



# The Battalion

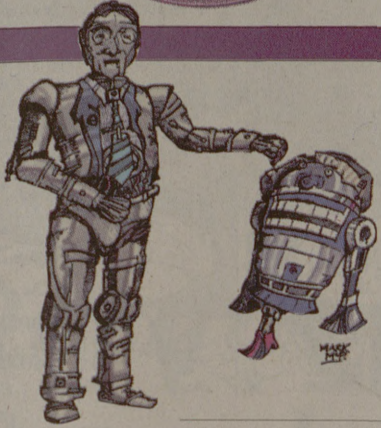
105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## opinion

• *Al Gore's hidden secret is revealed as a close analysis determines him a droid.*

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## today's issue

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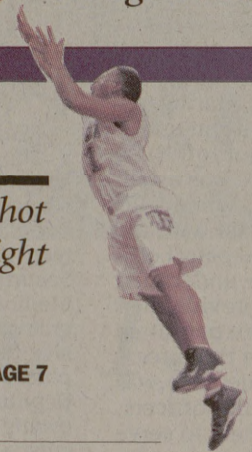
## Thursday's issue

Aggielife's Best of 1998 series continues with a recap of last year's most entertaining films.

## sports

• *After opening the season with a hot streak, the Aggies drop seven straight during the winter break, leaving them 11th in conference action.*

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# A&M students, staff react to State of Union Address

BY SALLIE TURNER  
The Battalion

Amidst the first impeachment trial in 130 years, President Clinton shrugged off speculation of possible delay and delivered his seventh State of the Union address last night.

"The state of our union is strong," Clinton said.

Clinton announced plans to improve the country's schools and communities in the 21st century.

Lynsey Alford, a junior elementary education major, said she supports Clinton's plan to increase the number of teachers in underprivileged areas by offering bonuses and scholarships.

"It is an injustice that students do not get the most qualified teachers

just because of their backgrounds," Alford said. Clinton discussed health care and plans to

improve social security. He said he plans to use 62 percent of the national budget surplus to increase the nation's social security supply for the 21st century.

**"Social medicine has failed in Russia and just about every other country which has tried it."**

— Dr. Charles Lessard  
Associate professor of biomedical engineering

Dr. Charles Lessard, an associate professor of biomedical engineering, said Clinton's design to provide health care to all Ameri-

icans is unrealistic if he plans to offer adequate medical coverage. "Social medicine has failed in Russia and just about every other country which has tried it," Lessard said. "The plan Clinton outlined in his speech would really have to be planned well, in order to be successful."

Clinton expressed a desire to have the Brady Bill, which imposes a five day

waiting period upon anyone purchasing a handgun, to be permanently adopted as a law.

Dave Burdett, owner of Burdett and Son Outdoor Adventure Shop in College Station, said the Brady Bill has done very little to reduce crime.

"It's nothing more than an inconvenience to honest people," Burdett said. "A criminal buying a gun on the street doesn't have a waiting period."

John Burton, vice president of Aggie Democrats and a senior political science major, said the programs Clinton proposed would not only benefit Texans.

"In light of the trial going on for so long, it is refreshing to hear what people want the government to do, rather than the trial," Burton said.

## Highlights of President Clinton's State of the Union Address

### Labor

- Minimum wage increase
- Ensuring Equal Pay

### Child Care

- Tax Relief for stay at home parents

### Economy

- Y2K troubleshooting

### Crime/Drugs

- Zero tolerance drug supervision
- A permanent Brady bill waiting period
- Child safety locks for handguns

### Service

- AmeriCorps

### One America

- Employment Discrimination Act
- Hate Crimes Prevention Act

# Impeachment makes history, causes debate

BY SALLIE TURNER  
The Battalion

History is being made as President Clinton undergoes an impeachment trial in the Senate. The trial, which began Jan. 14 with opening arguments, will determine what action will be taken to discipline Clinton. He was impeached by the House of Representatives on Dec. 19, becoming the second president in history to face impeachment.

Missy Hataway, a first-year law student at the Texas A&M Law Center, said the trial has made people more aware of current events, united the democratic party in the Brazos Valley and served as an educational tool to teach students about the inner workings of the U.S. government.

"The trial is completely making evident the partisan lines that lie in the Bryan-College Station area," Hataway said.

Robyn Knocke, vice president of programs for College Republicans and a senior marketing major, believes the president should be held ac-

SEE IMPEACHMENT ON PAGE 2.

# Student Research Week deadline extended

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

The entry deadline for the second Annual Student Research Week has been extended to Friday, Jan. 22, due to increased student interest. The event is going to be held March 22-23, at Texas A&M.

Anneliese Reinemeyer, president of the Graduate Student Council, said since the original date was during the winter break, the deadline was extended to make sure all students were aware of the opportunity to participate.

Clifton Griffin, assistant to the vice president of research, said Student Research Week provides an opportunity for both students and organizations, including Graduate Student Council, Honors Program, and Sigma Xi, to come together as a larger group to promote the idea of student research at Texas A&M.

"Activities will include speakers and a competition organized primarily by the Graduate Student Council," Griffin said.

SEE RESEARCH ON PAGE 2.

# Reed Restoration



CARINO CASAS/THE BATTALION

Mid-Central Restoration worker Richard Plafcan spreads a coat of plaster over the old paint on the Reed McDonald building. Workers began the make-over earlier this month and expect it to be complete in April.

# Professor looks toward celebrations of unity

BY APRIL YOUNG  
The Battalion

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, was remembered yesterday at "Through the Eyes of a King: A Celebration of Unity and Diversity" at Rudder Theater.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. Gwen Webb-Johnson, an assistant professor of special education at the University of Texas spoke about change, the celebration of unity and diversity and of reflection.

"Standards of excellence can be mirrored through the eyes of a new king," Webb-Johnson said. "Change is in order, but it won't come if we rely on one person."

Dr. Webb-Johnson said King was more than a dreamer. Johnson encouraged listeners to move beyond perceived beliefs and redefine the norm.

"Celebrate your freedom of choice, but take time to listen," Webb-Johnson said. "Challenge yourself to celebrate and marvel sameness while celebrating and marveling difference."

"[The speech] had to affect the way you do business as an individual. We are all still learning,



ERIC NEWMAN/THE BATTALION

Dr. Gwen Webb-Johnson, a University of Texas assistant professor, speaks Tuesday night at Rudder Auditorium in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

whether we are class of '65 or '02," Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs said.

Dr. Webb-Johnson encouraged the audience to reflect on the past and present and prepare for the future.

"Know the history of this institution, know your own history and prepare to construct new history," she said.

# Training prepares UPD mounted patrol for crowd control

BY BETH MILLER  
The Battalion

University Police Department officers in the mounted patrol force are investigating opportunities to use training acquired from participation in a mounted patrol training conference, sponsored by Bear County Sheriff Department and Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The conference, which was held at the Dick Freeman Arena in College Sta-

tion Jan. 4-8, taught 41 Texas police officers cavalry formations, crowd-control techniques, arrest and handcuffing techniques, escort techniques and methods of extracting vehicles from crowds using officers on horseback, Lynn Sechelski, patrol lieutenant for UPD, said.

Sechelski said Texas A&M employs three types of police officers, vehicle patrol, bike patrol and mounted patrol officers. Vehicle patrol officers sur-

vey the streets surrounding the campus, bike patrol officers circulate throughout the interior of the campus and mounted patrol officers serve in situations involving crowds.

Sechelski said the mounted patrol force performs better in situations involving crowds.

"Crowds move when horses come through," he said. "That's one of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF UPD

Green smoke, one element in the stress test obstacle course, is used to evaluate a horse's focus and ability to function in large crowds.

SEE UPD ON PAGE 10.

# Training classes offer insight for interns

## Volunteers learn to resolve complaints in ombudsman program

BY JASON SCHNEIDER  
The Battalion

Training classes for students and volunteers who wish to participate in The Brazos Valley Council of Governments Ombudsmen Program, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging in the Brazos Valley, will be offered today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bobbie Gail Jeffries, regional ombudsman, said the program allows volunteers to address issues, resolve problems and act as liaisons between nursing home residents and their care facility and families. She said the program volunteers handle complaints ranging from room temperature to privacy issues.

"We're there for their complaints, food, clothes and cleanliness," Hazel Crutchfield,

ombudsman volunteer at University Hills Nursing Center, said. "If they need something from the store, I will go get it. It is very rewarding. All we want is for them to be happy."

Jeffries said topics covered at the training session will include awareness, complaint handling and process, regulations, communication, Social Security and Medicare. There is no requirement to participate.

Jeffries said the program was established in 1978, when Congress amended the Older Americans Act of 1965, to address the concerns of nursing home attendants.

She said after they complete the training sessions, the volunteers will be offered an opportunity to serve a three-month internship to receive state certification.

## The Elderly in The Brazos Valley

• 19 Brazos Valley nursing homes provide care for more than 2,325 occupants.

• 50% of those residents have no family members

• 60% do not get visitors

For more information contact the Area Agency on Aging at: 1-800-994-4000