



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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The Battalion... Letters must be 300... include the author's name... number... The opinion editor... letters for length... may be submitted... personal with a valid... mailed to... The Battalion... 013 Reed Hall... Texas A&M... College Station... 77843... Campus No. 2... Fax: (409) 845... E-mail: batt@...

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sports

• After slow start, Aggie baseball team battles to a 7-3 victory over the Sam Houston Bearcats.

PAGE 4

today's issue

Toons 2
Texas Film Festival 4

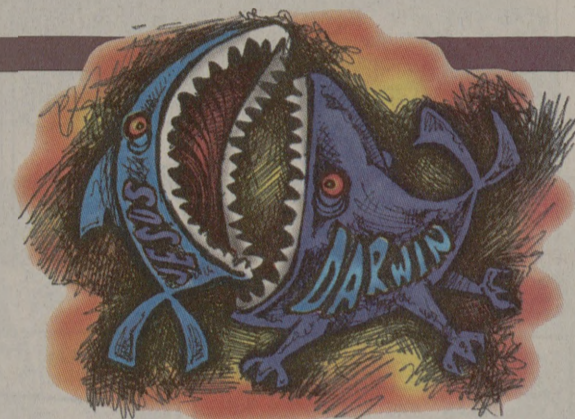
Thursday's issue

Controversy surrounding purple teletubbie reflects society's views on homosexuality.

PAGE 13

opinion

• Car fish: Evangelical Christians and 'footed' evolutionists battle it out on the road.



Graduate Student Council supports bill to waive tuition

BY SAMEH FAHMY
The Battalion

Texas A&M Graduate Student Council has given its support to a House of Representatives bill signed to give graduate students assistantships tuition waivers if they have completed their coursework. House Bill 315, authored by Rep. Maxey, is being considered by the House Committee on Higher Education. To qualify for an assistantship, which graduate students get paid for teaching or research, students must be enrolled in nine hours during fall and spring semesters and six hours in summer semesters. After they complete their coursework, they typically work on a thesis or dissertation, which does not involve structured coursework. Anneliese Reinemeyer, presi-

dent of Graduate Student Council, said the existing system places an unfair burden on students.

"Once you get to the end of your coursework, you're paying for classes you're not taking," she said. "We're paying tuition so that we can be employed by the University."

Reinemeyer said the waiver is essential if Texas universities plan to attract talented graduate students.

Reinemeyer said many universities, including the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, waive tuition and are more attractive to prospective graduate students.

"Texas universities are just not competitive," she said. "They cannot get the best students to come."

Opponents of the bill have argued that offering tuition waivers

SEE GRADUATE ON PAGE 8.

Bird on the Brain



CARIÑO CASAS/THE BATTALION

Di Fontenot, director of the A&M Children's Center and Class of '88, worked in her office for several hours with a parakeet on her head. The parakeet was found when it landed on a child's head in the playground at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday. Fontenot said the center will keep the bird as a pet if no one claims it.

MSC hosts off campus housing fair today

BY RACHEL HOLLAND
The Battalion

Students will be offered an opportunity to get started on next year's off-campus housing search today from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in MSC at the 15th Annual Housing Fair.

Representatives from 80 apartment complexes in the community will take part in the Housing

80 apartment complexes," she said. "They can show up to one place and compare and contrast the prices and amenities for all of the apartments."

The 1999 Texas A&M University Off Campus Living Survival Manual and information on roommate referral services will be available from Off-Campus Student Services.

"The manual explains how to go through the housing search," Forman said. "It details amenities, like if an apartment is on the shuttle-bus route, and prices."

Forman said the manuals will be available for the first time today, but students not attending the fair can still obtain them through the Off Campus Student Services office.

Kelly Taylor-Cone, leasing consultant at College Park-The Enclave, said students should begin their housing search early.

SEE HOUSING ON PAGE 8.

Symposium provides information on medical school options

BY LISA K. HILL
The Battalion

The ninth annual Health Professions Symposium provided information on medical school acceptance and medical school options to 800 students Tuesday.

Sharon Harrison, director of admissions at Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Pharmacy, said A&M students are at the top of her list for recruiting.

"We find that A&M students are well prepared for health careers," she said. "Last year, among the 66 students we accepted in our pharmacy school, 10 were Aggies."

Harrison provided students with information on the school's requirements and various entry-level doctor programs.

Dr. Anne Blum, Executive Council of Health Organizations (ECHO) advisor, said she was pleased with student



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

Elizabeth Neugart, a Class of '97 medical student, talks to Lyndon Kurtz, the associate director of Biomedical Science, in the MSC Flagroom at the ECHO Health Symposium yesterday.

turnout at the symposium. Sixty-five medical schools were represented this year.

"We had a steady flow of students all day," she said. "Students were excited at the number of schools and the amount of information we made available to them."

Blum said among the participants, several former students attended to advise students. Fourteen former Texas A&M students represented the University of Texas at San Antonio Medical School and answered questions.

Murali Mamidi, UT medical student and member of the Class of '97, tried to ease students' tension.

Student Senate gathers opinions concerning proposed legislation

BY MEGAN E. WRIGHT
The Battalion

Students who wish to voice concerns about various issues on campus will have an opportunity throughout today.

Student Senate is sponsoring Constituency Day today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with senators at six locations throughout campus.

Amy Magee, Speaker of the Student Senate and a senior psychology major, said the main focus of today's effort will be gathering opinions concerning the proposed West Campus parking garage to assist the senators while they are deliberating a bill to voice the opinion of the campus.

"Because it is such a pressing issue, we want the students' opinions about this because the proposed bill is going for the final reading at the next Student Senate meeting," Magee said. "We will take all of the comments we gather into consideration, and when we finally present it to the administration, we'll give them the reactions as well."

Magee said the event occurs twice a year and solicits student responses to issues affecting them.

"The purpose of Constituency Day is to reach out to the constituents and students at A&M," Magee said. "In a way it helps educate people, and we take their opinions down and relay them to the administration."

Magee said Constituency Day is typically held once per semester, but the Senate is trying to

schedule at least two for this semester.

Magee said the format for Constituency Day was changed last semester to include more locations for better access.

"I think these days are an excellent success," Magee said. "We recently moved the format from one location to six, and we have received a lot better feedback."

Senators will be available at:

- MSC
- Richardson Petroleum Engineering
- Zachry Building
- Commons Lobby Area
- Sbis Dining Hall
- Kleberg Animal & Food Sciences
- Wehner Building