



# The Battalion

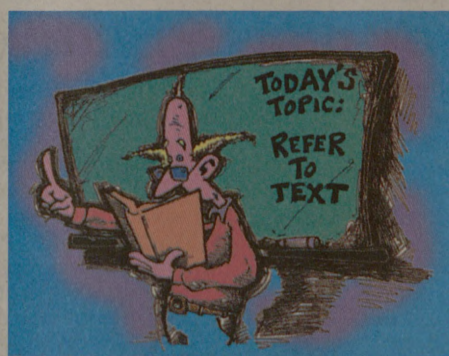
105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## opinion

• Professors who rely too heavily on textbooks harm both themselves and their students.

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## today's issue

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## Monday's issue

Aggielife focuses on Women's Week and influential women in the history of A&M.

## sports

• Iowa State Cyclones travel to Olsen Field for weekend series against the Aggies.

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# Shack-a-Thon

## Charity event raises hundreds of dollars

BY AMANDA PALM  
The Battalion

Aggie Habitat for Humanity raised over \$600 during the two-day Shack-a-Thon March 3-5 at Rudder Fountain.

The organizations that participated in Shack-a-Thon built shacks out of cardboard, boards and plastic tarps to serve as their temporary homes. Students who spent the night in the shacks slept on the ground in sleeping bags and used light from lanterns and flashlights.

Stephen Fisher, Shack-a-Thon chair and a junior management information systems major, said the money raised will contribute to Aggie Habitat for Humanity's goal of \$15,000.

"We want to build a home on campus and then move it to a lot in Bryan,"

he said. "That way visitors and students on campus can see what we are doing to help the community. But \$15,000 is a lot of money, and we still have a long way to go."

Chris Lavery, a member of the Conference On Freshman Leadership Organizations (COFLO) and a junior history major, spent both nights in COFLO's shack.

"It was really neat to be outside and work together to build the shack," he said. "It gave me a small sense of the reality of not having a house or an apartment or a dorm to live in."

Shannon Soechting, a member of Alpha Phi Omega and a sophomore sociology major, said there were so many members who wanted to participate in Shack-a-Thon that people had to sign up for shifts.

"There were different blocks you could sign up for, so that gave more members a chance to participate," she said.

Students stopped by Rudder Fountain to question the students participating in Shack-a-Thon.

"A lot of people came up to talk to us," Soechting said. "Some people had no idea what Habitat for Humanity was and that really surprised me."

Fisher said the purpose of Shack-a-Thon was to help people recognize Aggie Habitat for Humanity is working to help the community.

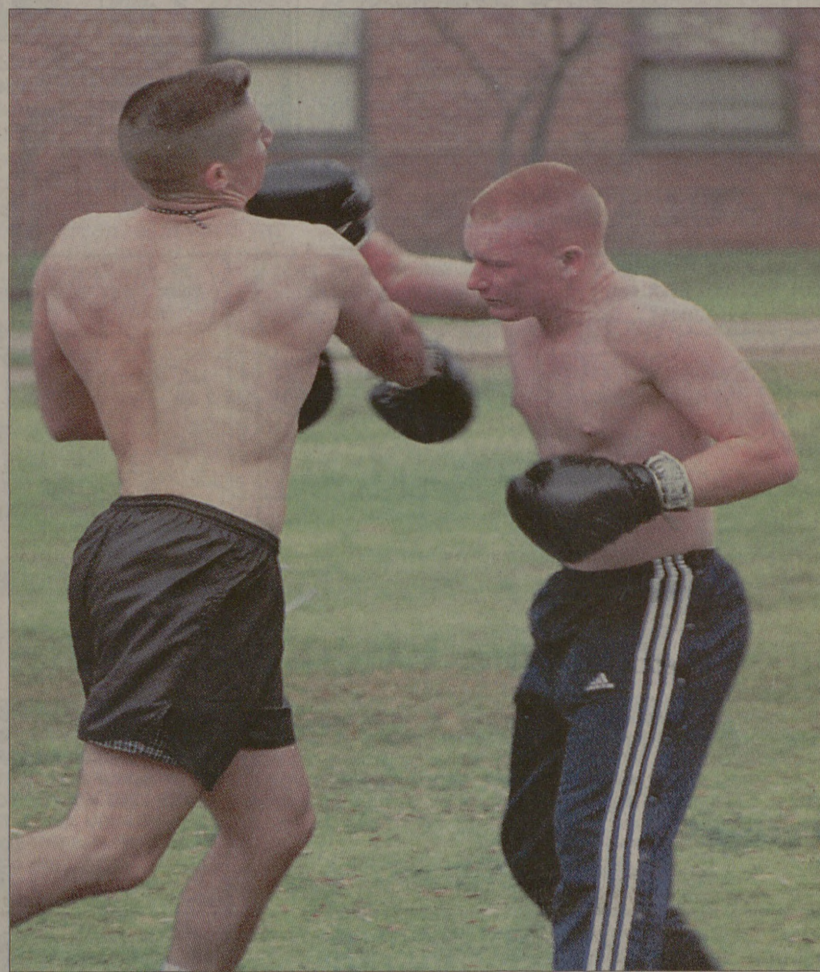
"This wasn't so much about experiencing homelessness; it was about awareness," he said. "Living in the shacks may have been a little cushy, but it still got the point across to students."



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

Ricky McGee, a senior wildlife and fisheries sciences major, builds the frame of the Alpha Phi Omega Shack Wednesday. The Aggie Habitat for Humanity's Shack-a-Thon raised \$600.

## K-2 TKO



CARINO CASAS/THE BATTALION

Erik Reynolds, a freshman aerospace engineering major, lands a hit on the face of Leon Mitchell, a junior kinesiology major, on the Quad. Both Mitchell and Reynolds are members of outfit K-2.

# Talent show to end I-Week

BY AMANDA STIRPE  
The Battalion

After a week-long international awareness campaign to increase consciousness in the community, the 20th annual talent show and dress parade in Rudder Auditorium tonight will round out the events.

The talent show and parade begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by an awards ceremony and party at the Ramada Inn from 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

International Week, a celebration including cultural displays, an international buffet and tonight's events, concluded International Awareness Month, which was February. Cultural displays were in the windows of Northgate businesses and at elementary schools during the month.

Sombra Davis, international student adviser and International Student Association (ISA) secondary adviser, said ISA made a conscious effort to make International Awareness Month and In-

ternational Week community events.

"This year, ISA coordinated a lot with local elementary schools and sponsored Neale Elementary School," Davis said. "Elementary children's artwork was on display at the [international] buffet, and some will be displayed at the talent show."

Davis said between 50 and 60 international cultures and every region of the world have been represented during the week. The talent show will host 16 acts, and the dress parade will feature 18 cultures.

"Participants bring back to the

United States items and costumes or have their families send special music and costumes to display," Davis said.

"Music, dancing and dramatic interpretation will be the major elements of the talent show. Each group will have six minutes to demonstrate their talents and display their dress in the parade. Davis said some students have trained as dancers or musicians in their native countries.

Davis said groups will portray significant aspects of their cultures and cultural history in their presentations.

"[The presentations] appeal visually with the colors and textures of the costumes," Davis said. "The music is very authentic, live or taped. It is neat to see how different cultures celebrate."

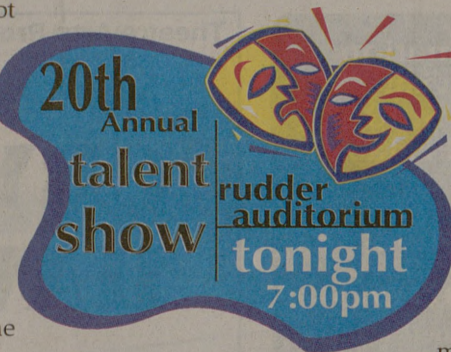
The awards ceremony and party will reward the top five clubs based on participation, products for the buffet, entries in cultural displays, performances at the talent show and performances in the dress parade.

Davis said judging the groups is difficult because of differences in music and dances.

"The clubs will be judged on how motivated they are along with excitement and participation," Davis said. "It's more willingness than how many participate."

Davis said the international clubs not only represent their cultures, but many represent facets of their country, such as art or business.

"They take a proactive effort to let the community know about their cultures," Davis said.



# Corps of Cadets to host Military Weekend, Ball

Military institutes from across the United States will attend discussions and other events.

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets will host the annual Military Weekend from Thursday until Sunday. Forty-six cadets and three visiting officers from different military institutes across the country will attend Military Weekend.

The visitors will represent The Citadel, Virginia Military Institute and Virginia Tech. Also, representatives from Prairie View A&M, Texas A&M University at Galveston and Virginia

Women's Institute for Leadership will attend the event.

Roundtable discussions will address gender integration, honor and ethics, and cadet vs. military training.

Kathryn Jones, vice chair of Military Weekend and a junior history major, said the issues and situations pertain to cadets attending military institutes.

"We will be discussing these issues and sharing ways to improve certain situations," Jones said. "The weekend is also about camaraderie between the cadets at the military institutes."

Gordon Harwell, chair of Military Weekend and a senior history major, said weekend highlights will include a Military Review Friday at 5:30 p.m. at O.R. Simpson Drill Field and the Military Ball Thursday night at Pebble Creek Country Club.

Major Doc Mills, Class of '72, said Military Weekend has grown and evolved since he was a cadet at A&M.

"The character of Military Weekend has changed since the early '70s," Mills said. "Back then it was centered more towards social events."

He said the program lasted two days when he was a cadet.

"We had a separate bash on Friday night for the Army and Air Force divisions. On Saturday we had the federal inspection, which no longer takes place, and the review that still is a main event for the weekend," Mills said. "Saturday night we had the Military Ball, which everyone attended, and it is still held today."

Mills said cadets from other military institutes were not invited when he was a cadet.

"The original features remain, such as the review and the Military Ball, but other events have been added, such as the roundtable discussions," Mills said. "The weekend has improved a great deal over the years."

# Traditions Council to present program on history of A&M

BY MEREDITH HIGHT  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M students will get a fresh perspective of the University's history this Saturday night in Rudder Auditorium when Traditions Council holds its first annual Spring Traditions Helping Ignite New Generations (T.H.I.N.G.). Spring T.H.I.N.G. will be in Rudder Auditorium from 7-9 p.m. this Saturday. Admission is \$2.

The program, designed to attract students who are not necessarily aware of the traditions and history of A&M, is in a storyline format. Events in A&M history will be re-enacted with the help of Freudian Slip, Alpha Phi Alpha, Aggie Wranglers, Ballet Folklorico, the Aggie Players and other performers. Between performances, Traditions Council will give background and factual information of the history of A&M.

Dr. Ben Welch, director of Stu-

dent Activities, will emcee the event.

September Smith, public relations chair for Traditions Council, said there are a lot of people who do not know much about the traditions.

"We really want everyone to come," she said. "Our purpose as a student government committee is to increase awareness about the traditions."

All proceeds from Spring T.H.I.N.G. will go towards the Cushing Memorial Library, where A&M archives are kept. The event has the potential to raise \$4,000 to \$5,000 for the Library.

Dr. David Chapman, University archivist, said he is grateful to Traditions Council for donating all of the proceeds to the library.

"It goes to help us preserve a lot of archival material in Cushing," he said. "Cushing houses all of the archives, which is manuscripts and

photos and books that contain the history of the school.

"The processing and preserving of these materials is expensive. It will allow us to have a certain amount of money on hand to help with that."

Chapman said this is the first time a student organization has held an event expressly for Cushing.

"I think it's pretty incredible," he said. "I don't think anyone could argue that it is not important to preserve A&M history."

The Association of Former Students is co-sponsoring Spring T.H.I.N.G. Patrick Williams, director of campus programs for the Association of Former Students, said the event is a great opportunity for the Association of Former Students to build relationships with students.

SEE T.H.I.N.G. ON PAGE 2.