

HIGH 96°
LOW 75°

HIGH 95°
LOW 75°

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

WEDNESDAY • AUGUST 5 • 1998

Aggielife:

Floral-design judges create arrangements based on Stark Gallery exhibitions.

Nightwatch

B-CS residents participate in safeguarding neighborhoods

BY ROD MACHEN
AND
JAKE SCHRICKLING
Staff Writers

Residents of Bryan and College Station took part in the 15th Annual National Night Out, a nationally held crime and drug prevention event.

Events were held all over the Brazos Valley as citizens had the opportunity to interact with their neighbors and police in a friendly setting. Last year, Bryan alone had 22 block parties to celebrate the event.

Johnny Herrera, organizer of the Westwood Estates Annual Night Out, thinks the event can help neighborhood watches.

"I hope to get more awareness of crime prevention in the neighborhood, everybody looking out for everybody else," he said.

Duane Hill, a school resource officer in the Bryan Police Department,

was impressed with the Night Out block party he attended.

"This is one of the best I've ever seen," he said. "I think there's a few less than last year, but they are a lot better organized."

Hill believes the real benefit of the event is the interaction between neighbors.

"It gets the neighbors together," he said. "It allows the neighbors to get to know each other."

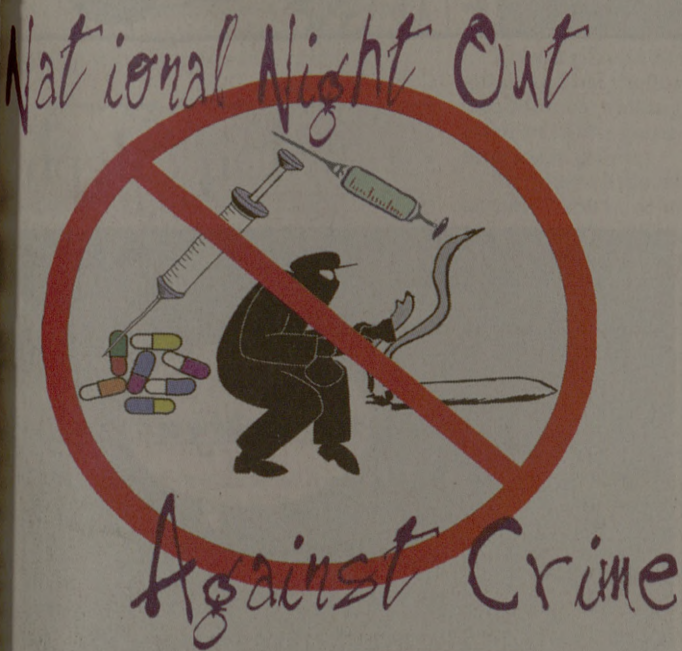
Doug Thompson, Class of '96, was a first time participant of the Night Out.

"I think it's great," he said. "Meeting neighbors is great. I've met 10 times the amount of neighbors tonight than [I have] living here for two months."

Annette Brittain, a resident of Bryan, is a big fan of the event.

"I think it's wonderful," she said. "It's a good idea to bond people so we know who lives where."

SEE NIGHT OUT ON PAGE 6.



GRAPHIC BY QUATRO OAKLEY / THE BATTALION

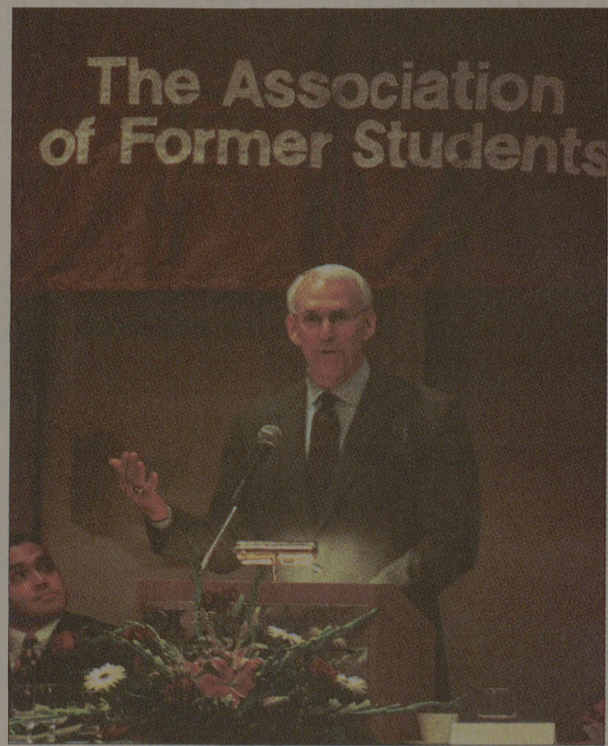


PHOTO BY GREG MCREYNOLDS / THE BATTALION

A&M Football Coach R.C. Slocum addresses the Brazos County A&M Club at Coach's Night at the Hilton Monday night. Slocum spoke of the changes the A&M Football team will endure during the upcoming season.

Changes ahead for A&M football, Coach Slocum says

BY ROBERT HOLLIER
Staff Writer

Texas A&M football coach R.C. Slocum summed up in one sentence what will be different about next year's team to a packed room at the Brazos County A&M Club Coach's Night.

"We're going to throw the ball deep," he said.

With practice starting in less than 24 hours, he and the rest of the staff have a lot of work to do to get ready.

Slocum said Monday night at the Hilton.

"Starting tomorrow (Tuesday), we'll be doing our talking on the field," he said. "We have our freshmen coming in, and they'll be here for about two or three days before we send them off to Fish Camp."

"The Varsity is coming in on Friday, but we can't start practice with them until Monday. The freshmen will miss a few workouts, but I really think this (Fish Camp) is a long-term investment in their futures in understanding the uniqueness of Texas A&M and all of our traditions and what

we're all about."

Slocum recognized his assistants for all the time, effort and sacrifices they made during the off-season to prepare for the upcoming practices. He thanked their wives for their support, as well.

The Aggies' first game is the Kickoff Classic against Florida State on Aug. 31 in The Meadowlands, N.J. Slocum said the Aggies only have four weeks to prepare for the game.

"That is close," Slocum said. "I think this game is a big positive for us. It provides some focus for our team coming in."

"We know we've got to go to work the absolute first day and not miss a beat because we've got a great challenge

ahead of us in our opening game against the Seminoles."

After a season that saw the Aggies finish 9-4, a Big 12 South title and a trip to the Cotton Bowl, Slocum said there would not be any great changes in the offense, but there would be some new formations and some new wrinkles.

SEE SLOCUM ON PAGE 2.

Ticketmaster



GREG MCREYNOLDS / THE BATTALION

Caroline Lyons, a Parking, Traffic and Transit Services officer, gives a ticket in front of the Student Recreation Center Tuesday.

NEWS BRIEFS

Students take on real-world problems

Aggies are ready to help solve the problems of the real world.

Eighty students of junior standing at Texas A&M University will work this fall on solving management and policy-related problems for various non-profit and public agencies in Texas and the United States.

As part of the Eisenhower Leadership Development Program in the Center for Public Leadership Studies in the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at A&M, students from agriculture, business, engineering and liberal arts will conduct research and develop problem-solving strategies for "real clients."

At the end of the semester, students will present their findings to their clients.

"The semester-long course is a very intellectually challenging and work intensive experience," Arnold Vedlitz, director of CPLS and an A&M political science professor, said.

Director of Student Activities' search continues

■ The fourth of six candidates was addressed by A&M students and staff in an open forum Tuesday afternoon at Rudder.

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN
Staff Writer

There was standing room only as Dr. Ben D. Welch addressed students and staff during an open forum Tuesday.

Welch is one of six candidates for the Director of Student Activities. He is currently the Director of the College of Business Honors and Fellows Program and a senior lecturer for the Department of Management.

Though an outsider to the division of student activities, he has had over 13 years of related experience in the field of higher education and has been a Texas A&M student, staff member and adviser.

"I thank the Lord every day for my job at this University," he said. "A&M is where my heart lies."

Welch said he approaches everything with a collaborative spirit.

"We all should share the same goal which is the edu-

cation process," he said. "The student is most important."

His philosophy for student relations is similar to that of a Mary Kay representative, he said.

"I see a label on a person's head that reads, 'make me feel special,' and when they leave my office, they will have been treated with dignity," he said.

Welch said he uses similar tactics in staff relations.

"I motivate my staff through positive reinforcement," he said. "I want them to feel appreciated, which will, in turn, lend to a healthy working environment."

If selected, Welch said his first goal is to schedule appointments with every staff member to gauge the division's strengths and weaknesses.

"I want to know where the staff is and what excites them about their jobs," he said. "Communication is the key during the first six months."

He also plans to continue teaching an introductory business class if chosen.

"We are here to educate the whole person," he said.

"I still want to be there for students in an academic setting."

Welch has given over 200 presentations to various campus groups.

He also has been honored as a namesake for a T-Camp and a Fish Camp and has been campfire speaker at various Fish Camps.

Welch said his most valued experience came when he was presented an Aggie Ring by the students he advised in Squadron 17 of the Corps of Cadets.

"My great strength is working with students," he said.

Welch also is an adviser for Aggie Men's Club and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Association



PHOTO BY RYAN ROGERS / THE BATTALION

Dr. Ben D. Welch, Director of the College of Business Honors and Fellows Program, answers questions at an open forum Tuesday.

of Former Students Award for Student Relations which recognizes superior student relations.

"The students are my heartbeat," he said, "the reason for my joy."