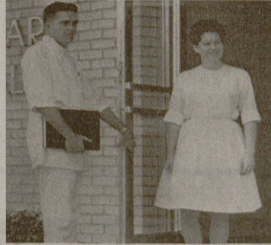


WOMEN OF A&M
celebrates 35th anniversary of women's e. **AGGIELIFE,**



SUMMER TIME
• Strickland comes back from injuries to start for Aggie volleyball team. **SPORTS, PAGE 9**



CHECK OUT THE BATTALION ON-LINE

<http://battalion.tamu.edu>

SAME ADDRESS, NEW LOOK



THURSDAY

September 17, 1998

Issue 15 • 14 pages



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

NEWS IN BRIEF

Candidates urged to attend meeting

...will be a mandatory meeting for the freshman class and Student Senate candidates on Monday night. The meeting will focus on how to succeed in the campaign and the role of the Student Senate. Candidates are urged to attend the meeting to understand the dos and don'ts of running their election.



NICKEL

...nt Body President Laurie will be on hand to give the welcome speech, along with various other speakers to inform candidates about the rules. We also want them to run a campaign, and that if they have any questions the election is here for them anytime."

Academy honors former students

...teen former students will be inducted into the Texas A&M Petroleum Engineering Academy of Distinguished Graduates tonight at the 15th anniversary banquet for their life-time achievement. K.B. and Audrey Nelson will be recognized for their \$10 million gift to the petroleum engineering department. This gift is the single largest gift to an academic department in the history of the University. Nelson's gift will fund two million student scholarships and million faculty chairs. The gift also will allow the petroleum engineering department to be named in honor of Harold Vance, a future Academy member who ranked in the top 1 percent of living graduates who have had their degree for 15 years or longer.

Rather blamed for bike accidents

...weather and traffic congestion are blamed for two accidents involving the collision of bicyclists on Wednesday. Two minor accidents occurred in the afternoon and did not result in serious injury. Citations were issued in each incident. The first accident, at 12:42 p.m. on Olsen Road and West Street, involved a student on the bike who was taken to A.P. Beutel Health Center. The second accident, at 2:34 p.m. on John Kimbrough Road, involved a student on the bike who had minor injuries and did not require medical attention. Wyatt, director of the University Police Department, said wet roads and traffic congestion add to the potential. Bicyclists and cars have to be more careful, but luck isn't," he said.

Freshman class second-largest ever

• Figures indicate A&M's highest enrollment in the past eight years.

BY AMANDA STIRPE
The Battalion

The second-largest freshman class in Texas A&M history registered for classes this fall with 7,363 students, Dr. J. Malon Southerland, Vice President of Student Affairs, said. The largest freshman class at A&M was the Fall 1987 freshmen, with 7,406 students. The exact enrollment figures will be officially released today, the fourteenth class day, through a press release by University Relations, Mary Jo Powell, Associate Director of University

Relations, said. The exact figures had not been released on the twelfth class day as expected due to the large class size. "There is an immense amount of data," Powell said. "We are still in the process of analyzing the data before it gets to the public." Last year's freshman class was 6,233 students. The difference in class sizes was expected, but not in the magnitude seen this fall. "We were shooting for a large class, but the amount who chose to come was much higher than expected," Powell said. Total enrollment this fall is around 43,406 students, compared to last year's enrollment of 41,461 students not including Texas A&M at Galveston. Texas A&M was sixth in total enrollment in the nation. The exact ranking will not be published until all national schools release their fall enrollment figures. Fall

1998 enrollment figures for A&M are the largest in the past eight years. The overassignment situation this fall has not been as historically remembered as Fall 1995, known as the worst overassignment problem in recent A&M history, with 600 students living in various study carrels and rooms throughout campus. "There are around 200 men and women overassigned right now," Ron Sasse, Director of Residence Life, said. Financially, the large freshman class will not have an impact on funding until Fall 1999. Mary Jo Powell said Texas A&M follows a funding formula. "The amount of money the state of Texas gives the schools are related to the amount of students we have this year," Powell said. "We won't get more money until next year. The anticipation of the large amount of freshmen this fall led to the availability of more money to accommodate the extra students.

Blood banks suffer from low donations

BY AARON MEIER
The Battalion

With the national blood supply at a critically low level, the American Red Cross is encouraging all eligible people to donate blood. Currently the local chapter of the Red Cross is having a blood drive on campus. Tina Sharp, communications manager for the Red Cross, said the A&M drive is not meeting its daily goal, and the drive's overall goal of 1,250 units may not be reached. Jeff Nutter, a representative from the Red Cross, said A&M usually has a high donation rate, but this drive has not gone

as expected. With two days remaining until the blood drive ends, only 515 units have been collected. "We don't know why donations have been decreasing," Sharp said. "In the summer, we expect them to go down, and we anticipated that. We did hope they would pick back up this month, and they haven't." Nutter said two surgeries have been canceled in Wichita Falls, Texas, hospitals due to the shortage. Nelson Way, a representative of St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan, said the hospital has been made aware of the blood shortage.

SEE DONORS ON PAGE 8.

Slip sliding away



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Michael Robertson, a freshman molecular and cell biology major, jumps through a mud puddle for beginning adventure dynamics, a kinesiology class.

Hart Hall responds to heckling accusations

• Hall president says allegations of harassment, attacks stand as misunderstandings.

BY JOE SCHUMACHER
The Battalion

The president of Hart Hall took the opportunity at last night's Residence Hall Association to address accusations of heckling the Ross Volunteers progressing to last week's Silver Taps ceremony. Ramsey Parr, president of Hart Hall and a junior psychology major, responded to these accusations at the first Residence Hall Association general assembly of the year. During a time designated for feedback from the University's residence halls, Parr said Hart Hall had been unfairly portrayed by an opinion column in Tuesday's *Battalion*. Parr went on to quote sections from the column he felt were unfair. Parr said the alleged rudeness was a misunderstanding. Parr said a freshman was yelling at a junior resident of Hart Hall, not the Ross Volunteers. "The fish yelled, 'Stay the hell away from my car,' to a junior," Parr said. "Hart Hall is deep in tradi-

tion, and would never do anything like that," Parr said to the assembly. Preceding Parr's address to RHA, several guest speakers, including Dr. J. Malon Southerland, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Patrick Williams from the Association of Former Students, spoke to the assembly. Other items on the agenda were an amendment to the RHA constitution.

"Hart Hall is deep in tradition, and would never do anything like that."

— Ramsey Parr
President of Hart Hall

The amendment requires the depositing of funds to their Student Organization Finance Center account within 24 hours of obtaining the funds. The amendment was passed unanimously. In a light-hearted moment that concluded the evening, a bill titled BS98-03, sponsored by Heather Lindner and former RHA President Eric Williams, known as the Official RHA Handshake bill, was unanimously tabled.

Seneca Falls anniversary honored with discussion

BY BETH MILLER
The Battalion

150 years ago it was a radical convention held to promote women's rights; today it will be the subject of a commemorative discussion about the historical event. The Women's Studies Program and the Office of Gender Issues Education Services will hold a discussion today at noon in 306 Academic Building in celebration of the Seneca Falls Convention. Nancy Tubbs, a graduate assistant in the office of Gender Issues Education Services, said the Seneca Falls Convention, in July of 1848, was the first women's rights convention. Two concerns discussed were suffrage and property rights. The Declaration of Sentiments was written as the result of the convention. It was similar to the Declaration of Independence but declared "all men and women" equal, rather than simply "all men." Barbara Finlay, director of the Women's Studies Program, said the celebration will include a reading of the Declaration of Sentiments, followed by a discussion of the progress women have made in society. Finlay said she felt the event is important to help people understand feminism and gain respect for the women of the past. "A lot of people are unaware of the feminism in the United States and the fact that it does go back a long way," Finlay said. "These women were very courageous and are partially responsible for what we have today. It's a part of history that rarely gets taught."

Magee sees doors opening for women in leadership

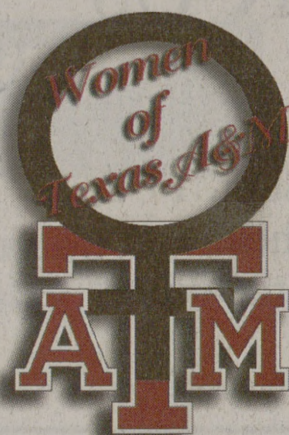
BY MEGAN WRIGHT
The Battalion

Amy Magee, a senior psychology major, is helping shape history at Texas A&M. For the first time in the history of A&M, a female student body president is working directly with a female student speaker of the Senate. Magee, the speaker of the 51st Student Senate, began her involvement in student politics as a freshman in high school. Since entering college, her activities have included holding the position of chair of the MSC Abbott Family Leadership Conference, COSGA, being a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, acting as a senator for the College of Engineering and being Student Sen-

ate Rules and Regulations chair. "It involved combining my experience and research I've done

about women's roles at A&M," Magee said. "I worked at developing a productive vision, and it was difficult to communicate to the Senate at times. I try to balance a lot of variables at one time, and it is not always an easy job." Magee feels gender plays no part in the duties of the speaker of the Senate, but that perhaps the approach differs. "As a speaker you keep order and make sure meetings flow smoothly. Keeping order may have different perceived approaches. If a man is assertive, it is just that — he is assertive. When a woman is assertive, there is a good chance that it will be taken differently, and she will be seen as a dictator. I strive to balance my strong ideas and drive

and try to set a tone that is very open," Magee said. In her four years at A&M, Magee said she has found the roles of women on campus changing. "As a freshman, I didn't see much participation from women in the upper levels of leadership. There was always a good number of women participating in 'the other education,' but in the past few years the leadership capacity of these women has really taken off." Magee is optimistic about the future of women on campus. "We've been getting this tremendous influx of dynamic women here at A&M," Magee said. "It's wonderful to see their opportunities increasing because A&M is growing to be more of an open campus in that respect."



BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

Amy Magee, a senior psychology major, is serving as speaker of the 51st Student Senate.