



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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sports

• Aggie basketball teams look to continue winning ways.

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today's issue

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Reminder:

Today is the last day for graduating seniors to apply for degrees. Deadline is 5 p.m. in Heaton Hall.

aggielife

• Harlem Globetrotters bring their unique gaming skills to Reed Arena for Saturday evening performance.

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City Council honors Texas A&M football

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN
The Battalion

In honor of their Big 12 Championship season, the College Station City Council issued a proclamation and presented Coach R. C. Slocum and the Texas A&M Football team a plaque Thursday. Mayor Lynn McIlhenny read the proclamation, which recognized the team's second-straight perfect home schedule, its ranking of 11th in the nation, its win against No. 2 Nebraska, its win against the Aggies' upset victory over No. 1 Kansas State University to win the Big 12 Conference Championship. The proclamation also acknowledged Slocum as the winningest coach in A&M history with a 94-27-2 record and the fifth-winningest active coach in the nation. The 1998 season also marked the fourth conference title during his 10-year career at A&M.

The proclamation congratulated the 1998 senior class on a 35-16-1 record during their four seasons in Aggieland including two Big 12 South Division crowns and the first conference crown since 1993.

Slocum, accompanied by Lombardi winner Dat Nguyen, senior safety Rich Coady and senior safety Toya Jones were also present to accept the plaque.

McIlhenny said the 1998 season proved the organization, coaches, students and community showed a true team effort. "The Aggies are a team that demonstrates the winning spirit of College Station and the Brazos Valley," she said.

Slocum, speaking on behalf of the team, said they could not have accomplished their success without the support of the city.



John Lenczowski, director of the Institute of World Politics, speaks on rhetoric ending the Cold War in the Soviet Union last night at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center.

Lecture examines Reagan's rhetoric

BY SALLIE TURNER
The Battalion

John Lenczowski, director of the Institute of World Politics, told a group of faculty and students last night that Ronald Reagan played a critical role in the West's victory over communism.

Lenczowski's speech, part of the Fall Lecture Series sponsored by the Department of Programs and Professional Rhetoric at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, focused on rhetoric's power in ending the Cold War in the Soviet Union.

He said the Soviet Union government lied to its people in order to control them.

"What Ronald Reagan did is tell the truth," Lenczowski said. "Rhetoric is the soft instrument of power that he used to spread the truth about the conditions under communism."

Lenczowski said the use of Radio-Free Europe, unauthorized radio stations directed toward people under communist rule, worked to reconnect the people.

"Radio-Free Europe transmitted the truth instantaneously to the people," he said.

Black and Gold Annual scholarship pageant to be held this weekend in Rudder

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity will host its annual Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant Saturday 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

Kyemba McMillian, president of Alpha Phi Alpha, said the pageant is a national event in which all chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha participate.

"The pageant was created to give people an opportunity to participate and show their talents and also win needed money for schooling," McMillian said.

Pageant contestants will be judged in four categories including introduction, modeling, talent and question-and-answer session. Contestants will also participate in an evening-gown session.

Each of the 10 contestants will have the chance to win a scholarship.

A \$1,000 scholarship will be given to the pageant winner, and the first and second runners-up

will receive \$500 and \$300, respectively.

The first place winner will advance to the regional and state competitions and possibly compete at the national level.

Ebony Hodge, last year's A&M winner and second runner-up in the state competition, said it was an honor being named Miss Black and Gold.

She said the title includes a large amount of responsibility, giving contestants a chance to be a role model for other African-American women.

"I realized that being a role model for others meant developing myself as well as helping others develop themselves," Hodge said.

Evan Gentry, chair of the Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant, said it is important for the contestants to receive support during the pageant.

"This is a classy, elegant event allowing you an opportunity to fellowship with other students and support your friends," he said.

MEDALS offers glance into higher education

BY MELISSA JORDAN
The Battalion

High-school students, parents and counselors from throughout the state will attend the Minority Enrichment and Development through Academic and Leadership Skills (MEDALS) conference this weekend to gain information and prepare for higher education and other post-graduation opportunities.

Ebony Hicks, director of public relations for MEDALS, said the focus of the conference is to inform high-school students about options after high-school graduation.

She said MEDALS heightens students' awareness of opportunities, including junior college,

universities and the armed forces.

"It challenges them to do something constructive after they graduate," Hicks said.

Phillip Taylor, executive director of MEDALS and a senior management major, said the conference gives minority high-school students a chance to see other minority students in leadership roles at Texas A&M.

"I feel it gives a positive outlook to A&M in regard to minority students," Taylor said.

Chandria Jones, director of housing for MEDALS and a senior biomedical science major, said the conference uses speakers, workshops, group activities and interaction with A&M students to encourage participants to pursue educational opportunities after

high school.

"The focus of the conference is to encourage students, especially minority students, to pursue some type of higher education after high school," Jones said.

Workshops will be covering issues including SAT preparation, adjusting to college life, financial aid and relationships.

"(The conference) prepares them to make decisions that will affect the rest of their lives," Hicks said.

Jones said participants are placed in groups of 10 to 12 with two peer advisers who serve as facilitators for the group's activities.

Jones, who previously served as a peer adviser and a parent adviser at the conference, said the

peer groups allow students to talk about future goals and plans.

Parents and counselors attending the conference will participate in financial aid workshops, talk with a panel of A&M students and hear motivational speakers.

Jones said MEDALS includes parents and counselors in the conference to prepare them for assisting the students in continuing their education.

"Basically, we are trying to encourage the parents and the counselors," Jones said.

Taylor said MEDALS gives minority students a view of their future options.

"MEDALS shows them there are a lot of things you can do," Taylor said.

New Bus Ops managers propose, enact change

BY RONDA COOK
The Battalion

Finances, bus routes and bus schedules top the "to-do list" of Bus Operations with the employment of two new assistant managers, Mark Satterwhite and Bill Carter.

Satterwhite said one concern of Bus Operations is the lack of funds needed to support new advances in the department.

Over the past 10 years, bus pass sales have declined. Cathy Mathis, associate director of PTTS, said from 1987 to 1989, 12,000 bus passes were sold annually.

This year, Bus Operations sold 8,700 passes. She is proposing a transportation fee for \$35 a semester per student is an option for the future.

The fee would allow all students to ride the buses without having to purchase a pass and allow them transportation to events such as football games and Fish Camp. It would adequately provide funds for Bus Operations.

The new managers and Gary Jackson, shuttle bus manager of transportation, spend four hours daily riding the bus routes to gain insight from students as to how the system could be more effective.

"We want to take what they are telling us and act on it," Jackson said.

"I would like us eventually to go to a color system for the schedules: Excel Green or 'Ol Sarge Or-

Recent Bus Op Developments

- 2 buses (instead of 1) now run Bush route
- New signs added to back of buses, improving visibility of route name
- Maps of routes and schedules posted inside the buses
- New Web page will provide maps and times of bus routes

ange," Carter said.

Bus operations currently employs 350 drivers and operates 65 vehicles daily.

The managers said they want to be more helpful and available to students.

Jackson said he wants to improve customer service and satisfaction.

"We will talk to anyone, anytime," Jackson said. "We are way past time of keeping the student body in the dark."

Jackson said students are welcome to e-mail him with questions or complaints.

"If someone is going to send me an e-mail, I am going to write them back," he said.

Former student takes SGA advisory position

BY EMILY R. SNOOKS
The Battalion

Bobby Tucker, Class of '79, will take the helm as new adviser for Student Government Association (SGA).

Tucker came back to A&M this fall to work toward a graduate degree in student affairs administration and higher education.

While working toward the degree, he became interested in the vacant student government position.

Tucker began work Jan. 4 but was officially introduced as the new Student Government Association adviser at last week's Student Senate meeting.

Amy Magee, student speaker of the senate and a senior psychology major, said she is pleased with the new adviser.

"Having Bobby Tucker will be a definite positive," she said, "and I couldn't be happier about the decision."

Tucker said he will serve as an adviser to individual committees in student government.

"There are a lot of committees in student government and some of them already have advisers in place; those people will continue to serve," he said.

"I will work with the committees that don't have an adviser, but primarily, I will work with the executive branch and the Student Senate."

Working in student government is nothing new to Tucker. His junior year at A&M he served as speaker of Student Senate, and his senior year, he was student body president. Tucker assured everyone in Student Government Association that he did not come back to take over.

"I told them I am not back to try to run student government again; I had my chance for doing that," he said. "I'm just here to serve as an adviser and to work with them."

Student Body President Laurie Nickel said she is excited about working with Tucker and said he will serve as a tremendous asset to Student Government Association.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION
Bobby Tucker, Class of '79, is the new adviser for SGA. Tucker, who came back to A&M to pursue a graduate degree, took over the position Jan. 4.

"An adviser is something SGA has needed for a long time," she said.

"Bobby's experience and knowledge is exceptional and invaluable. He is 100-percent genuine and couldn't be more passionate about what he does."