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# Student Senate to discuss biology degree plan, 170-hour cap

BY MEGAN WRIGHT  
The Battalion

Student Senate will discuss bills concerning registration status for resident advisors, election and campaign-related bills, the 170-hour cap bill and a bill requesting the addition of a bachelor of science degree tonight.

Resident advisors work an average of 21 hours a week but do not relieve student-worker status from the University. Without being considered student workers, resident advisors are not allowed to register early.

The election and campaign-related bills include an election-date bill, an educated-voter bill and an off-campus campaign bill.

Resolutions voted on will concern the Columbian Student Association, advisers from the Career Center placed in each college and showing support for the proposed tax-free textbook bill being introduced by the president of West Texas A&M.

The 170-hour cap rule will be adjusted with the passing of a bill that will be read for the first time tonight. The 170-hour cap rule will have a grandfather

clause added to it preventing it from affecting students currently enrolled at Texas A&M.

Also, the wording would be changed with the acceptance of the new bill. Previously stated, the rule counts for all attempted hours on a student's records. With the new wording, the rule will only be applicable to hours completed. Tonight the bill will be read for the first time and either decided on or referred to a committee where it will be read again at the Student Senate meeting Feb. 17.

Brent Spencer, a junior microbiology major, authored a bill

concerning the addition of a bachelor of science degree to be offered by the Biology Department.

"The bill came about because of student reactions," Spencer said. "They thought a bachelor of science would make sense because biology is a scientific field. I talked to representatives in the Biology Department, and they voted in December to approve a bachelor of science to be offered. If the bill is passed, we will basically take it to the administration and show them that we have a lot of support for it from the student body."

# Corporations cite pros, cons of A&M graduates

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

Texas A&M graduates were found to be predictable and confident team players, yet lack diversity and have poor writing skills in a report by the Texas A&M Strategic Policies Research Group.

Two-hundred seventy corporations, including Boeing, Exxon, Shell Oil Company, state agencies and school districts, were involved in the Texas A&M University System study.

The report, Changing Employment Demands and Requirements for College Graduates, found the qualities corporations look for in

new employees include flexibility, adaptation and a commitment to continue learning after graduation.

Participants said strengths of A&M graduates included a strong work ethic, being goal-oriented, loyalty to the corporation and being well-educated and technically trained.

The study included 11 Texas A&M University System campuses.

Weaknesses among graduates were said to be cultural diversity, competency in writing skills and a "Generation X" mentality.

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# Financial planning fair to offer students ideas for the future

BY LISA K. HILL  
The Battalion

The third annual financial planning fair at Texas A&M will host 60 vendors and various presenters to another day who will offer financial advice to students, employer-in-law, bees and community retirees an, a German physician.

"Future Shock Prevention '99," including financial planners, investment professionals and representatives from community organizations, will begin at 7:30 a.m. in Rudder Exhibit Hall and Rudder seminar rooms.

Izetta Slade, assistant director of the Human Resources Department, is a member of the program's organization committee.

Slade said the fair is directed toward employed people and members of the community.

"This fair is an effort to help people financially plan in advance," she said. "We try to prevent people from waiting 30 to 60 days before retiring and realizing there's a money shortage."

Slade said the fair provides more than retirement planning. Students will at-

tend sessions on how to start planning for a financially stable future after graduation.

"It's never too soon to start financial planning," Slade said.

"Once you've graduated, students have more options than they think."

Bob Lawson, assistant director of the Student Financial Aid Office, will lecture on financing choices for higher education at 8 and 9 a.m.

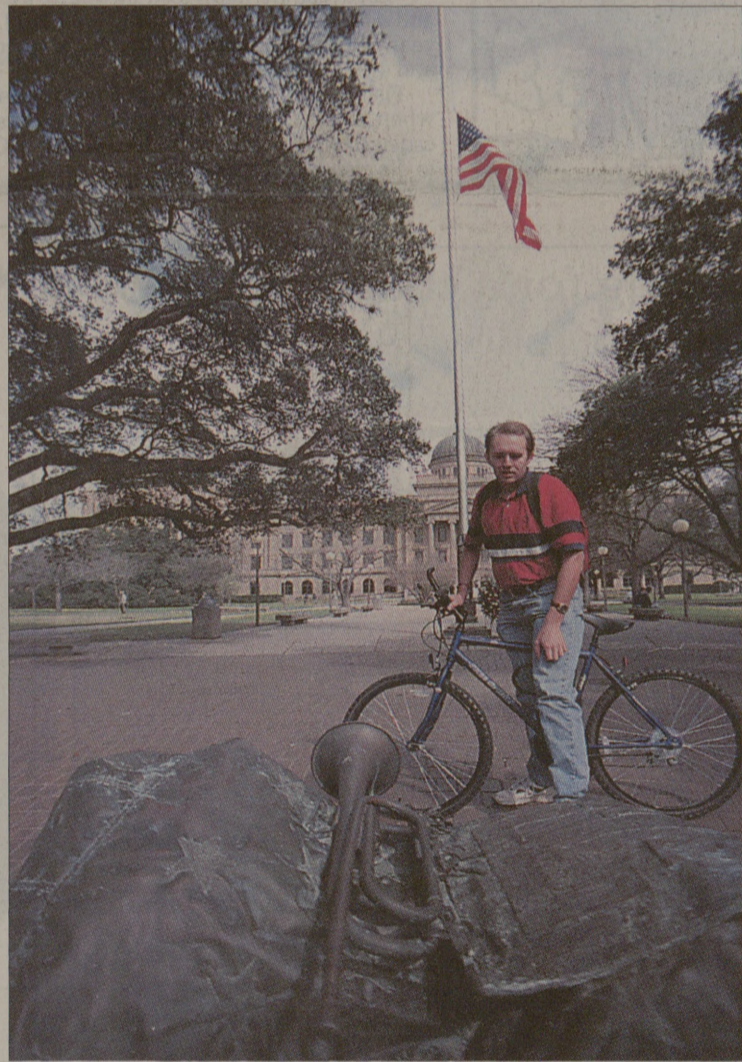
"My lecture will be geared towards different financial aid package options," he said.

"Instead of borrowing money, students' options in paying tuitions and fees will be discussed."

Companies represented at the fair include Norwest Bank, First National Bank of Bryan-College Station and Merrill Lynch Mutual Funds.

Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day including an acrylic encased Big 12 Championship football ticket provided by the TAMU Football Office, Texas A&M Bookstore gift certificates and University Flowers gift certificates.

## Moment of silence



Steve Rhone, a senior computer science major, stops by the Silver Taps monument to read the names of those honored at last night's ceremony.

# BAC hosts events for Black History Month

BY SALLIE TURNER  
The Battalion

MSC Black Awareness Committee (BAC) hosted a celebration of black history yesterday in the MSC Flagroom as part of Black History Month.

The celebration included songs, African-American historical facts and dramatic interpretations of poems written by African-American authors.

During the singing of the "Black National Anthem," many students at the event walked out of the Flagroom.

LaSondra Carroll, former chair of BAC and a junior journalism major, said if people paid more attention to the words of the "Black National Anthem," they would realize it represents America as a whole.

"We wouldn't walk out during the (American) national anthem," she said. "We at A&M jump on people who walk on the grass outside the MSC, but people feel it's all right to walk out during our [black national] anthem."

"When [an event] is about something black, people feel it is not about them," she said.

Carroll said the program organizers worked to increase understanding and awareness of African-American history.

During the celebration, Jewana Warren, a member of BAC and a senior management information systems major, gave a dramatic interpretation of diversity.

"See how diverse your people and my people and our people are," she said. "It's okay to be diverse. It keeps us from being slaves."

Maco Faniel, a member of BAC and



Jewana Warren, a senior management information systems major, performs her interpretation of "Diversity," a freshman speech communication major, said songs were included in the program to inspire listeners to reflect upon historical events.

"During the times of slavery, songs and celebrations are what got us through," he said. "Songs help African Americans to keep moving forward."

Joel Garrett, chair of BAC and a senior management major, said BAC will work with other organizations to highlight the achievements of African Americans throughout February.

"The month is a brief reflection on the achievements of African Americans through struggles," he said.

# Fish Camp reels in new counselors

BY MEGAN WRIGHT  
The Battalion

Applications for Fish Camp counselors are due today and may be turned in to the Fish Camp Office in the John J. Koldus Building.

Joni Martindale, Fish Camp Director and a senior international marketing major, said he expects 1,800 applications for Fish Camp counselor this year.

"We have a large number coming in, and we have 900 spaces available," Martindale said.

Results of the counselor-selection process will be announced March 1 with three training sessions before Fish Camp begins this summer.

"The programs will focus on traditions, facilitating and working with people. These themes aren't set in stone yet,

but counselors are required to be there," Martindale said.

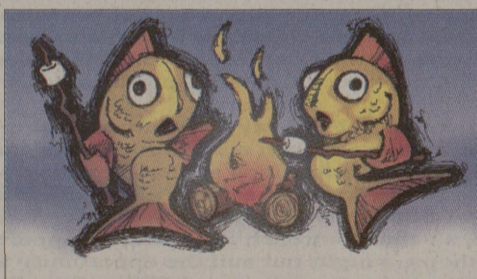
Fish Camp namesakes are also being decided upon and will be published March 8.

"The namesake nomination process began in early November when we began accepting nominations," Martindale said.

"Any faculty member can be nominated from A&M by anybody including past namesakes, students, family and other faculty. We received 144 nominations and we will choose 36 namesakes."

Martindale said the namesakes will have the opportunity to participate as much as they want to with their Fish Camps throughout the rest of the semester and during the camp sessions.

SEE CAMP ON PAGE 2.



## Fish Camp Facts

- Applications are due February 3. Counselor selection results will be released March 1. Officials expect to receive 1,800 applications for the 900 positions open for Fish Camp counselors.
- Thirty six out of 144 namesake nominations were selected. Namesakes will be announced March 8.
- In 1998, 4,800 students attended Fish Camp out of 7,200 incoming freshman.
- This summer will be the 45th camp. The program was started in 1954.

# Discussions, workshops mark National Disabilities Awareness Week

BY AMANDA PALM  
The Battalion

Services for Students with Disabilities and MSC Hospitality are hosting Disability Awareness Day today in the MSC to celebrate National Disabilities Awareness Week.

The day will begin with a panel discussion from 10 to 11 a.m. in MSC 206. The panel is comprised of five disabled students who will field questions from the audience. After the discussion, Access Challenge will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom in which students will participate in tests and activities allowing them to experience what it is like to live

with a disability.

Toby Boenig, collegiate licensing coordinator and former student body president, said Access Challenge helps people understand what someone with a disability goes through on a daily basis.

"Three years ago when I was student body president and before I was confined to a wheelchair, I went to Access Challenge and was able to simulate some disabilities," he said. "It's an eye-opening experience, but it's not meant for any type of pity; it's meant for a greater appreciation of students with disabilities."

Kirsten Jacobs, special events executive for MSC Hospitality, said the purpose

of Disability Awareness Day is to increase students' awareness of fellow Aggies with disabilities.

"I wanted to do this because I went to a workshop on how to incorporate students with disabilities into your organization," she said. "Students with disabilities are everywhere, and we don't even know it."

David Sweeney, coordinator for Adaptive Technology Services, said it is a benefit to put on someone else's shoes and see what their life is like.

"Access Challenge is to show the A&M community that students with disabilities don't want an unfair advantage," he said.

SEE DISABILITY ON PAGE 2.