

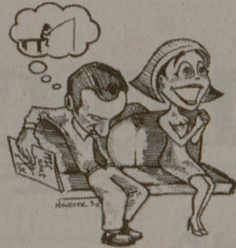
L-AMERICAN RL

olleyball's Stacy Sykora for a 'killer' season. SPORTS, PAGE 11



A TASTE OF CULTURE

OPAS offers more artistic type of entertainment. OPINION, PAGE 15



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THURSDAY

September 3, 1998



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Evans Library receives rare book collection

BY AARON MEIER The Battalion

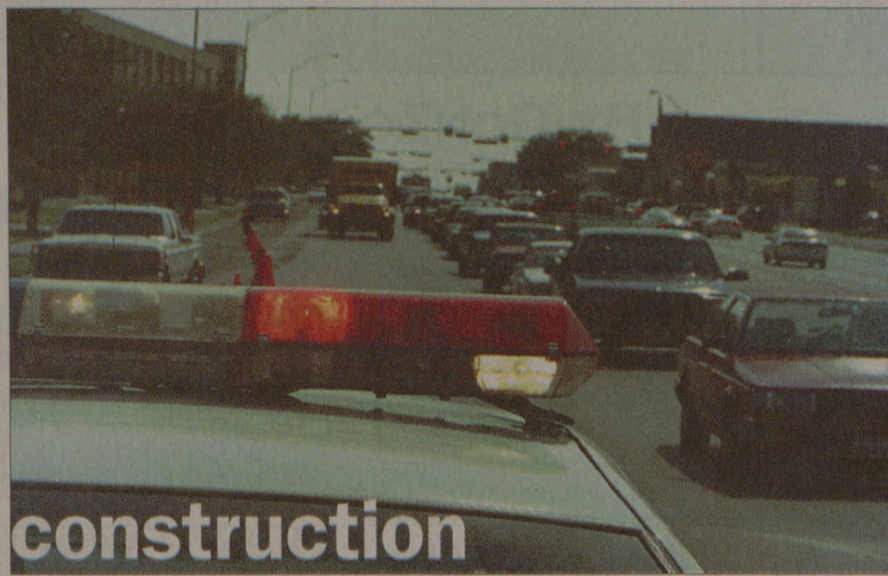
Charles C. Evans Library will officially acquire a rare 100 volume collection of Slavic literature today. Charlene Clark, public relations officer for Evans Library, said the acquisition of the George Sabo Slavonic Book Collection is historic for Evans Library. This is probably one of the largest gifts of books the library has received," Clark said. The collection contains works of Russian, Polish and Czech origin. Chester Dunning, a professor of Russian history, played a role in the acquisition of the Sabo collection, and said it contains works of historical as well as literary value. The collection should include typically things like encyclopedias, historical works, monographs, critical editions, codes, works of fiction by famous authors whose works are then subject to many works of criticism," Dunning said. "But we don't even know the exact contents of the collection." The collection was bequeathed to the University by the George Sabo estate and George Sabo's heirs, Ralph Corcoran, and Irene Corcoran, Sabo's daughter. A nationwide search was conducted before A&M selected as the site to house the books. Dunning said A&M beat out the University of Virginia, Notre Dame and the University of North Carolina at Durham for the Sabo collection. One of the reasons the collection was selected to be here was we have so many excellent Slavic scholars here," Dunning said. Carolyn Smith, the head of the gift department of Evans Library, will be heading up the unloading of the collection this morning. Dunning said the works in the collection focus primarily on Russian history and literature between the 18th and 19th centuries. The Sabo Collection is part of an initiative by Evans Library to build up the collection of Slavic and Latin American research materials. Dunning said Fred Heath, dean of the general library at Texas A&M, will hire an additional two assistants to help catalog the extensive collection. I have requested that once the library has received them (books) that they be placed on display so Slavic scholars can walk through the collection and tag the works they are of more value," Dunning said. Dunning said the earliest he expects the collection to be made available is next spring.

This is probably one of the largest gifts of books the library has ever received.

— Charlene Clark Public relations officer for University Relations

Repairs on University Drive warrant police monitoring for motorists' safety.

Road work on University Drive causes traffic back-up Wednesday afternoon. Police were on hand to ensure motorists and pedestrians were safe.



JAKE SCHRIKLING/THE BATTALION

Under construction

BY JOE SCHUMACHER The Battalion

University Drive from Wellborn Road to Texas Avenue is currently undergoing heavy construction. A seal coat and a hot-mix overlay are being applied to the road. Plans are for the project to be completed by mid to late September. Catherine Hejl, assistant area engineer of Brazos County, said the seal coat will take five to six working days to complete and the hot-mix will take another five to six working days. Traffic heading east is heavily

congested from Wellborn to Bizzell. College Station Police officers were directing traffic at every intersection from Texas Avenue to Old College Road. Traffic is narrowed down to one lane in either direction during construction hours. Hejl said the project was slated to be completed in August. However, there were several delays in construction. The primary contractor, Jones G. Einke, Inc. of Sealy, sub-contracted the repairs on University Drive repairs to a smaller company. However, upon viewing the condition of

University Drive, the company backed out of the contract. The contractors have requested police assistance to ensure the safety of motorists and students. Lt. Mike Mathews of the College Station Police Department said there will be officers on University Drive during construction. He also advises motorists to use alternate routes if possible. Otherwise, motorists should plan accordingly for delays. A press release from the Texas Department of Transportation said most work on University Drive will begin at 7 a.m.

Meteorology sees jump in fall student enrollment

BY PATRICK PEABODY The Battalion

There has been an increase in the amount of meteorology majors this fall. The meteorology department enrolled twice as many students this fall than they were expecting. There were 70 new enrollments which is twice the number that the department usually gets. James McGuirk, assistant head of meteorology, said the department expected a large number of incoming freshmen, but they had not expected as many transfer students. "We had 45 freshmen enroll, which is 15 more than we usually get," he said. "We received about 10 more transfer students than usual, and most of them transferred in August, which we were not expecting." McGuirk also said the meteorology department is a little understaffed but is adjusting to handle it.

"We were going to offer a Meteorology 151 class," McGuirk said, "for anyone in the University that wanted to take it, but we've had to cancel that and add two more sections for our undergraduates. Also, we had to add a new [Meteorology] 201 introduction class, to get all of the students in." Meteorology 151 will be opened to everyone in the spring. The meteorology department does not expect the enrollment rates to keep increasing, but they do not expect them to decrease. Also, like so many other things, the increased enrollment can be blamed on El Niño. "There are three things that we believe caused this increase," McGuirk said. "El Niño has brought attention to the profession, as have movies like Twister, and increasing awareness of global warming."



SEE ENROLLMENT ON PAGE 6.

Fish Pond crossover now closed to thru traffic

BY LESLIE STEBBINS The Battalion

No longer will students or buses be able to cut through Fish Pond on their way through campus. The driving path was closed in August for safety reasons. Prior to 1984 the path was closed off to drivers, but with the installation of the bus system it was opened to buses only, said Douglas Williams,

associate director for the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services. Over the years it has become increasingly difficult to limit the traffic flow to buses only, and now PTTs has closed the path off. "Bollards (concrete barriers) have been ordered and will be installed to make sure no automobiles are able to drive through," said Williams. Gary Jackson, bus operations manager, said the buses will still run as scheduled and pick up on both sides of Fish Pond. The Rudder and Traditions routes will run approximately five minutes longer, while Howdy and Gig 'em will not be affected by the change. There will be bus operations employees at the stops to assist students. "We have instructors and senior bus drivers to help students get on the right bus," Jackson said. Some students are upset that they can no longer cut across campus through Fish Pond. "It is frustrating because there is no way to get from one side of the campus to the other without going out on the busy main roads," said Craig Funk, a sophomore business major. Traffic has become a problem around Fish Pond, and PTTs and bus operations were afraid someone was going to get hurt. "We have been very lucky no one has gotten hurt," Jackson said. "There were too many cars other than buses and University vehicles driving through for it to remain safe for the pedestrians." Williams adds that they have plans to build bus shelters similar to those on West

Passing the buck

University expands Aggie Bucks program include more businesses.

BY AMY CURTIS The Battalion

Aggie Bucks are now widely accepted out of campus, and more businesses are planning to accept them in the near future.

To allow more businesses to accept Aggie Bucks on and off campus, Texas A&M has entered into contracts with West Bank, Aggieland Union and MBNA Bank. Even Pace, the Aggie administrator, said Texas A&M had total control over Aggie Bucks, on-campus merchants and merchants returning to the campus could not.

1996 they took note that businesses were interested in using Aggie Bucks and what other financial services they could offer students through Aggie Bucks. Pace said students can now use Aggie Bucks in more places off campus and the number is growing. Freebirds, Applebee's, Honeybee Farms and Copy Corner all now accept Aggie Bucks. Charles Hood, the manager of Freebirds on Texas Avenue, said they started accepting Aggie Bucks only a few weeks ago, and already the majority of the students that come in are using them. Aggie Bucks are now used by students that come to Freebirds more than checks and credit cards combined. Hood said Freebirds decided to start accepting Aggie Bucks for customer convenience. "It is a positive thing. It's about the convenience for our customers," Hood said.

All University Night A&M athletes, leaders enjoy festivities, band performance

BY MEGAN WRIGHT The Battalion

All University Night, held last night at 7:30 at Kyle Field, kicked off the 1998 fall semester with approximately 10,000 people in attendance. The introduction of freshmen to Aggie spirit, tradition, student leaders, and fall sports teams was hosted by head Yell Leader Brandon Neff. Among those to welcome the Class of 2002 was Student Body President Laurie Nickel. "It is so wonderful to finally have freshmen on campus again," Nickel said. "I know that you've probably heard it 100 times that you are a large class. I hope you never feel like a number. You are not a number, you are an Aggie." Other speakers included Dr. Ray Bowen, president of Texas A&M University; Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs; Lynn Hickey, senior associate athletic director and Head Football Coach R.C. Slocum. Two additional guest speakers included football team members Dat Nguyen and Chad Frantzen. The Aggie Band performed for the first time on Kyle Field during the night's festivities, performing the same drill performed during Monday night's Kickoff Classic in New Jersey against Florida State. Neff said he felt the night was a success in bringing together different parts of the university. "It made you proud to be an Aggie," Neff said. "You saw everybody working together, doing the yells. You saw all these people, from different factions of campus from dorms to the Corps to sororities, come out and support one thing, and that is Texas A&M." Josh Pinter, a senior industrial distribution major and member of the Corps of Cadets, said All-U Night was successful for the freshmen in his outfit. "It is all about giving the freshmen class a sense of unity and a place at A&M," Pinter said. All-U Night also brought to light a



JAKE SCHRIKLING/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Marching Band's Bugle Rank stands at attention during the opening of yell practice.



JAKE SCHRIKLING/THE BATTALION

Senior yell leaders Sam Bluntzer and Pat Patillo and junior yell leaders John Bloss and Jeff Bailey listen to Laurie Nickel's speech at All University Night.

new tradition for Aggieland.

This year for the Nebraska game, Aggies will be participating in the first annual "Maroon Out" on October 11. "Normally, when Nebraska comes to A&M, they bring a lot of support with them and you see a lot of red shirts in the stands," Neff said. "This year we want to get a lot of support and have a sea of maroon shirts in the student section." Additional information and t-shirts will be made available soon by the Class Councils.