



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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• Aggies quickness out of gate does not last against Buckeyes in 24-14 loss in Sugar Bowl.

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Passing the bar

South Texas College of Law, A&M move step closer to affiliation

BY BETH MILLER
The Battalion

Texas A&M and the South Texas College of Law took another step in the direction of an official affiliation through an approval by the American Bar Association.

The ABA granted its support of the affiliation under the existing name, South Texas College of Law affiliated with Texas A&M University, Jim Ashlock, executive director of University Relations, said.

Ashlock said although the ABA has approved the plan, A&M must gain the support of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board before it can offer law classes or a law degree.

He said the Coordinating Board decision has been delayed by a lawsuit between South Texas College of Law and the Coordinating Board con-

cerning the use of A&M's name in the college's title prior to the approval of the board.

He said the affiliation would benefit the College of Law because it would link the school with a nationally-recognized state school.

Ashlock said the benefits for A&M parallel the Vision 20/20 plan efforts.

"[With the Vision 20/20 plan] we're trying to enhance A&M's standing among public universities across the state of Texas," he said. "We feel it would improve our status if we offer a law degree."

Ashlock said he is confident about gaining the support of the Coordinating Board and officials are exploring options for the affiliation.

"There are actions underway to identify ways we can share academic resources," he said. "Hopefully sometime in the future we will have a law studies program and be able to issue a law degree."

Steps Toward Official Affiliation with South Texas College of Law

COMPLETED STEPS:

• Gain approval from the American Bar Association

STEPS REMAINING:

• Resolve lawsuit between South Texas College of Law and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

• Gain approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

ONCE COMPLETED:

• Implement plans and offer courses and law degree

Dorm 9 reopens

BY RACHEL HOLLAND
The Battalion

Residents of Corps of Cadets Dorm 9 have returned to their rooms following restoration and repairs costing \$568,000.

David Godbey, assistant director of physical plant for engineering and design services, said the cadets relocated from the first, second and fourth floors in November began moving into their rooms Jan. 13, when residence halls opened. The renovation of the third floor rooms, with the exception of the six rooms most affected by the fire, has been completed, and those residents will move in today.

The six remaining rooms will be completed by Monday, Jan. 25.

Godbey said the \$568,000 funded rebuilding, cleaning and painting of the dorm. He said part of the third floor was removed and rebuilt, and the interior of the dorm was repainted and cleaned.

"They had to clean the entire building, even the air-conditioning units," Godbey said.

He said restoration not funded by the \$568,000 included new mattresses for many of the cadets and replacement furniture for third floor residents.

Bob Wiatt, director University Police Department, said the cause of the fire remains unknown and no suspects have been identified in connection with the fire. Texas A&M has offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

"At this point, we are offering the reward, and we have interviewed all of the individuals that we suspect may have some knowledge about the fire. We have done everything except identify an individual," Wiatt said. "We are waiting for an individual to come forward and honor the Aggie Code of Honor. It is reprehensible that nobody has owned up to this yet, because somebody knows something."



Senior linebacker **Dat Nguyen** walks off the field for the last time in his Aggie uniform at the sold-out 1999 Sugar Bowl game against Ohio State University.

Sugar Bowl ticket sales make history

• Game draws largest crowd of any A&M bowl appearance; 76,503 fans attend New Year's Day match.

BY JASON SCHNEIDER
The Battalion

New Orleans and the Louisiana Superdome were filled New Year's Day for an Aggie appearance.

The 65th Nokia Sugar Bowl was the Aggies' second trip to New Orleans for a bowl game since 1940.

That year the team won its only national championship against Tulane University, playing before 72,000 fans.

Jim Kotch, athletic ticket manager said an attendance of 76,503 resulted in the largest crowd ever for a Texas A&M bowl game.

He said 22,000 tickets were sold before receiving 7,000 reinforcements from the Ohio State ticket office.

Kotch said in comparison to

the previous years' Cotton Bowl ticket sales, this year's sales were considerably larger. Kotch said the Cotton Bowl sold more tickets last year than the A&M Athletic Ticket Office.

David Wilkinson, director of club programs in the Association of Former Students said there was an "Aggie Mardi Gras," attended by 1,200 Aggies, held at Generations Hall and a pre-game party at the Hyatt in the Superdome on New Year's Day.

Mike Caruso, assistant athletic director of promotions and operations, said the Sugar Bowl staff took spouses of A&M faculty members on a tour of some of New Orleans' historical landmarks along Bourbon Street.

Midnight Yell Practice was held at Generations Hall in the New Orleans Warehouse District.

"There were a lot of people there, some on the second floor of parking garages and others a block away standing on their campers," Brandon Neff, a senior yell leader and a political science major, said.

Neff said an unofficial Yell Practice, in addition to Midnight Yell Practice, was held at 4 p.m. on Bourbon Street.

A&M honors MLK

BY MEREDITH HIGHT
The Battalion

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, will be remembered at "Through the Eyes of a King: A Celebration of Unity and Diversity" at 7 p.m. tonight in Rudder Theater.

The program, sponsored by the Multicultural Services Department, Association of Former Students, Race and Ethnic Studies Institute, the Department of Residence Life and the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, will feature Dr. Gwen Webb-Johnson, an assistant professor of special education at the University of Texas. Webb-Johnson previously taught at Texas A&M University.

Felicia Scott, director of Multicultural Services Department, said Webb-Johnson's speech will focus on the theme, a celebration of unity and diversity.

"It's going to try and challenge those there to use King's message for their personal and professional responsibilities," Scott said.

King, whose birthday was celebrated as a national holiday yesterday, would have been 70 years old this year. King was 34 when he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968. His death came five years after his "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C.

Students who participated in the Civil Rights Tour, a program which includes a trip touring sites of the civil rights movement in the South, served on the committee, which helped plan the event.

Kalere Jacob, a senior political science major who participated in the program, said it resulted in a deeper understanding of the movement.

"I learned a lot more details about the civil rights movement rather than a glossy overview that you would get in an American history class or in high school," she said.

"MLK Day means a little bit more because I have a better understanding of what the civil rights movement was about," she said.

Milestones in the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

- 1929 - Born in Atlanta, Ga.
- 1963 - Delivered his "I have a dream" speech
- 1964 - Awarded Nobel Peace Prize
- 1968 - Assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.
- 1986 - MLK Day established as a national holiday



KING

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aggies to take part in Governor Bush's inauguration ceremony

The Ross Volunteer Company, Texas Aggie Band and Parsons Mounted Cavalry will be involved in activities surrounding the inauguration of Gov. George W. Bush today in Austin.

The 400-member Texas Aggie Band will provide a musical prelude to the noon inauguration ceremony at the Texas Capitol building and play the National Anthem for the ceremony. In addition, the band will march in the inauguration parade later in the day.

The Ross Volunteer Company, traditionally the governor's honor

guard, will also attend the activities in Austin.

Members of the company will form a saber arch for the governor and members of the inaugural party. They will march in the afternoon parade and serve at four inaugural balls, later in the evening.

The Parsons Mounted Cavalry will ride in the inauguration parade as well. The unit fields 30 horses, a mule-drawn supply wagon and an artillery half-section consisting of one three-inch field artillery piece and caisson.

'Know Freedom' march draws 400 attendees

BY SALLIE TURNER
The Battalion

In honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 400 students and residents of Bryan-College Station marched through the streets of downtown Bryan yesterday morning.

The "Know Freedom" march was sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta, a service organization in Bryan.

The day's events included a march from Sadie Thomas Park to Kemp Elementary School, where a speech and music program were held.

Helen Washington, chair of the event, said the activities were a reminder to young people of King's work and provide motivation to remain positive about the future.

"We're just trying to keep his dream alive," Washington said.

Washington said the march participants walked behind a city garbage truck because at the time of King's death he was supporting the cause of sanitation workers. Texas A&M fraternity and sorority members, Project Unity and individual citizens participated in the activities.

The march was followed by a

program at Kemp Elementary, which included gospel music and a speech by Jim Scales, superintendent of the College Station Independent School District. Scales encouraged the audience to continue King's work.

"All the things that Martin Luther King spoke about and preached about all came to pass and opened up the facilities," Scales said. "It's now our own personal commitment to make a difference."

Scales said the purpose of the holiday is to celebrate King's life and keep his dream alive.

"The holiday reminds us of

where we've come from and where we are moving for the future," Scales said.

Mary Broussard, president of Delta Sigma Theta, said this is the third year they have sponsored a freedom march. The first year's march had 75 participants.

In the past, the organization has sponsored other programs for the holiday, but the members decided a march was needed to gain a deeper understanding of King's work.

"Marching together in unison and spiritually focusing on one goal shows unity and commitment to a goal," Broussard said.