

Mary Jo Powell, associate director of University Relations, said the list of former honorees includes some impressive names.

"This year's recipients continue to reflect favorably upon Texas A&M's former students," she said. "They are outstanding individuals who have made real contributions."

Baggett, Class of '68, is chair, president and CEO of the law firm Winstead, Sechrest & Minick. He is chair of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association and a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

PLEASE SEE **ALUMNI** ON PAGE 9

Class of '98 to give A&M Silver Taps memorial, Mount Aggie

By KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

As members of the Class of '98 become the first class to graduate in the new Reed Arena next Friday and Saturday, they will also leave their mark on Texas A&M through the class gifts they have chosen.

Brandon Meche, a senior industrial distribution major, a senior yell leader and a class agent, said the gifts chosen include a memorial for the 100th anniversary of Silver Taps and endorsement of the new Mount Aggie effort.

"Silver Taps is a real treasured and respected tradition," Meche said. "This is our class' way of honoring the tradition and the University."

Laurie Nickel, 1998-99 student body president and a senior business analysis major, said she was impressed with the wide range of class gift options.

"I think we had some excellent choices," she said. "It's great money spent."

The six class gift options for the Class of '98 included, in addition to the two chosen, an Aggie Bonfire endowment, which took third place, a statue of Matthew Gaines, senator from Washington county who helped enable the founding of Texas A&M, an electronic mar-

quis outside the Memorial Student Center and a Class of '98 scholarship.

Alex Cabañas, senior finance major and a Class of '98 class agent, said the money left after the Silver Taps memorial will go toward the Mount Aggie effort.

"I think that Mount Aggie is neat because everyone is sad that it was torn down and now our class can be a part of the new one," he said.

Bradley Angell, Class of '98 gift chair and a senior agricultural development major, said the class raised its money from Elephant Walk and Ring Dance sales.

The estimated cost for the Silver Taps memorial is \$25,000. The memorial will consist of a floral arrangement in the academic plaza with a plaque explaining how 1998 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the ceremony. The project should be completed in about six months, Angell said.

Frank Thomas, physical education activity program chair, said the new Mount Aggie will be located at the southwest corner of the new varsity tennis court. Thomas said the bids went out May 3 and bid selection will be made May 21. The estimated cost is \$300,000, and the architect is Jim Holster and associates. Estimated completion date is September 1, depending on the weather, Thomas said.