



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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aggielife

• Recent boom in the use of natural herbs raises questions as to proper use and effectiveness.

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Monday's issue

Is the Texas Legislature aware of the problem's with the 170-hour cap rule instituted last summer?

sports

• Aggie softball and baseball teams kick off their respective seasons in weekend matches.

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Black student reunion comes to A&M campus

BY NONI SRIDHARA
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African-American Texas A&M graduates will gather on campus this weekend for the sixth Former Black Students Reunion.

Felicia Scott, interim director for the Department of Multicultural Services, said the main purposes of the conference are to reignite friendships formed in college and try to get the participants more involved in University issues.

Robert Bisor, campus liaison to the president's former student advisory committee on black issues, said the participants will attend presentations concerning current University issues.

Bisor said Bill Perry, executive associate provost, will discuss the Hopwood ruling along with procedures for students to obtain University scholarships during one of the workshops.

Walter Wendler, executive assistant to the president will discuss the Vision 2020.

"It is our notion that former African-American students are just as concerned with present University issues as the current students," he said.

Wendler said he wants to update the participants on the Vision 2020 plans.

"We want to review the findings step by step that are important to late for Vision 2020," he said.

Wendler said part of his presentation will focus on diversity.

"Diversity is such an important issue to this campus," he said. "We do not only want to focus on diversity from the race and ethnicity aspect; we need to also focus on aspects, such as population distribution, because we really need to have better representation."

Sonia Ellis Taylor, Class of '79 and vice president of Inroads Mid-Atlantic, will be the keynote speaker at a banquet Saturday.

Leslie Montgomery, Class of '94 said the reunion will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Black Awareness Committee.

Miss Greek accepts crown



MIKE FUENTES//THE BATTALION

Karen Petty (left), a junior biomedical engineering major representing Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, was crowned Miss Greek A&M at last night's pageant sponsored by Delta Sigma Phi fraternity.

Representatives from 12 sororities competed in the ceremony, emceed by Jimmie "JJ" Walker from the television show "Good Times." Pageant contestants were judged based on a formal wear competition and a question-and-answer session.

Laurie Nickel, student body president, Tase Bailey, corps commandant and Stephanie Presley, a former model who participated in the Miss Texas 1983 pageant, judged the contestants.

Prison chaplain denounces death penalty

BY SAMEH FAHMY
The Battalion

tunity to reform the condemned.

A former chaplain for the Huntsville prison who counseled inmates in their final hours of life, said in a speech the death penalty is a form of revenge that does not deter crime or provide closure to victims' families.

The Rev. Carol Pickett spoke to 70 people Thursday night at Friends Congregational Church as part of an awareness-promoting forum sponsored by the Just Peace Institute.

Pickett said an alternative to the death penalty is life in prison without parole.

The Rev. John Gallagher, professor of moral theology at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, said the death penalty symbolizes the cheapening of life and takes away the oppor-

Dr. Daniel B. McGee, professor of religion at Baylor University, said citizens need to learn how to overcome their need for revenge and bring about restorative justice.

McGee said nothing is gained by executing people who cannot be reformed.

"I think there are sociopaths and psychopaths that must be put away," he said, "but I don't think we're making any headway by killing them."

Pickett said he favored the death penalty after two of his congregation members were murdered, but he changed his mind when he witnessed an execution.

"These are people, human beings like you and me," he said, "except they might have made a mistake."

ALOT freshmen utilize leadership skills, host SLOT conference

• College Freshmen prepare high school seniors for leadership environment at college

BY JASON SCHNEIDER
The Battalion

High school seniors will be introduced to a college leadership environment this weekend in a conference sponsored by Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT). Valarie Glassel, director of

ALOT and a senior speech communications major, said the Student Leaders of Tomorrow (SLOT) conference will be led by trained A&M freshmen.

"This conference is not just for the [high school] seniors," Glassel said. "The freshmen spent the last semester learning leadership skills, and now is their chance to utilize those skills."

"This is an awesome opportunity for high school seniors to come on campus and interact with freshmen who were recently in their position."

Jeremy Hawpe, SLOT external promotions director and a sopho-

more political science major, said 150 high school seniors from throughout Texas will arrive at A&M today.

They will tour the campus, visit the George Bush Presidential Library, eat at Hullabaloo! Food Court and experience dorm life.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, will welcome the participants.

A series of round-table discussions covering time management, goal setting and group communication will follow his introduction.

There will be three tables, "Grooving with the Group,"

"Racing the Clock" and "Making Choices," facilitated by two freshman ALOT members. "Grooving with the Group" will focus on communication tactics and dealing with diversity.

"Racing the Clock" will address time management and "Making Choices" poses questions to students concerning dating, cheating, lying and others.

Other speakers will include Dr. John Hoyle, a professor in the Department of Education, and a keynote address by Lynn Hickey, associate athletic director.

"This program is unique because we bring students here to

allow them to get the feel of A&M," Kevin Jackson, senior assistant director of the MSC, said. "Students leave with a good understanding of what makes Texas A&M University a special place."

"The main objective for SLOT is to focus on the seniors and be a positive representation," Amber Whatley, an ALOT member and a freshman business major, said. "I am honored to be a part of something that reflects the University."

Last year 260 seniors visited A&M from the conference and 150 high school students will take part in this weekend's program.

CAMAC conference encourages awareness

BY NONI SRIDHARA
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Latino high school and college delegates will discuss their future during a conference over the weekend sponsored by the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Cultures (CAMAC).

The 12th Annual Southwest Student Conference, will attract 400 students to its workshops and sessions.

Workshops and presentation topics at the conference include bilingual education, Latino members of Greek letter organizations and White House policies.

D.J. Flores, conference director for CAMAC and a senior accounting major, said one of the main goals of the conference is to spread knowledge about Latinos.

"We want to educate the community at large about issues facing Latinos," he said.

Flores said many people do not realize the shift in demographics will cause Latinos to be the largest minority in the country in the next millennium.

"One of the things, which we are trying to cover, in this conference is this shift in demographics and how it is going to affect all facets of society," he said.

Angie Castro, advisor to CAMAC, said another goal of the conference is to show people A&M is a friendly and accepting

campus.

"Many of the students who are in high school or are college students planning to transfer will sometimes be a little apprehensive about coming to A&M because they don't see a large minority population, so we just want to put A&M in a positive light," she said.

Flores said new topics are being introduced at this year's conference.

"We wanted to put a new twist on things because we thought topics like affirmative action and Hopwood are getting old," he said.

One of the new topics, "Latinos: Is There a Common Ground," will be presented by Dr. Maria-Cristina Garcia, a former history professor at A&M.

Javier Valdes, speaker coordinator for the conference and a senior environmental design/international studies major, said the issue focuses on the social and political differences between Latinos due to different backgrounds.

"Dr. Garcia will speak about how we need to find some common ground between us so we can all fight together as one collective Latino community," he said.

The conference will open with keynote speaker Lt. Col. (Ret) Consuelo Castillo-Kickbush, the highest-ranking female in the U.S. Army and in the military.

CAMAC

Conference Workshops

- NAFTA:Future projections
- Bilingual education
- Washington & Latinos
- Shifting demographics
- Art of marketing oneself
- Higher education
- Machismo
- Pocho

In conjunction with the conference, the six Latino Greek organizations will hold a Unity Jam Blowout in Bryan to raise money for the Twin City Mission.

Albert Mares, corresponding secretary for Omega Delta Phi, said he expects to raise \$3,000.

"We really don't want to focus that much on the party, but more on the aspect of Latinos giving back to the community," he said.

Students who have not yet registered to attend the conference may register on site.

Animal Rights Debate looks philosophically at ethics issues

BY EMILY R. SNOOKS
The Battalion

Dr. Tom Regan, a philosophy professor at North Carolina University, will address animal rights from a philosophical point of view today at 2 p.m. in Blocker 114.

The Texas A&M Department of Philosophy and the Center for Science and Technology Policy and Ethics are co-sponsoring "Animal Rights Debate."

Dr. Tom Regan, a pioneer of philosophical reflection on the moral status of animals, was among the first to be published on this topic in professional philosophy journals.

Regan said he wants students to know about the moral aspects of non-human animal rights, a viewpoint they do not hear about often.

"Having rights means different things to different people," he said. "I plan to discuss three major philosophical positions of the moral distinction between humans and other things. First, do only humans matter morally? Second, do only beings having sensation ability matter morally and then a combination of the two asking if animals have these rights?" he said.

Dr. Gary Varner, associate professor of philosophy who specializes in environmental ethics and animal rights, said

Regan was not asked to speak as an advocate of animal rights at the presentation.

"He is not here to drum up support for the troops in the streets," he said. "He is coming to give a talk on the philosophical issues of animal rights; it will be more exploratory than advocacy."

Varner said Regan will discuss the philosophical side of animal rights issues as a topic new to A&M.

"I'm glad to have Regan coming to campus because I've been concerned that some of the talks on this subject that I've seen here have been generally dismissive of the underlying philosophical issues," he said.

Dr. Susanna Priest, journalism professor and a faculty member from the Center for Science and Technology Policy and Ethics, said the center has no definite stance on the animal rights issue, but a common belief is that everyone in science should be familiar with all sides of the issue.

"Our central mission is to remind the scientific community that there are a lot of issues in research that have a great social impact," she said. "Whether scientists are in genetic engineering, cosmology or agriculture it is their obligation to consider public opinion on issues like animal rights."