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diva Shania Twain
in Reed Arena
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FEEDING MINDS
New food court exploits
negative racial stereotypes,
shows close-mindedness.
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WEDNESDAY
September 9, 1998



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Tanks used to protect one lines

BY BETH MILLER
The Battalion

The idea of nitrogen being pumped into the ground beneath A&M has the potential to cause uneasiness in students, but A&M experts from several fields have reassured that the idea is not necessary. The area near the power plant and Sterling C. Evans Lin in the central and northern part of campus, lie two communication tanks under the protection of the Telecommunications Office. The tanks are being highly pressured nitrogen telephone line conduit underground. The conduit, containing a number of wires, is damaged because the nitrogen is temporarily blocking the lost pressure caused on the wires by the moisture. The nitrogen serves to keep the wires dry, Walt Wassen, associate director of telecommunications, said. Wassen said the leak was detected approximately two weeks ago. He said the damage caused by the ground shift repairs may include re-laying the conduit. The presence of chemicals underground could raise safety health questions, but Magness, along with A&M health officials, have suppressed concerns. Wassen said the tanks are protected by alarms activated when the nitrogen is released. Reed, associate director for telecommunications, said there is no health concern because the atmosphere around the Earth is 80 percent nitrogen. "You're breathing it all the time. I don't know why there is a concern, to be honest said."

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BAC kicks off semester with Nu House event

BY MEGAN WRIGHT
The Battalion

The MSC Black Awareness Committee (BAC), which is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary, commenced the fall semester by hosting Nu House last night in Rudder Forum. Nu House showcased minority student organizations available to students at Texas A&M. With approximately 200 people in attendance, the program hosted 24 different student groups, including sororities, fraternities, academic organizations, major-related clubs, and religious organizations.

Senate considers safety on Northgate, discrimination bills

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

The 51st session of the Student Senate will convene for the fall semester tonight to consider bills ranging from helping the Child Care Center to monitoring student safety in the Northgate area. Amy Magee, speaker of the Student Senate and a senior psychology major, said she hopes to see good communication within the committees and on the Senate floor. "Our big goals are to make sure that we have good communication internally and externally," McGee said. "We want to make sure we are knowledgeable and proactive to work with the students well." The Senate will hear a resolution to consider further investigation into the complaints from students regarding alleged racial harassment occurring in the Northgate area. They will also consider a bill to look into the need for increased police protection in Northgate. An "Adopt a Future Aggie" program bill will be heard to consider developing a program to provide financial assistance for the Texas A&M Child Care Center. Other legislation includes a bill addressing the need for statewide

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Towing the line



Approximately 80 vehicles were towed from Bonfire site directly behind the Zachry parking lot after many students parked illegally Tuesday.

BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

McGwire hits home run No. 62 to break Maris' 37-year record

ST. LOUIS (AP) — History wasn't made with one of his magical moonshots or majestic arcs. Mark McGwire simply lined a laser to left Tuesday night — his shortest home run of the season at 341 feet. Homer No. 62 barely cleared the wall. His mighty swing won the race to break Roger Maris' 37-year-old record. McGwire connected with two outs in the fourth inning off the Chicago Cubs' Steve Trachsel for the historic homer, punctuating the chase that reinvigorated the game and captivated the nation. McGwire was so caught up in the moment that he missed first base as he rounded the bag and had to return to touch it, pulled back by coach Dave McKay. From there, McGwire got handshakes from every Chicago infielder as he trotted home and then hugged catcher Scott Servais. McGwire was mobbed by his teammates at home plate, where he hoisted his 10-year-old batboy son Matt high into the air. McGwire then ran into the seats to hug the family of Maris, whose record he had just broken. Cubs right fielder Sammy Sosa, who has 58 home runs, ran in from right field to hug McGwire. As the ball cleared the left-field fence, there was no scramble to retrieve it because it landed in an area where no fan could get it.



Students watch television on the second floor of the MSC, as Mark McGwire hits his 62nd homerun.

MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Tim Forneris, a ground-crew worker, picked it up and later gave it to McGwire in a postgame party on the field. "Right when it hit off the bat, I knew it was going out and it went right over the sign," he said. "There was a bunch of ground-crew guys on the wall. But I was right on the edge and I said, 'That ball is mine.'"

University Plus offers courses on numerous topics

AMY CURTIS
AARON MEIER
The Battalion

Registration for University Plus courses are underway for the semester. University Plus courses are offered on a non-credit basis. University Plus offers a variety of courses from dancing to computer programming and start at different times throughout the semester. "Our goal in Student Programs is to provide facilities, services, student development, and programs all simultaneously," Caphart said.

Hispanic Open House stresses campus involvement

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

The Hispanic Open House, sponsored by the Hispanic Presidents Council was held last night at 7:30 in the MSC. The event featured fifteen organizations, including sororities, fraternities, academic societies, and entertainment groups. The keynote speaker at this year's event was Christopher H. Alvarado, Class of '95. Alvarado, who graduated with Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology and history, is currently serving as a legislative assistant at the State Capitol. Alvarado was involved in student organizations while at A&M. These organizations included Hispanic Presidents Council (HPC), MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Cultures (CAMAC) and Minority Enrichment and Development through Academic and Leadership Skills (MEDALS). During last night's address, Alvarado discussed with students the importance of becoming involved at an



Christopher H. Alvarado, Class of '95, addresses Hispanic Open House Tuesday night at the MSC. Alvarado is currently a legislator in Austin.

MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

one another after visiting the tables. "Another advantage to the Hispanic Open House is that one-on-one interaction that takes place amongst students," Santos said. "There isn't an opportunity to do this at regular open house due to the crowds." Sylvia Martinez, a freshman general studies major attending the Open House, said she liked the event's approach. "Even though, I'm not sure of what I want organizations I want to join, I liked being on a more personal basis. I think all the tables tried to reach out and showed that they cared about you, and wanted us to become a part of their organization."

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