

HIGH 94°
LOW 75°

HIGH 95°
LOW 75°

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Opinion:

When a woman says no, it does not leave room for negotiation — in crime, sales and the workplace.

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Celebrating freedom Juneteenth commemorates slavery's end

By SHATERA KENNEDY
Staff Writer

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the emancipation of Texas slaves. More than just barbecues and parades, it is a time for all African-Americans to celebrate freedom. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation became official on January 1, 1863. However, the statement had no impact on Texas slaves because there were no Union troops to inform Texas slave owners.

It wasn't until two-and-a-half years later on June 19, 1865, that Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger and his troops landed in Galveston with news that all slaves were free.

Many stories were told to explain the delay of the news about slavery abolishment in Texas, including one of a messenger being murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom and another rumor that the news was withheld until after the cotton harvest.

Whatever the reason for the delay, Granger's first order of business was to read to the people of Texas Lincoln's General Order Number 3, which announced that through executive order all slaves were free. It also said any further connections between former masters and slaves were to be on an employer and free laborer basis.

After this news, a mass celebration began in Galveston and spread throughout Texas.

Dr. Robert A. Calvert, a professor of history at A&M, said politicians used the holiday to inform African-Americans of the privileges of their newfound freedom.

"During Reconstruction," Calvert said, "many black Republican politicians used the picnics and other gatherings to inform the newly-freed slaves of the political issues at hand and encourage them to vote."

Juneteenth continued to be an unofficial holiday after Reconstruction but it began to fade during the Civil Rights Movement. Many African-Americans did not want a holiday that recognized slavery or its end, citing they should not have been enslaved from the beginning.

Now Juneteenth has a different meaning for many African-Americans. While it still commemorates the end of slavery, it also has become a time to reflect on the accomplishments and impacts African-Americans have made on society.

Juneteenth became an official holiday in 1980. Although it is not a multicultural holiday, it is slowly beginning to incorporate other races through parades and other programs that explain and invite others to join in on this African-American Independence Day.

JUSTICE
UNITY
NATIONAL UNITY
EDUCATORS
TEACHING
ENTERTAINERS
EMPOWERMENT
N.A.J.L.
TRUTH
HEALING

The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer.

Events begin at noon Friday

By SHATERA KENNEDY
Staff Writer

The Black Awareness Committee, the Department of Multicultural Services and the National Pan-Hellenic Council are joining together to present the Commemoration of Black Freedom program in recognition of Juneteenth this Friday starting at 12:30 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom.

Spectators can join in the singing of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and other performances that pay tribute to the African-American Independence Day.

Songs, prose and historical notes will be included in the program as well as a time for reflection and personal accounts of Juneteenth's meaning.

MSC Program Adviser, Stephenie Rhodes, said the program provides a time for African-American students on campus to communicate their shared past with other students.

"Awareness, a time to reflect and rejoice and a time to look from whence we've come is the whole purpose of the program," Rhodes said.

She said the program will be held in the Flagroom because it is the optimal location for full involvement and participation.

Rhodes said passersby are more likely to stop and listen to the program if they see the crowd and the different performances.

By using this location the coordinators said they hope they can both teach and celebrate.

Rhodes said she continues to work with the Black Awareness Committee and the Juneteenth program because awareness is essential.

"It is a matter of uplifting African-Americans," Rhodes said, "while enriching the minds of all."

B-CS named one of Texas' least expensive communities

By AMBER BENSON
City Editor

The American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association has ranked Bryan-College Station the state's second least expensive community of the 29 cities surveyed in Texas.

The cost-of-living index ranks Bryan-College Station as the fifth least expensive U.S. community of 329 cities surveyed nationwide.

Using 100 percent as the average cost of living index for the 329 surveyed cities, Bryan-College Station was 87 percent, 13 percent below the national average.

The cost-of-living index is based on a "market basket" of goods and services available in the city.

Most of the consumer areas surveyed included grocery items, housing, utilities, transportation, health care and other specific goods like pizzas, haircuts,

dry-cleaning and movies.

A low cost-of-living plays a crucial part in recruiting businesses to relocate and expand in Bryan-College Station, Frank Murphy, an economic developer with Bryan-College Station Economic Development Corporation, said.

"We have been overwhelmed by new businesses moving into the area. Businesses consider cost of living as part of the overall quality of life in a community," Murphy said. "It's reassuring to know that you live in a town with a low-cost of living. You know that your getting more for your money."

Andy Luccasen, a graduate student in economics and undergraduate adviser for the department, said that students reap the benefits of living in a city with a low cost-of-living.

"For people living on fixed incomes, a low cost-of-living means you can stretch your dollar more," Luccasen said.

Bryan-College Station Cost of Living Comparisons

State	Nation
Paris.....86.8	Bryan-College Station, TX.....87.0
Bryan-College Station.....87.0	Atlanta, GA.....101.7
San Antonio.....89.9	Denver, CO.....106.5
Lubbock.....92.2	Los Angeles, CA.....117.6
Houston.....95.1	Washington, DC.....122.6
Austin.....96.6	Boston, MA.....134.5
Dallas.....98.3	New York City, NY.....226.2

(Composite Index - 100%)
Based on First Quarter 1998 issue of the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association Cost of Living Index

Bubble trouble



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Three-year-old Heather Mills pops bubbles at a local daycare Wednesday morning. The kids at the daycare have an outside fun day once a week.

Incoming class 51% larger than last year's

By SARAH GOLDSTON
Staff writer

Texas A&M University is anticipating 7,200 freshmen in the fall of 1998, a 51 percent increase over last year, Dr. Ronald Douglas, executive vice president and provost, said.

He said two-thirds of students that were offered admission to A&M chose to accept.

"As a result of the law stating that the top 10 percent of high-school graduates are accepted, we were able to send out acceptance letters earlier," he said. "It has been shown that if students are given acceptance information earlier, there is a likelihood that acceptance numbers go up."

Douglas said A&M anticipated more acceptances for the 1998 school year, and in the spring, officials initiated more summer-school sections.

"We began planning for space in February by including more summer-school sessions," Douglas said. "We have told freshmen that if they are interested, they have the option of starting school early by attending summer school in July."

Due to the large number of acceptances, Douglas said A&M is not able to accept any students from the waiting list to attend classes at the main campus.

Students on the waiting list are being offered admission to Texas A&M at Galveston. Students who qualify also are being offered guaranteed transfer after one year of maintaining a certain grade point ratio at another institution.

Mack Thomas, assistant director for residence life, said there are 265 vacancies for the second summer-school session, but that figure changes every day.

Once the remaining vacancies

at residence halls are filled and if more housing applications are received, Thomas said the housing department would consult maintenance lists to see which halls can be opened to accommodate students.

Freshmen starting school early by attending the summer session beginning in July will not be able to move into the campus housing they have been assigned to for the fall.

"There are no staff in those buildings, and maintenance is still working on projects in the dorms," Thomas said.

Sherry Scott, accounting assistant for the residence life, said freshmen wanting to live on campus for the second summer session need to go by the housing office in room 101 of the YMCA building and fill out an application or request a summer housing application by mail.

Student Affairs' programs endure overload

By SARAH GOLDSTON
Staff Writer

The Department of Student Affairs is anticipating a strain on some of its programs due to the large incoming freshman class.

Dr. Wade Birch, director of Student Counseling Services, said he anticipates a waiting list for students seeking personal counseling.

"Every student has an initial interview to determine the seriousness of their problem," Birch said.

"The students with more serious problems are seen first, and the other students are put on a wait list. We try to see students as rapidly as possible."

He said the counseling center is expecting more emergencies concerning depression, suicide and other emotional problems, particularly at night and on the

weekends.

Birch said more freshmen may take advantage of a learning skills certificate program, a 15-hour program designed to acclimate students to the college learning environment.

"We generally see an even balance of freshmen through graduate students taking advantage of all our programs," said Birch, "but we anticipate seeing more freshmen using our grade distribution statistics to plan out their second semester classes."

He said the counseling center plans on more freshmen needing help with homesickness, adjustment problems and choosing majors.

The counseling center has a full-time psychiatrist on staff to assist students with problems, Birch said.

Dr. Lucille Isdale, director of Student Health Services, said she does not anticipate an over-

crowded facility in the fall.

"We encourage students to call and make an appointment," she said. "That way they don't have to wait to see someone. Students should know that prescription medicines are the cost of the medicine plus three dollars. However, it is no charge to see a doctor."

Students pay a mandatory health facility fee, she said. Isdale said the health center will be staffed by at least 10 physicians at a time.

Dr. Jan Winniford, assistant vice president for Student Affairs, said directors of each department under Student Affairs are adjusting to meet the needs of the incoming freshman class.

"Department by department, directors are working to accommodate the bigger crowds," she said. "Everyone is shifting resources to meet the demands of the students."