

HIGH 96°
LOW 76°

HIGH 101°
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Aggiefife:
Students utilize non-conventional resources to locate housing.

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Silver anniversary

Mexican American culture committee members reflect on 25 years of ethnic awareness

BY CHRIS MARTIN
Aggiefife Editor

Twenty-five years ago a group of 15 concerned students came together to form the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Culture (CAMAC), an organization dedicated to the needs and concerns of Hispanic students. The group set forth to create an environment of awareness and appreciation for Mexican-American culture on campus, benefiting the lives of present members who were not yet born.

Saturday reunited past and present members of CAMAC in celebration of the organization's silver anniversary.

Angie Castro, CAMAC faculty advisor, said this year's former-student reception is being held in special preparation for 1999, the 25th anniversary of CAMAC.

"Today we want to renew relationships with our former students and bring them up to date with what's been going on in CAMAC," Castro said.

Castro said the organization is built on a network of support and encouragement through the interpersonal relationships of its members.

"We are a support net for Mexican-American students, but we are an open committee for anyone interested," Castro said. "We host cultural events to celebrate our heritage, we encourage our members

to take leadership positions, as well as be role models for younger students to help them adjust to life here."

Saturday's reunion was a way for present CAMAC members to show their appreciation for the legacy and assistance of CAMAC's founders.

"Everyone struggles with the college transition," Castro said. "A lot of us went from predominately Mexican-American high schools to being a minority on this campus, so that adds to the struggle. [CAMAC] helps get them through that, and achieve not only academic but social success. Some students even get a stronger appreciation of their culture than they've ever had from the cultural events we host."

Castro said she is very proud of the accomplishments CAMAC has made over the past 25 years.

"Next year will be our 12th annual Southwest Student Conference on Latin Affairs, which has grown from a one-day lecture to a full two-day regional convention," Castro said. "What has been consistent with CAMAC throughout the years is support, helping our members build a social network to help them adjust to being a minority on campus."

D.J. Flores, CAMAC's conference director and a senior accounting major, said that although the times have changed since the founding of CAMAC, many of the issues minority groups face are the same.

"Today is about pride and a celebration of accomplishment," Flores said. "The former students laid the foundations for what we are still building on today. They faced some of the same issues we are still dealing with. They got the ball rolling."

"We let them [Hispanic students] know there is a Hispanic presence on campus. ... [We] get them interested in Texas A&M, so we do our part for the University."

— D.J. Flores
CAMAC conference director and senior accounting major

Flores said he is proud of the work CAMAC does to help Hispanic students feel at home at the University.

"We let them know that there is a Hispanic presence on campus," Flores said.

"We get students in here with the conference and get them interested in Texas A&M, so we do our part for the University. I hope to see the conference expanding and growing when I come back to this reunion."

Flores said creating relationships with former students is an invaluable tool for students in school and for when they graduate.

"We want input from our alumni on what we need to do — they've been here before, so it's good to find out how they addressed certain issues or raised money," Flores said. "We're trying to build an alumni database. It's good to keep in contact with people who have some kind of pull when you leave school. It's the same sense of pride that we have as Aggies."

Olivia Cortez, CAMAC chair and a junior psychology major, said the reunion gives former CAMAC members an opportunity to come back and catch up with their old friends.

"The ones who were with CAMAC at the beginning haven't seen how things have progressed, so this is a chance for them to see how we've changed and expanded," Cortez said. "They get to see the effects of what they started."

Delinda Chapa, class of '92 and '92 CAMAC chair, said she was interested in knowing how the school's Hispanic organizations have changed since her graduation.

"Now there are more specialized Hispanic organizations, such as jour-

nalism and engineering, not just generalized," Chapa said. "I hope CAMAC is the center, with other organizations branching out."

Chapa said being a minority on campus never has been easy, but organizations such as CAMAC make the college transition smoother.

"I don't know if it would be harder or easier to be a minority student now, but the culture shock is the same," Chapa said. "I'm glad [with CAMAC] I had a place to go."

Chapa said her time at A&M revolved around CAMAC.

"It's where I found roommates, usually hanging around at the Student Programs Office," Chapa said. "The upper-classmen always took care of us, taking us to eat. If I didn't have it, I don't know what I would have done."

Georgette Lodez-Aguado, class of '92 and '91 CAMAC chair, agreed with Chapa.

"It was our total support system when we were freshmen, and all I knew was CAMAC," Lodez-Aguado said. "It was everything to me. All my study buddies came from CAMAC; it's who we all went out with. It was a real feeling of family."

Chapa said she hopes all the present students give back to the organization and their community the way CAMAC gave to them.

SEE CAMAC ON PAGE 2.

Tag, you're it



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Chris Dieckert, a 14-year-old resident of College Station, stands ready for action during a game of laser tag Sunday.

Coordinating Board considers A&M, South Texas affiliation

HOUSTON (AP) — State education officials this week may try to quash Texas A&M University's alliance with a private Houston law school. The dispute could wind up in the state Legislature.

The two schools show every indication of fighting to the finish, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

The South Texas College of Law hired lobbyist Al Luna to press its case with the Legislature, and he already has visited some lawmakers in recent weeks.

Officials of both A&M and South Texas also plan to carry out many terms of their affiliation — with or without approval of state higher-education regulators.

"We don't have anything to lose," law school dean Tom Read said. "We have not yet developed a legislative strategy, but we have to look out for ourselves. If that means that we ought to get some legislation sponsored to protect the affiliation, we might do that."

This week, the Coordinating Board is scheduled to consider A&M's request to add legal studies to its curriculum. But some board members already have indicated their opposition. And A&M officials say the Coordinating Board is likely to reject the request. If so, A&M officials plan to petition the board again next year.

"We're not going to fold our tent," A&M President Ray Bowen told the *Houston Chronicle*.

"This is still on our agenda long-term. The Coordinating Board will eventually

do the right thing."

The squabble stems from an agreement signed by A&M and law school officials early this year. The affiliation gave A&M a long-desired law school without buying one. It left the law school private and in downtown Houston while giving it national recognition with the A&M name.

Founded 75 years ago as part of a network of YMCA law schools, South Texas now enrolls about 1,200 students and charges \$14,700 a year in tuition. It gains national honors in moot court contests. For years, A&M has been one of its top feeder schools.

A&M officials have tried to add a law school for years, contending that every top-flight university has one. But it never secured public funding in a state that already has four public and five private law schools, including South Texas.

Twice since the late 1960s, A&M officials have asked the Coordinating Board to approve a South Texas merger and been thwarted because of worries about shrinking state appropriations.

The current affiliation was signed and announced in January, prompting an immediate protest from the University of Houston, which has a law school a few miles from South Texas.

South Texas has backed down slightly from its earlier proclamations of being the "Texas A&M Law Center." Its sign now reads, "South Texas College of Law affiliated with Texas A&M University."

Brazos Valley citizens given chance to voice opinions online

BY JAMES FRANCIS
Editor in Chief

Members of the Brazos Valley now have a chance to voice their opinions, questions and concerns through a new online service aimed at creating a discussion forum for the betterment of communities and individuals.

Officer Jerry Moore, a crime prevention officer for the Bryan Police Department, is the list owner and online developer of Brazos-L.

Moore said the online forum came from the desire to see members of different communities unite and share thoughts on important issues.

"I hope for good community dialog on issues, current problems and incoming problems," he said.

What started out as an idea targeted for the Bryan community has turned into a multiple-community arena for networking.

In his specified area of law enforcement, Moore said it was important to include all members of the Brazos Valley and not just single out the city of Bryan because "you may want the whole community to know something about crime prevention."

Brazos-L (which operates from list server software)

BRAZOS-L

- To subscribe to Brazos-L, send an email to listserv@listserv.tamu.edu and in the body of the message type SUBSCRIBE BRAZOS-L. First name, Last name. The listserver will send a subscriber a response in which he or she replies by adding "OK" at the bottom of the response.
- To post to Brazos-L, send an email to brazos-l@listserv.tamu.edu and the email message will be distributed to the Brazos-L membership.
- To unsubscribe from Brazos-L, send an email to listserv@listserv.tamu.edu and in the body of the message type UNSUB BRAZOS-L.

works when a subscriber posts a message to the membership list. The message then is sent to the listserver, which delivers the e-mail to all subscribers of the list. From this, parties can check their e-mail and respond to the topic(s) of interest.

The Brazos-L Web site has been up and running for two weeks, and officers of the College Station Police Department and Texas A&M University al-

ready have joined the membership list in order to provide crime prevention information to their respective jurisdictions.

Although the forum is open to any topic that impacts the lives of Brazos Valley community members, a press release for Brazos-L details certain rules and regulations that apply to using the Web site correctly:

(1) Subscribers are limited to two posts a day, in an

attempt to manage the volume of e-mail and to ensure no one person monopolizes the list.

(2) Public announcements such as job openings, benefit garage sales, carnivals and new businesses will be limited to once every two weeks per subscriber or organization.

(3) Political announcements, such as those for individuals running for public offices, will be limited to once every two weeks per subscriber or organization. These announcements must be positive, outlining the qualifications of the individual running for office, not commenting on the faults of a competitor.

The Web site also gives explanations as to what are considered unacceptable acts on Brazos-L, such as the use of profanity, posting commercial advertisements and sending attached files to the membership list that may carry viruses or cause other such computer problems.

In this day and age, the use of computers for online discussions is ever-growing, but Moore said having the forum online only broadens the audience it intends to reach.

"It's something we're going to see a lot of in the future," he said.

SEE BRAZOS-L ON PAGE 2.