

## Quiz Time

### Oceanography & Meteorology Department to host the second annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl

BY APRIL YOUNG  
The Battalion

High school students from throughout Texas will be quizzed on their knowledge of ocean sciences at the Texas Ocean Sciences Bowl tomorrow at the Halbouty Geosciences building.

The event, hosted by the Oceanography & Meteorology Department, will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. An awards ceremony will follow the competition.

This is the second year of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, which began as a celebration of the international year of the ocean.

Admiral James D. Watkins, founder of the Ocean Bowl and president of Consortium Oceanographic Research and Education,

will begin the tournament by discussing the importance of science and the ocean.

Dr. Edwin Shaar, operations manager for the Department of Oceanography, said the primary goal of the Ocean Bowl is to increase knowledge and awareness of the oceans.

"The Ocean Bowl will serve to increase knowledge of the oceans on the part of high school students, their teachers and parents, and to raise the visibility and understanding of national investment in ocean-related research," Shaar said.

"This is a standard bowl where two opposing teams compete tournament-style in a question-and-answer format, which will challenge the students' basic knowledge of the ocean sciences," he said.

First, second and third place winners will receive a trophy for their school and plaques for individual team members.

Each school will get an ocean science-related text book for their school library.

The winners of the tournament will advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

At the national bowl, participants will have a chance to win a oceanographic cruise, scholarships, and computers for their school.

Shaar said although the Ocean Bowl is organized for the high school students, everyone is invited to attend.

"Anyone who is interested in oceanography or wants to help with the bowl is encouraged to come out," he said.

## Annual Slavic Convention recognizes new acquisition of 35,000 books to library

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

A variety of Slavic disciplines will be discussed in both presentations and roundtable discussions at the Southwest Association Slavic Convention Saturday.

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages will host the event which will be in the Sterling C. Evans Library Annex 410 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The convention is held annually at Texas universities and was last at Texas A&M six years ago.

Dr. Brett Cooke and Dr. Olga Cooke, associate professors of modern languages, will host the event.

Dr. Woodrow Jones, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, will give the

opening address.

Cooke said speakers will come from universities throughout the southwest region to speak on the tradition of music in the Russian Church and the Pushkin Bicentennial.

Roundtable speakers will discuss the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Balkan crisis.

"We will have a musicologist from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and a historian from Southern Methodist University," she said.

"The roundtable discussions will be led by representatives from the University of Texas, the University of St. Thomas and Rice University."

Part of the convention will be

dedicated to recognizing the acquisition of 35,000 books to the Evans Library, Cooke said.

She said the convention is to everyone and admission is free. "Every year the convention has grown in number," Cooke said. "We are expecting representatives from Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio."

Cooke said the term "Slavic" includes Russian, Polish, Czech, Slovakian and Serbo-Croatian languages.

"We want to spread the word to more than just Russian," she said.

"The Slavic professors we know more than one Slavic language, Russian plus one other

## COSGA Conference brings forum for idea exchanges concerning campus issues

BY MEGAN E. WRIGHT  
The Battalion

Methods of improving student programs will be among the topics discussed this weekend at the 19th annual Conference on Student Government Associations (COSGA).

COSGA, sponsored by the Student Government Association, will host 475 delegates from 111 universities throughout the nation and will begin Saturday and extend through Tuesday.

Jill Wenger, director for COSGA and a senior business management major, said the purpose of the event is to bring together students from various universities to exchange ideas.

"The neatest thing about COSGA is the fact that it isn't just for

A&M's gain," Wenger said. "The greatest source of knowledge and information is from all of the different delegates. We send delegates to represent A&M, but we aren't the focus."

The conference will include workshops, roundtable discussions and seminars. Universities in attendance will have an opportunity to present their school programs at a "swap-shop" Tuesday.

The roundtable discussions will allow the delegates to exchange ideas concerning prevalent issues on their campuses. The delegates will be arranged in discussion groups according to the size of their schools and by public, private and constituency categories.

Andy Norton, operations executive for COSGA and a senior bio-

medical engineering major, said the roundtable discussions will break down the issues presented to the groups during the seminars.

"After the main group meets, the delegates will split up into the roundtable discussion groups and talk about the important issues brought up in the large room," Norton said.

Wenger said this year's conference will likely focus on alcohol on campuses.

"Every year we discuss normal issues like student apathy, elections and constituency," Wenger said.

"This year we are expecting a discussion about recent problems on the different campuses with alcohol. It really seems like administrations are taking a step to be more proactive in student life, not just campus issues."

## Boys and Girls Club celebrates Black History Month, presents musical 'Let Freedom Ring'

BY AMANDA STIRPE  
The Battalion

The first "Let Freedom Ring: March and Musical" presented by the Nia Panthers Keystone Club of the Lincoln Recreation Center Boys and Girls Club will start at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Cheletia Johnson, program director for the Boys and Girls Club Lincoln Center Unit, said the march, which is a Black History Month event, will pay homage to those that marched before and fought for the freedom of African-Americans today.

The Nia Panther Keystone Club, organized two years ago for boys

and girls between the ages of 14 and 18, is affiliated with the National TeenSupreme Keystone Clubs of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Each Keystone Club unit selects a name.

"Nia means purpose, which is one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa," Johnson said. "Panther is the mascot for the Lincoln Recreation Center."

Johnson said the Nia Panthers are a part of the brotherhood program to promote unity and is comprised of eight boys and girls.

The march will start and end at the Lincoln Recreation Center at 1000 Eleanor Street.

The march will travel on the south

side of College Station.

A press release said the Nia Panthers' purpose is to create and maintain high standards of service, leadership, brotherhood, education, free enterprise and social recreation activities.

It also promotes health, character development and citizenship in order to meet the responsibilities of the democratic way of life.

The musical will start at noon and will showcase various Bryan and College Station youth choirs, including United Voices, a Boys and Girls Club choir.

Johnson said the event is open to all Bryan and College Station residents.

## Over 100 students volunteer for 4th annual Aggies Up All Night

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN  
The Battalion

At the fourth annual Aggies Up All Night, more than 100 student volunteers will stand in Duncan Dining Center from 6 p.m. tonight until 6 p.m. Saturday to raise money for needy children in the community.

Aggies Up All Night, formerly known as the Texas A&M Dance Marathon, is a student organization that benefits Children's Miracle Network (CMN).

Jacque Vargas, adviser for Aggies Up All Night, said CMN helps families with sick children cover medical expenses, and supports organizations like Scotty's House and Boys and Girls Club of the Brazos Valley.

"This year our goal is to raise \$30,000," she said. "CMN guarantees that 100 percent of all funds will be spent to support local needy children."

Vargas said some of the kids benefiting from the event will attend.

"The kids appreciate the support," she said. "For them, it is like having Aggie big brothers and sisters."

Sara Elliot, event coordinator and a senior accounting major, said registration will be two hours before the event, and participants in the marathon are required to donate at least \$50.

"We urge everyone to stop by and give their support to a great cause," Elliot said. "If everyone on campus donated small change, we could

raise thousands of dollars."

Elliot said participants have on their feet for 24 consecutive hours and can earn seconds which will be allowed to sit down to rest or spirited or winning a game.

"Also, a friend may buy a participant some sit time," she said. A dollar might buy 30 seconds.

Students, campus organizations and the community will provide entertainment, games, food, and prizes.

Performers will include Wranglers, Freudian Slip, Yellow Magicians, and Fade to Black.

Rita's, Shipleys, Schlotsky's and Outback Steakhouse will provide food for the marathon participants.

## HOPWOOD

Continued from Page 1

"For many years, we've been building a house of diversity," he said. "A few years ago, they took away our hammers. Construction has slowed some, but individuals have taken up whatever tools they had in hand to keep building this house."

He said A&M and incoming students share the responsibility of creating a welcoming environment for students.

He said the University should emphasize the importance of forming relationships on campus.

Jan Winniford, associate vice

president for student affairs, said A&M's minority retention may benefit from approaching the issue from a glass-empty perspective. She said rather than praising the system for high retention rates, officials should focus on the percentage of students who withdraw.

"How can we get our hands around the whole issue of retention and keep those students we worked so hard to bring to the institution?" she said.

Winniford said her plan can be accomplished through identification of goals and determining the reasons students withdraw.

Mary Miller, associate vice president for administration, addressed the Hopwood decision as affecting staff,

rather than student, recruitment

The Division of Administration presides over the Human Resources Department, Research Planning, Traffic and Transportation Services, Food Services, Security, the University Police Department, Physical Plant, Airport Operations, the Faculty Club, the Graduate Center and the Child Care Center.

She said the division plans to develop programs to recognize the qualifications of all employees.

A&M is one of the proposals is to create a training program for those who are deficient in English.

"One of the things we believe our division is success comes by one," she said.

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Proposed Rental Rates for Fall 1999-Spring 2000

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