

IN THE STACKS

West Campus Library brings learning resources in business, agriculture students.

GGIELIFE, PAGE 4



'HORNS HAND IT TO AGGIES

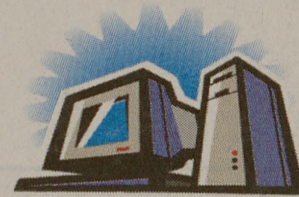
Sykora ties school match record for digs in losing effort.

SPORTS, PAGE 7



CHECK OUT THE BATTALION ONLINE

http://battalion.tamu.edu



THURSDAY

October 1, 1998

Volume 105 • Issue 25 • 10 Pages



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Committee debates student rights in College Station

BY BETH MILLER The Battalion

The Munson Avenue Traffic Committee will meet tonight at 7 at the College Station City Hall to continue discussion about the barriers on Munson Avenue and possible alternatives to blocking the entrance at Dominik Drive.

The barriers, erected June 15 in response to complaints made by College Hills residents of excessive traffic and disorderly behavior, have been a topic of debate in College Station.

A committee was formed to present a resolution to the situation to the College Station City Council, and the first meeting was held July 30.

One committee member said more than 100 residents volunteered for positions on the committee. Twenty-eight people were selected to serve on the

committee, each representing a street in the area.

Sharron Knutson, a former committee member who recently resigned, said there have been a series of attempts prior to the barricades to control traffic on Munson Avenue. These included a partial closure at the intersection of Lincoln Drive and Munson Avenue and the addition of speed humps and stop signs along Munson Avenue.

The unidentified committee member said the committee has made little progress. The member said the committee has practiced ranking methods, in which the members express their opinions about different suggestions, but no official resolutions have been made.

The member said the majority of the group has declared removal of the barricades as its primary vision for the city, and the group has passed a motion

twice recommending that the barricades should be removed.

"Anything you do to any one street is going to affect another street."

— Sharron Knutson Former committee member

However, the member said the recommendation has not been made to the city council because Bruce Norton, independent facilitator of the committee, did not consider the committee's 63 percent and 62 percent approvals a total consensus on the issue.

The member said some of the debate has concerned stu-

dents' roles in the issue. The member said a small percentage of the committee believes students should not be involved in the discussions because they are not permanent residents and do not officially pay taxes for College Station. However, the member believes students do essentially pay taxes through rent payments.

Knutson said some committee members believe students do not hold the same values as the residents in their definition of what constitutes a quality neighborhood. She said she disagrees with this generalization and believes anyone who decides to live in the area holds the same ideals.

Knutson said she would like to see the committee members with differing opinions come to a compromise.

"I would not object to stop signs or traffic lights to slow down and regulate the flow of

traffic. Anything you do to any one street is going to affect another street," Knutson said.

Both Knutson and the unidentified committee member said they believe the barricades will ultimately have to be removed. The unidentified member said the issue is not just about the Munson Avenue barricades. The member's belief is the issue is also a reflection of the residents' concern about turning Munson into a major north-south passage through the city, in addition to the existing Texas Avenue, Texas Highway 6, FM 2818 and Wellborn Road.

Knutson said she would not be opposed to the suggestion of constructing Munson Avenue into another major street for traffic through College Station.

"You have to be realistic. If you are going to be a growing community, you have to grow," Knutson said.

Munson Ave.

Munson Avenue, formerly used as a north-south passage through a section of College Station, runs parallel to Texas Avenue through College Hills neighborhood.

Currently, it has speed humps, stop signs and large barricades restricting thru traffic.

The barricades were erected June 15 in response to complaints made by residents of the College Hills neighborhood.

The barricades, along with speed humps and periodic stop signs, are the last elements in a series of attempts to restrict traffic on Munson Avenue.

Before these measures were taken, a partial barricade was erected at the intersection of Lincoln Drive and Munson Avenue.

Fundraiser brings students together to aid flood victims

Students from Texas A&M's China Club, the Chinese Student Association and the A&M Consolidated High School Orchestra danced and made money for flood relief last night at the Theater.

The program of Chinese music, dance and demonstrations and western music raised money for a Yangtze Flood Relief Fund.

The Fund was set up to help victims of the worst floods in China in more than 40 years. They have affected more than 10 million people, killing almost 3,000.

The Chinese students and faculty were joined at the concert by Wenjie Mu, the Consul General from the Republic of China's Consulate General office in Houston, who thanked those present for their generosity in supporting the flood victims.

Director for the evening's

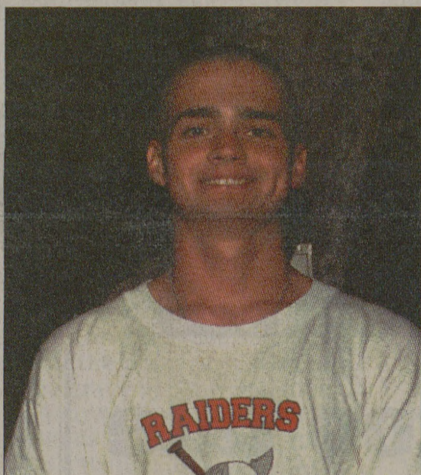
program was Jiang Cao, president of the China Club.

"All of these things happened thousands of miles from College Station, but everyone here tonight showed their kindness, compassion and support for the flood victims," Cao said. "I can only say thank you."

The A&M Consolidated High School Varsity Orchestra, which is itself raising funds to perform in China during a 10-day trip to Beijing and Shanghai next summer, played American folk music and classical works by Handel and Borodin.

Children from the Chinese School in College Station danced and played instruments. Chinese college students performed a variety of vocal and instrumental pieces.

The program also included a fashion show of traditional Chinese women's clothes and two martial arts demonstrations.



GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

Worden Babcock, a political science major, will compete in the runoff.

BY AARON MEIER The Battalion

With friends and family looking on, the officer and Student Senate candidates for the Class of '02 gathered around Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue last night to hear the results of the election.

Election Commissioner Chris Chase, a senior history and English major, said around 2,000 freshmen cast their ballots, and he hopes a high number will turn out for the runoff elections to be held Tuesday, Oct. 6 and Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Head of the Class Freshmen cast ballots for class officers; Weems, Babcock ready for run off.

Each candidate for class council must win a majority of the votes to be elected. For Student Senate, the five candidates receiving the most votes are elected.

A runoff will be held for class president between Worden Babcock, a political science major, and Beth Weems, a biomedical science major.

Weems said if elected she hopes to unify the freshman class through various events.

"We are a really large class," Weems said. "I hope to be able to increase the unity of the freshman class."

Babcock, responding to a speech Student Body President Laurie Nickel made during the freshman campaign process, said the relationships he has formed during the campaign have contributed to his candidacy.

"Win or lose," Babcock said,

"I've had a wonderful experience and have high expectations for the freshman class."

All other Class Council positions also will go into runoff elections.

The candidates for the freshman class vice-presidency are Jessica Miller and Jay Moore.

Kristi Austin and Jennifer Wise will face off for the position of class secretary.

Class of '02 social secretary candidates are Bobby Wright and Nikki Ogan.

For the position of freshman class treasurer, Kory Hamman and Ryan Plesko will go into the runoff.

For the final class council position, Melissa Magdalena and Jenny Martin will compete for class historian.

The freshman class senators are Trent Collier, Lindsey Garrett, Sun-



GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

Beth Weems, a biomedical science major, will also compete in the runoff.

nny Owens, Chad Wagner and Jennifer Wise.

The number of freshman senators has been reapportioned, decreasing the number of senatorial seats for the freshman class. Last year, the Class of '01 elected seven senators, compared to five this year.

This year's election had 15 candidates for the freshman class president and 23 candidates for for the Student Senate positions.

The results of the runoff election will be announced Wednesday, Oct. 7 at Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue.

Population of wild cats calls A&M campus home

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN The Battalion

A colony of feral cats has been thriving and reproducing on the Texas A&M campus for 15 to 20 years.

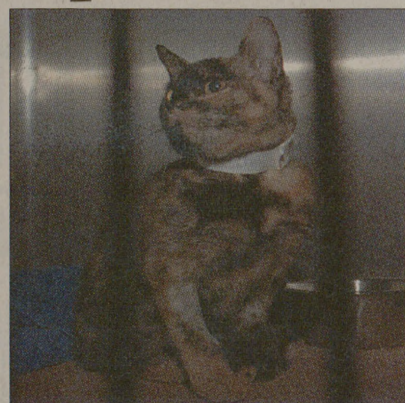
Dr. Alice M. Wolf, a professor in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, said there could be approximately 300 semi-feral cats living on campus.

"However, this is only an estimate," she said, "we do not know for sure."

Wolf said a breeding female could potentially have six to eight kittens per litter, and in this climate, three to four litters per year. "Their population would explode if it were not for frequent deaths from malnutrition, disease and loss of kittens," she said. "It is pretty sad to have all these sick, suffering and dying cats."

"Feral cats are very secretive and usually only come out at night to scavenge the dumpsters for food. During the days they live under buildings and wander in drain pipes."

Wolf said one source of the cats are students who abandon their pets. "It is very important for students to be responsible pet owners, and



GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

Estimates suggest up to as many as 300 semi-wild or feral cats are living on the A&M campus.

if they cannot keep them, at least find them good homes or turn them over to the animal shelter. The cats didn't just drift in here, somebody dumped them."

Dawn Fradkin, a veterinary medicine graduate student, founded the Aggie Feral Cat Alliance and began implementation of the TTVAR (Trap, Test, Vaccinate, Alter and Release) two months ago.

SEE FERAL ON PAGE 2.

CSPD investigates Northgate assault

BY JOE SCHUMACHER The Battalion

A graduate student and resident of the Northgate area was assaulted and robbed at approximately 12:30 a.m. Wednesday in the 600 block of Church Street.

Ruan Young Hong, a chemical engineering graduate student, was struck from behind by a red, four-door car while riding his bicycle. According to College Station Police reports, after he was knocked to the ground four white, male sus-

pects got out of the car and struck Hong repeatedly. They then took his wallet and fled the scene.

Hong was taken to the hospital with a swollen face and lacerations, and was later released.

Sgt. Charles Fleegeer of the CSPD said there is no indication this was a racially-motivated attack.

"Right now we are investigating it as a robbery," Fleegeer said. "He (Hong) has not reported anything that would indicate that this was racially motivated."

"We usually wait a day or two

before questioning a person that has been assaulted. Their recollection may not be at 100 percent after the trauma."

Sgt. Donnie Andreski of the CSPD said the assault is not currently being treated like a hate crime.

"There has to be more than a race-on-race crime," Andreski said. "If something was said about the person's race or sex during the action or the victim was targeted due to his race, then it would be considered a hate crime."

A&M will not pursue further Pradhan suspension

BY AMANDA SMITH The Battalion

An administrative hearing will be held Oct. 6 to consider the circumstances under which Texas A&M University professor Dhiraj Pradhan was placed on a year-long administrative leave in August 1997, said Jim Ashlock, executive director of University Relations.

The six-member committee presiding over the hearing will not consider further mandatory administrative leave for the computer science professor.

The hearing was initially requested by Pradhan, a native of India, after he filed a civil suit against the University in which he claimed Texas A&M had discriminated against him and violated his First Amendment rights.

Gaines West, Pradhan's attorney, said they no longer plan to attend the administrative hearing because it cannot compensate Pradhan.

"They cannot restore the year he lost," West said. "They cannot replace what he lost. This is not a hearing to determine further suspension of Pradhan."

Ashlock said the committee of University professors plans to hold the administrative hearing, despite Pradhan's request for withdrawal.

"If anything, the hearing will be to determine whether the University acted properly," Ashlock said. "It would be a presentation of the University's case. The prospect of putting him on administrative leave is not an option. By withdrawing his request for the hearing, he is essentially withdrawing his appeal with the University."

A University audit accused Prad-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yell practice set for Overland hotel

Midnight yell practice for the Texas A&M University of Kansas football game will be held Friday at the Marriott Overland Park in Overland Park, Kan.

The hotel is located on Interstate 435 at Metcalf (Exit 169).

On-campus yell practice will be held tonight at 7 at the arches in front of the Corps of Cadets' Quadrangle.