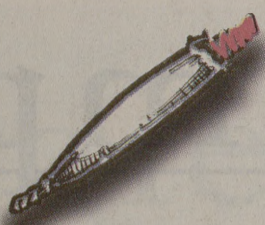


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The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Glenn, A&M team up in space

BY DRUNAY COLLINS
The Battalion

When Sen. John Glenn returns to space Thursday he will conduct cancer chemotherapy experiments in conjunction with Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dawn Boothe, an associate professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, said she will begin work on the experiments shortly after he begins the nine-day flight. "Glenn will begin to conduct these experiments within the first 24 hours of orbit," she said. "He will perform experiments. Each will last approximately two hours." During the experiments, Glenn will formulate micros-

pheres, tiny hollow bubbles made of oil and water-like substances. The microspheres are only formed in zero-gravity conditions but remain intact once formed.

At Texas A&M, researchers will inject drugs into these microspheres and place them directly into a cancerous tumor.

This procedure, unlike current measures, allows researchers to increase the dosage of chemotherapy drugs while decreasing the side effects.

Once microspheres are released into the body, they lodge in the arteries and block a tumor's blood supply, preventing further cancer-cell growth.

Boothe said because microspheres block blood flow,

researchers must be certain microspheres will not harm healthy tissues.

Boothe and her research team will use catheters to inject microspheres into rabbit kidneys, then use CAT scans to see if the microspheres move to other tissues although she said in past experiments microspheres have seemed to stay in their target locations.

Boothe said although microspheres may not revolutionize cancer treatment, the research is a step in the right direction.

"I think they will certainly improve the treatment of certain types of cancer in both animals and humans," she said.

60-60-60 bill aims to change Q-drops

BY JOE SCHUMACHER
The Battalion

A bill that would extend the Q-drop deadline to the amount of Q-drops available to students will be the focus of a meeting today between members of the Academic Operations Committee.

The 60-60-60 Q-drop bill would extend the Q-drop deadline to the 60th class day and provide students with two Q-drops during their first 60 hours and two Q-drops during their second 60 hours.

Bryan Minyard, executive vice president of administration for Student Government and a senior in biochemistry and political science major, said there are several advantages to the bill. Minyard said by extending the Q-drop deadline, students will have a better feel for what their grade will be and have the opportunity to improve it.

He said limiting the number of Q-drops during a student's first 60 hours will encourage responsible Q-drop use. He said two Q-drops in the second 60 hours will provide students the same advantage as transfer students.

"Students who have attended A&M their first

two years may have used up their Q-drops," Minyard said. "A transfer student is given an advantage by being able to use all three of their Q-drops for their upper-level work."

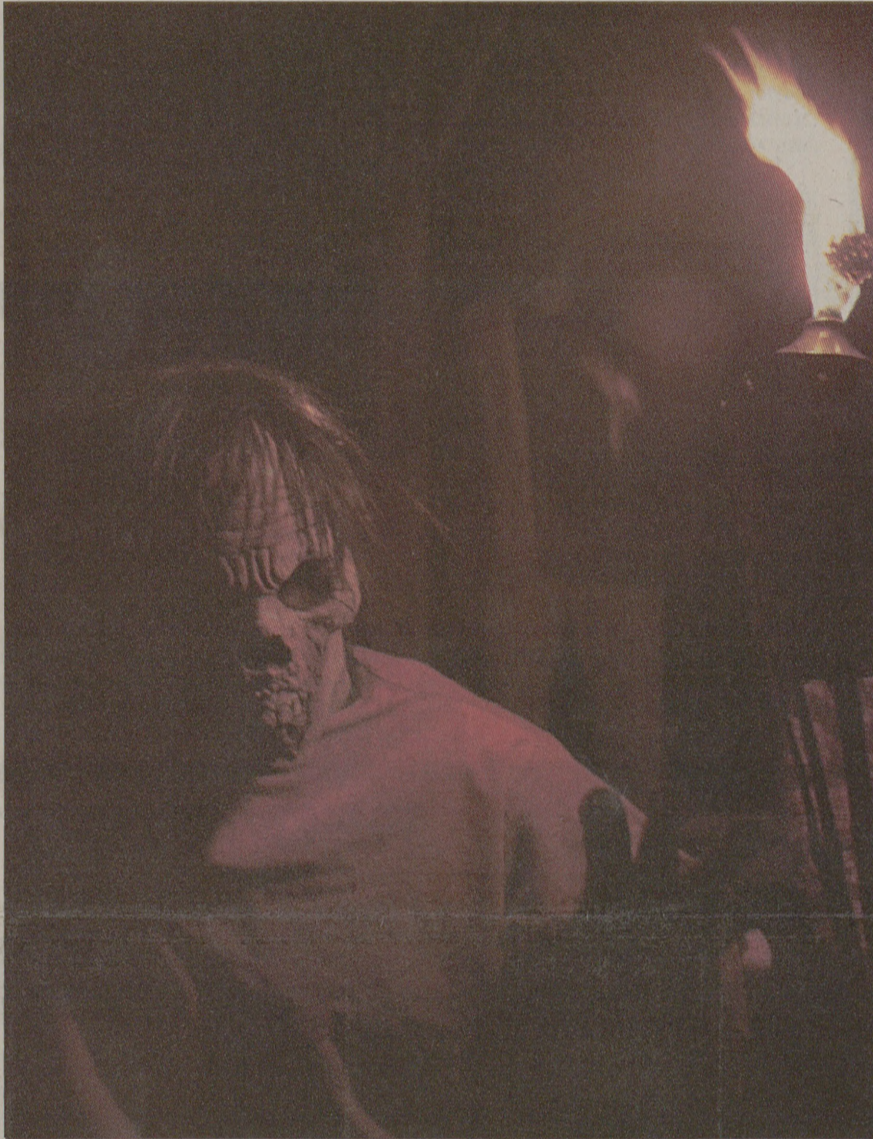
Some criticisms of the bill include faculty members who believe an additional Q-drop may cheapen education at the University, and an additional Q-drop will create "academic inflation," where a student's grade-point ratio is higher than it should be, because all lower grades have been Q-dropped and retaken for a higher grade.

The 60-60-60 bill was the result of a compromise between Student Senate and AOC after Student Senate passed a bill to extend the Q-drop deadline last semester. AOC then proposed the 60-60-60 compromise.

Minyard said there are no guarantees the bill will be passed, but said he is optimistic going into today's meeting. If the bill is approved by the Academic Programs Council, it could go into effect as early as the next academic year.

"I think the meeting is going to go well," Minyard said. "The positive effects of this bill far outweigh the negatives."

Night terrors



Matthew Widmer, a junior management information systems major, frightens visitors at Kappa Sigma Wicked Woods Tuesday night.

ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Underage drinkers face tougher laws

BY CHRIS HUFFINES
The Battalion

In September 1997, the Texas State Legislature passed a law stiffening the penalties for Minor in Possession offenses, and Texas A&M officials are looking for ways to improve alcohol education.

The new law increases punishment for a first offense to a maximum \$500 fine, a mandatory alcohol-education course, 12 hours of community service and a 30-day driver's license suspension.

Rakhi Roy, graduate assistant in the Department of Student Life's Alcohol and Drug Education Programs (ADEP) and an Education Administration graduate student, said ADEP is putting fliers around campus, especially in Residence Halls, to increase awareness of the changes.

Roy said she hopes the new law will help students use alcohol responsibly, but there are better ways to prevent drinking.

"We feel that education is the answer, not fines," she said.

Mike "Hoy" Haughey, president of the Residence Association and a senior mechanical engineering major, said although the new law may hurt students financially, it will provide for a safer attitude towards drinking.

"It's bad for the pocketbook, but it hopefully encourages students to drink more safely," he said.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said although the maximum penalty has increased, it is not a deterrent. Wiatt said the judge presiding over an offender's case may not assess the maximum fine, reducing its effectiveness as a deterrent.

During 1997, Wiatt said UPD issued 219 MIP citations, with an additional 111 citations this year. Of the 219, 46 were at Bonfire.

Wiatt said UPD will have plain-clothes and uniformed officers as well as horse and bicycle patrols at Bonfire. Wiatt said UPD has adopted a no-alcohol policy for Bonfire in order to improve the reputation of the tradition and broaden its appeal.

"Bonfire is becoming a family affair," he said.

An additional change in the law is a zero-tolerance policy for underage consumption of alcohol while driving. Underage drivers found with a blood-alcohol level greater than zero in their system will face a penalty of 20 to 40 hours of community service, a 60-day driver's license suspension, a 30-day ineligibility for an occupational license, a maximum fine of \$500 and an alcohol-awareness course.



Student body president Laurie Nickel presents her state of the University address "You Oughta Know" Tuesday afternoon in the MSC flagroom.

BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

Nickel discusses 'slacker bill'

BY MEGAN WRIGHT
The Battalion

Student Body President Laurie Nickel hosted the first "You Oughta Know" program in the MSC flagroom yesterday to provide students with information regarding the state of the University.

Nickel said progress had been made on the overcrowding of on-campus housing, which now has only 30 female rooms overassigned. Nickel also discussed issues that were implemented this summer such as the 170-hour cap on hours students can take at in-state tuition prices.

The bill states that after 170 hours, an in-state resident will no longer be able to pay in-state tuition but must pay the more expensive out-of-state tuition. Currently, in-state undergraduates taking 15 hours would pay \$1,178 in tuition. After 170 attempted hours, their tuition would rise to \$4,388.

Student Senate to host Constituency Day

BY MEGAN WRIGHT
The Battalion

The Student Senate will host Constituency Day today at several campus locations.

Amy Magee, speaker of the Student Senate and a senior psychology major, said the purpose of the event is to provide a higher level of communication between the senators and students.

"This is a chance for senators to communicate and retrieve concerns from the constituents," Magee said. "We will take back the information in the form of surveys and present them to administrators. It is also a great way for the senators to make contacts with the student body."

Magee said past constituency days have proved successful.

"These [days] have proved extremely helpful," Magee said. "We take in a lot of

information, and it is seen by leaders on campus. It has really helped the past two years since we have had multiple locations on campus. It makes the senators more accessible."

Senators will be located at the Academic building, Kleberg Animal and Food Sciences Center, Wehner Business Administration Building, Richardson Petroleum Engineering Building and the Commons from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sbis Dining Hall will also feature senators from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Off-campus senators will be at each location throughout the day.

A Munson Avenue petition authored by College Station resident Kayla Glover will be featured at each of the locations. Students who wish to sign the petition, which calls for the removal of the barricades on Munson Avenue, will be asked to provide a valid voter registration number for College Station. Those not registered will have the opportunity to

"We are working on aiding the students in recognizing that they are in danger of reaching the 170 [hour] point," Nickel said. "Things we are working towards are increased media coverage of the bill, a special Bonfire [computer system] screen when checking your status through the A&M computer system, as well as sending a letter at about 150 hours to both the in-town address and the permanent home address."

Other issues implemented this summer include the top-ten-percent rule, which allows students in the top 10 percent of their graduating high-school class to be automatically accepted to Texas public universities.

"One of the problems we are facing with this rule is the fact that it doesn't require high-school students to take college-track courses," Nickel said.

SEE RAILROAD ON PAGE 10.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shirts show support of awareness month

Over 300 T-shirts were sold to sororities during the past month to be worn today to raise awareness of breast cancer.

Lisa Heflin, project organizer, member of Alpha Phi sorority and a senior community health major, said if the event prompts one woman to have a breast exam, the effort will be a success.

"The purpose of this is to promote the fact that breast cancer can affect anyone at any time," Heflin said. "As women in the Panhellenic sororities, we are very visible on campus. We can promote a sort of awareness, and maybe one person will realize that she needs a mammogram or [will go] to see a doctor."

Heflin began planning the event over a month ago.

"It has been mainly me out promoting the shirts," Heflin said, "so, I didn't get to get as many shirts sold as I wanted to the different organizations, but we've got next year to work on that."

Heflin said if the event were to be made into an annual effort, she would like to see it move beyond Greek women to all female students.

"I really think this T-shirt day would do well as an annual event," Heflin said.

Sororities participating include Alpha Phi, Alpha Delta Pi, Delta Zeta, Chi Omega, Alpha Gamma Delta, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Zeta Tau Alpha.

Proceeds from the T-shirt sales will be donated to breast cancer research foundations.

Bush plans campaign stop at A&M

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Gov. George W. Bush and other Republican candidates will speak to members of the Texas A&M community today as the final week before the Nov. 3 election draws to a close.

Aggies for Bush is hosting the event at 12:30 p.m. in the archery room of the Student Recreation Center as part of its final meeting before the elections.

Bush will introduce other candidates including Republicans Susan Combs, who is running for Agricultural Commissioner, Sen. Steve Ogden and Congressman Kevin Brady.

Elizabeth McKee, a student adviser to the TAMU College Republicans and Aggies for Bush and a senior animal science major, said she hopes students will come and meet some of the Republican candidates.

"I would like to make sure the students can view the candidates," McKee said. "It provides an opportunity to meet the governor. The governor puts Texas youth first and has spoken on many campuses around Texas. He is very excited to return to Aggeland."

McKee said Bush is scheduled to visit Stephen F. Austin University and Baylor University on Wednesday.

"The governor has hit almost every major campus in Texas," she said. "I am hoping that it will lower voter apathy and [students] will get more involved."

McKee said she expects between 500 to 800 students and faculty to attend the event today and suggested students park in the Reed Arena lot across from the Recreation Center.



BUSH