



# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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# A&M prof's future pending

## Bowen to make final decision based on committee's report

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

A Texas A&M tenure committee Friday that computer science professor Dhiraj Pradhan should be fired for misconduct.

The Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Pradhan's (CAFRT) three-page report accused Pradhan of fiscal irresponsibility, echoing the 1996 audit accusing him of misusing university property and graduate students to advance his private business interests.

A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen must review the committee's report, and Pradhan has a chance to appeal the committee's decision to the A&M System Board of Regents. Pradhan said he never used University property or graduate students for his personal bene-

Pradhan was suspended in August 1997 after the A&M System audit in 1996 accused him of mis-

appropriating more than \$100,000 of University funds for his private businesses and was remitted in September 1998.

"... The committee's decision has been the final blow."

— DHIRAJ PRADHAN



Pradhan said he was not alerted of any misconduct until 1997, five years after he took the position of endowed chair in the computer science department.

"I had glowing reviews in 1997, and then, I am suddenly hit with accusations of being a crook or a criminal," Pradhan said. "Every year [before that], they said I was doing a great job. It is a great con-

spiracy against me, and the committee's decision has been the final blow.

"It is a shame for Texas A&M University."

In CAFRT hearings last week, Pradhan pled with the committee to allow him to stay and dismiss the charges against him. In its report on the 19-hour hearings, the committee said Pradhan's claims of racial discriminations were unfounded.

Pradhan, a native of India, initially claimed A&M officials discriminated against him and sought his termination based on race not on flaws in his performance.

Pradhan still claims the University acted unprofessionally in pursuing his termination effective July 1.

"This is a colossal mistake to harass me," Pradhan said.

In a separate criminal trial in November, Pradhan pled guilty to abuse of official capacity and was ordered to pay restitution to the

state and to federal programs for misusing government money.

Officials refused to allow Pradhan to stay another two years with the University and resign in the summer of 2001 in exchange for him dropping the lawsuit against the University.

In a March 7 e-mail to Bowen, Pradhan asked him to consider settlement options.

"The appointments for some of these [graduate] students carry a commitment through August 31, 2000," Pradhan said. "Let me therefore assure you again of my willingness to meet and discuss possible settlement options. Terminating any University professor is a very serious matter, and I hope the University will proceed in a responsible manner."

Pradhan said he wanted the two-year extension to finish the research he began with graduate students in September.

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# Former President Bush, wife to speak

BY EMILY R. SNOOKS  
The Battalion

Former President George Bush and former first lady Barbara Bush are tonight's guest speakers for the second event of the Distinguished Lecture Series at the Presidential Conference Center Auditorium at 7:30.

Gerald Farrell, a media communications specialist for the Office of University Relations, said the event will be an informal discussion between the Bushes and moderator Peter Roussel. Roussel is a 30-year friend of the couple and served as the former president's press spokesman from 1969 to 1974. The program will focus on the Bushes' lives outside the political limelight and events prior to and following

their four years in the White House.

Farrell said the Bushes are not only one of Texas' most-liked and well-known couples, but they have also become familiar faces around campus since the openings of the George Bush Presidential Library and the Bush School of Government and Public Service in fall of 1997. Farrell said it is a rare opportunity to have them making an appearance together.

The event will take place in auditorium A in the Presidential Conference Center at the Bush Presidential Library Center. Due to a large number of requests for tickets, an adjacent auditorium will be available to view the program through closed-circuit television.

The closed-circuit television signal will be made available to Texas A&M residence halls and other campus locations on Channel 83 of the University's cable system. All remaining tickets are free and available at the MSC box office.



BUSH

# A&M's Military Weekend

## focuses on honor, ethics

### Cadets address problems, solutions

BY NONI SRIDHARA  
The Battalion

Cadets representing five military institutions throughout the nation met on campus this weekend for Military Weekend and participated in roundtable discussions addressing honor and ethics, cadet training programs and gender interation.

Gordon Harwell, a senior geography major in Corps of Cadets Company P-2, said the cadets did not strive to find resolutions to the common problems but exposed each other to various ways of handling the issues.

Harwell said another major discussion topic was the honor code.

"Our school has the honor code 'Aggies do not lie, cheat, or steal and do not tolerate those who do,' and we pretty much let it stand like that," he said.

Harwell said the cadets discovered some of the other schools were more proactive in their stance on the honor-code issue.

Kathryn Jones, vice chair for Military

Weekend and a junior history major, said the honor code became an intense discussion.

"All Aggies know our honor code, but a major question you have to address is to what extent you can stick to it and when you can make exceptions," she said.

"Are you going to let a good person get a second chance?"

Jones, a member of P-2, said she and the other cadets learned how different schools deal with hazing. She said A&M has to follow the Texas hazing laws, but the Citadel in South Carolina is exempt from its state's laws because it is a military institution.

Other events included a military ball and a military review which Jones said one of her best experiences from this weekend was interacting with the women cadets from the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership.

"Sometimes we end up putting ourselves in a tunnel," she said, "but I learned that different places make different people."



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

Christine Watkins, a junior mechanical engineering major, Trey Wooten, a freshman agricultural business major, John Sommers, a freshman general studies major, and Bob Mayton, a freshman mechanical engineering major, march in the Military Review Friday.

# Spring T.H.I.N.G addresses traditions

BY NONI SRIDHARA  
The Battalion

Freudian Slip, the Century Singers and the Aggie Wranglers were among those presenting Texas A&M traditions in a storyline at the first annual Spring Traditions Helping Ignite New Generations (T.H.I.N.G.) sponsored by the Traditions Council.

Dr. Ben Welch, director of the Department of Student Activities was the master of ceremonies at Spring T.H.I.N.G. In his opening remarks, Welch commented on the strong traditions at A&M.

"Texas A&M is built upon tradition," Welch said. "It is what binds us together as Aggies."

Freudian Slip began the show by demonstrat-



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Bill Youngkin, Class of '69, speaks about the history of A&M's yell leaders.

ing some of the first traditions through a comical skit, informing the audience of the official

"Howdy" greeting and the class wildcats, which started in the 1870s.

Bobby Tucker, Class of '79 and a representative of the Department of Student Activities, spoke about the Aggie ring, which was established in 1879.

"Pride is recognized in many ways," he said, "but the ring is the best of all because it symbolizes what it means to be an Aggie."

Tucker told the audience that one trait everyone would take with them after leaving the University is noticing the ring on others.

"Whether you are walking around campus or down the halls of Congress, it will become

SEE SPRING ON PAGE 6.

# Indonesian association wins I-Week talent show

BY AMANDA STIRBE  
The Battalion

International Week ended Friday with a talent show and dress parade in front of more than 2,000 spectators.

Participants were judged on participation in the week's events, creativity, entries in the cultural displays, items in the international buffet and performances in the talent show and dress parade.

The five-best groups in the talent show division were Indonesian Students Association, Brazilian Student Association, Puerto Rican Student Association, Philippine Student Association and India Association.

The five-best international groups in the dress parade were Chinese Student Association, India Association, Indian Student Association, Mexican Student Association and Vietnamese-American Student Association.

Donna Hafil, a senior industrial engineering major and judging and awards director for the International Student Association, said this year's show was the

best she has seen in three years.

"The judges told me that it was hard to judge, and they wanted to give an award to everyone," Hafil said. "The coordination was better, the clubs practiced a lot, and they were better ready to perform."

Additional clubs that participated in the talent show were Mexican Student Association, American students who performed an Austrian folk dance, China Student Association, Uzbekistan Student Association, India Student Association, Venezuelan Student Association, Azerbaijan Student Association, Arab Student Association, Japan Club, China Club and Turkey Student Association.

Additional Clubs that participated in the dress parade were Japan Club, Bangladesh Student Association, Turkish Student Association, China Club, Arab Student Association, Philippine Student Association, African Student Association, Brazilian Student Association, Indonesian Student Association, Venezuelan Student Association and Kazakhstan Student Association.

The winners were announced at mid-



CARIÑO CASAS/THE BATTALION

The Brazilian Student Association performs "Manha de Carnaval" at Friday's talent show.

night at an awards ceremony at the Ramada Inn, which lasted until 2 a.m.

Hafil said the grand finale, which incorporated all participating countries, generated a standing ovation from the crowd before the show ended. She said screen dancers were placed throughout the stage while the rest of the organizations threw confetti at the crowd.

# Math, science symposium draws high-school students, teachers

BY SAMEH FAHMY  
The Battalion

Students, faculty and staff at Texas A&M presented seminars, tours and workshops Saturday at the Texas Alliance for Science, Technology and Mathematics Education 12th Annual Youth Symposium designed to encourage high-school students to further their science and math education.

The symposium attracted more than 1,300 high-school students and teachers to the MSC.

Dr. Robert James, professor of science education in the Department of Educational Curriculum and Instruction, said the symposium was designed to encourage science literacy.

"Science knowledge and understanding is useful in

everyday life," he said. "It's important to being a good consumer and solving real problems."

James said another goal of the symposium was to give high school students an opportunity to interact with research scientists.

"It's a good opportunity for kids to not only meet other students but to meet college students and faculty members," he said.

Meena Balgopal, project coordinator for the Texas Alliance, said the symposium is a valuable learning experience for participants.

"Kids that attend the symposium already have an interest [in science and math]," she said.

"This supports their interest and exposes them to new areas and fields."

Events at the youth sym-

posium included a lecture on AIDS by Dr. James Wild, professor and head of Biochemistry and Biophysics, and a lecture on lung anatomy by Dr. Larry Johnson, professor of veterinary anatomy and public health.

Students at the youth symposium toured the A&M campus, KAMU, the floriculture greenhouses and the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Lectures for teachers included using insects to teach elementary- and secondary-school science, using oceanography to teach science and using museums as a teaching resource.

The Texas Alliance is a consortium of businesses and educational institutions that works to improve science, technology and mathematics education.