



# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY

February 8, 1999

Volume 105 • Issue 87 • 12 Pages

College Station, Texas



## sports

• Aggie baseball team starts off season with sweep of University of Texas Pan American.

PAGE 7

## today's issue

Toons ..... 2  
Animal Rights Debate ..... 6

## Tuesday's issue

As a sport and as a social event, frisbee golf comes into its own in Bryan-College Station.

## opinion

• The author of the 170-hour cap legislation attempts to make amendments, but problems still exist in the current law.

PAGE 11

## UPD hands inquiry of death to TABC

BY MEREDITH HIGHT  
The Battalion

University Police Department has led the investigation of Barry Joseph Vail's death over to the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission (TABC). Vail had a blood alcohol level of 0.223 when he fell from the third story of the west stairwell of the Southside Park-Garage. Vail and two friends were returning from a private party near Southside Parkway at the time of the incident. Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said the party was hosted by two Texas A&M students at their home. "There were quite a few attendees," he said. "The hostesses apparently didn't

know Vail."

"Vail and his friends apparently had heard of a big keg party and said 'Hey, that sounds like a good time,' he said. Wiatt said TABC will pursue the investigation to determine if criminal charges are necessary.

Randy Fields, an agent with TABC investigating the matter, said TABC will determine whether criminal charges will be involved early this week. "Optimistically, we will know by Tuesday," he said. "It's a matter of going through the statements and talking to the people at the party."

TABC will refer any recommendation for criminal action to the county attorney's office.

## Proposed Permit Increases

Permit	Current	Proposed
• Garage priority	\$270	\$396
• Regular garage	\$240	\$348
• Red and Blue lots	\$75	\$125
• Yellow lots	\$100	\$132
• Gated lots	\$100	\$198
• Reserved Spaces	\$200	\$264
• Motorcycle	\$35	\$48
• Night Access	\$35	\$48
• Park-And-Ride	\$35	\$48

All prices are for one year

## Task force proposes increase in parking fees

BY BETH MILLER  
The Battalion

The Campus Access and Parking Task Force has created a list of recommended parking-permit-cost increases to be evaluated by the Texas A&M Board of Regents in March.

The increases, if approved by the Board, will go into effect for students in Fall 1999 and for faculty members in March 2000.

The task force, formed to design possible solutions to

on- and off-campus parking problems, meets every other week.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, vice president for administration, said the increase will go toward funding a new parking garage to be constructed on West Campus and a tunnel under Wellborn Road from Kyle Field to the garage.

The garage will replace Parking Area 56, the lot adjacent to Joe Route Boulevard, near the Student Recreation Center.

Gaston said the increase

will be the first of three over a six-year period.

He said the University plans to inform faculty and students of the increase before the Board reviews it.

"We are briefing people on campus as we have the opportunity to do so, in preparation for our presentation to the Board," he said.

The increases are:

• student on-campus garage spaces will increase from \$240 per year to \$348

SEE PERMITS ON PAGE 10.

## ALOT reaches out to high-school seniors

BY AMANDA STIRPE  
The Battalion

One hundred twenty Texas high-school seniors who have accepted to A&M on early admittance were given an insight into college life at the Aggie Leaders Of Tomorrow (ALOT) conference this past weekend.

ALOT members housed the high-school seniors during the weekend and led participants during group round-table discussions.

Tremy Haupe, Senior Leaders of Tomorrow (SLOT) external promotions director and a sophomore political science major, said the goal of the weekend was to help the seniors decide to attend A&M.

Haupe said last year's conference consisted of more than 100 high-school seniors.

"People got to know each other more and exchanged numbers at the end of the weekend," Haupe said. "Tommy Miller, a group leader in ALOT and a sophomore accounting major, said the conference was a suc-

cess. I talked to several seniors who were not sure if they would come to A&M at the beginning of the weekend," Miller said. "By the end of the weekend they said they'd see next year."

Tommy Whatley, an ALOT member and a freshman business major, said the conference allowed ALOT members to know each other in addition to helping the participants.

Three round-table discussions led by ALOT members in three groups of 10 high-school seniors allowed future students to see a perspective of the upcoming college experience.

Topics included group communication, students' stance on certain issues and time management.

Lynn Hickey, associate athletic director, talked to students about the difficulty of transitioning mentally to the college atmosphere, leaving friends behind and building new connections at college while keeping ties with friends and family at home.

Haupe said the highlight of the conference was the traditions program presented by the ALOT traditions sub-committee. He said the program was highly rated among the participants during end-of-the-weekend evaluations.

SEE ALOT ON PAGE 2.

## Looking through time



CARINO CASAS/THE BATTALION

Robert Powell, Class of '84, reminisces about his college days as he goes through scrapbooks at the Black Alumni Reunion Friday night. Powell, now a major in the Army, traveled from Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., for the reunion.

## Reunion draws former students from across nation

BY BETH MILLER  
The Battalion

African-American former Texas A&M students from throughout the country rekindled college friendships and were updated on the present standing and future plans of the University this past weekend.

Reunion organizers hosted the former students with a schedule of workshops addressing Vision 20/20, minority recruitment, the effects of the Hopwood decision and scholarships.

Student groups National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), MSC Black Awareness Committee (BAC), Brothers of the Round Table, Striving In Society To Achieve Success (SISTAS), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Southwest Black Student Leadership Conference (SBSLC) and African-American Business Society (AABS) hosted a reception for the former students as a way of networking and displaying the organizations. A banquet and "Old-School Party" were held in their honor Saturday night at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in College

Station.

Brian Carr, a member of Brothers of the Round Table, said the student-hosted reception was a way of connecting with the former students.

"This is a unique opportunity for former students to mingle with current students," he said. "[We are holding this reception] to tap the resource of the former students."

Carr said, Brothers of the Round Table, an A&M service organization, works in the community and holds programs at the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Brazos Valley. He said the group is not financially sponsored by anyone, so he was hoping to gain support from former students.

Ellecia Williams, Class of '88, who lives in Vancouver, Wash., is manager of Inroads/Portland, a career-development firm. She said the sessions concerning recruitment were of particular interest, and she enjoyed networking with the students.

Williams said she is confident in A&M's Vision 20/20 goals.

"I think, coupled with admissions and other things like recruiting highly talented students, they will definitely get there," she said.

SEE REUNION ON PAGE 2.

## CAMAC conference emphasizes leadership

Students from across country converge to prepare Latinos for millennium

BY APRIL YOUNG  
The Battalion

The Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Cultures (CAMAC) prepared high school and college students for the millennium and informed them of conditions affecting their futures through its 12th Annual Southwest Student Conference.

This weekend's conference was the largest in five years with 30 universities present and a congregation of students from out-of-state schools.

Marco Davis, a member of the National Conference of Latin American, a Hispanic organization that arranges networking opportunities to benefit Hispanic students throughout the nation, said this weekend's was the largest student-run conference in the country.

Avier Valdes, speaker coordinator for the conference and senior environmental design and international studies major, said the speakers gave the students valuable information they can use to enlighten others.

The speakers gave us a brighter insight of what our culture is and made us become more aware of who we are and what we are about," Valdes said. "With that, we can not only

teach ourselves, but we can go out and teach the community about themselves."

Angie Castro, adviser to CAMAC, said students gained leadership skills from the conference.

"The students gained knowledge to prepare them for leadership in the next century," she said.

Castro said the decision has made the conference special. "On our campus the Hopwood decision affected the numbers of minority enrollment," Castro said.

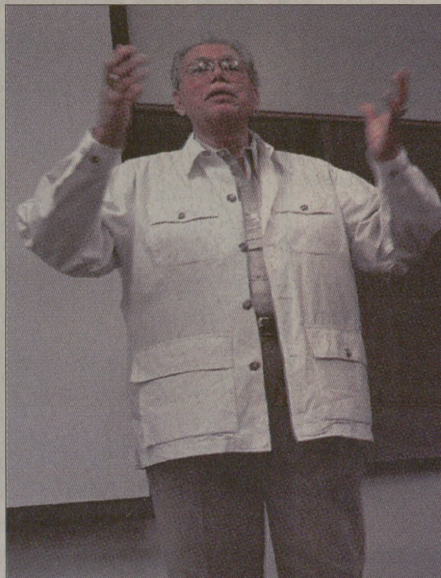
"Trying to show that Texas A&M is a welcoming environment is sometimes a challenge.

"I think that with this year's high attendance, our conference really helped."

D.J. Flores, conference director for CAMAC and a senior accounting major, said participants were left with a favorable impression of the University.

"A&M is not known as being very conducive to minority students," Flores said. "After the conference, they saw A&M in a different light.

Knowing that there is a Latino presence on campus will make them feel more comfortable about transferring to A&M."



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

Macario Ramirez, owner of a Houston folk art gallery, speaks to students on urban legends. Ramirez came as part of the Southwest Student Conference.

## Department to present photos taken from space

BY APRIL YOUNG  
The Battalion

The Department of Oceanography and Meteorology will display photos of Earth from space and address the planet's surface changes today at 4 p.m. in room 112 of the Oceanography and Meteorology building.

Dr. Cynthia Evans of the Johnson Space Center in Houston will present "Astronaut Photos from the Space Shuttle: Observation and Coastal Change" which will focus on the observation of coastal changes, particularly on river deltas.

Evans will present slides demonstrating changes in the Earth's surface features over almost a 35-year period. The photos will show changes in land use, urban structures and agricultural use.

Gerard Farrell, University spokesperson, said the department will hold a seminar to give students a practical application of scientific concepts they learn in

SEE METEOROLOGY ON PAGE 10.