



# The Battalion

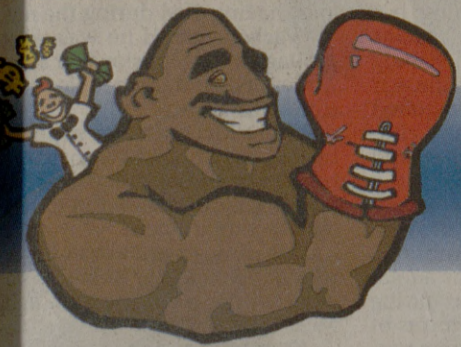
105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY

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College Station, Texas



## opinion

Boxing: Bitter fans watch as last dignified sport succumbs to political, monetary scandal.

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## today's issue

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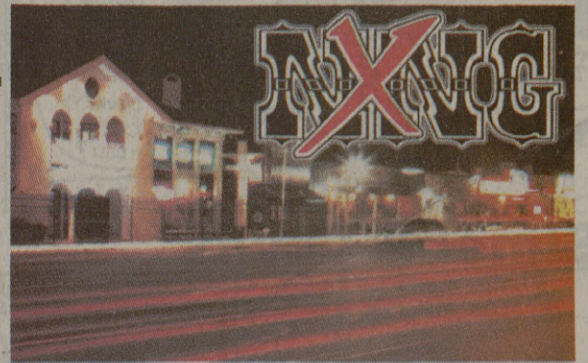
## Battalion Radio

Tune in for details on minority bone marrow donors at 1:57 p.m. on 90.9 KAMU-FM.

## aggielife

Second annual North by Northgate begins featuring over 90 bands, songwriters and DJs.

INSERT



# Candidates propose solutions

## Forum allows presidential candidates to discuss common problems

BY RICHARD PADDACK  
The Battalion

Student body presidential candidates fielded an assortment of election questions from various student organizations during a forum hosted by the Student Government Association in the SC Flagroom yesterday.

The forum panel consisted of the Housing Affairs Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, Student Life Issues Committee and Student Activities and Organizations Committee.

Each student organization asked one question to the six student body presidential candidates.

Parking was the biggest issue addressed at the forum, and the candidates were asked for solutions to parking problems other than fee increases. One candidate proposed using debit cards for the on-campus parking garages. Another candidate suggested creating more bicycle lanes in order to encourage students to ride bikes instead of driving.

Other questions involved the candidates' visions for Texas A&M in the next year. Several candidates agreed that A&M needs more diversity in campus life.

## Monster Madness



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

Billy Hicks, a member of the Reed Arena set up crew, instructs the dump truck where to place the dirt for Friday's Monster Truck Rally.

# Proposed tuition increase approved

BY MEGAN E. WRIGHT  
The Battalion

Student Senate passed a bill approving the University Authorized Tuition Increase from \$34 to \$38 per semester credit hour during its meeting last night.

President Dr. Ray Bowen will present the Texas A&M Board of Regents with fee increase proposals today.

The proposals call for increasing the Computer Access Fee from \$6 to \$7 per semester credit hour and the Library Use Fee from \$4 to \$5 per semester credit hour.

Also passed was the Underpass Pedestrian Way Bill, calling for a pedestrian underpass to replace the existing overpass crossing Wellborn Road. A similar proposal will be reviewed by the Board

of Regents during its meeting today. If passed, the funding and location of the underpass will be re-

## University proposed fee increases:

- Credit hours - from \$34 to \$38
- Computer access fee - from \$6 to \$7
- Library use fee - from \$4 to \$5

searched and decided upon later. The Northgate Street Lighting

SEE INCREASE ON PAGE 6.

# AggieCon celebrates 30th year

## Science fiction convention brings celebrities to speak, exchange ideas

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

AggieCon XXX, the largest student-run science-fiction convention in the United States, will be March 25-28 in the MSC.

MSC Cepheid Variable, Texas A&M's science fiction, fantasy and horror committee, will host the 30th annual event.

Thirty speakers, including celebrities, Nigel Bennett, Ted Raimi, and Larry Elmore will highlight the event. Nigel Ben-

nett, an author and actor known for his part as Lucien LaCroix in the television series "Forever Knight," will speak Friday. Raimi, who plays Joxer in "Xena: Warrior Princess," will speak Saturday morning.

Elmore, a fantasy artist known for his work in the Dungeons and Dragons book series will share ideas and concepts concerning science fiction illustration.

Amie Gantt, the dealers' room director and a senior recreational parks and wildlife major, said the

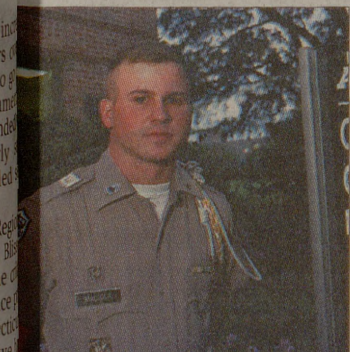
weekend will include many activities for those interested in science fiction and fantasy. The dealers' room will bring together vendors of science fiction, fantasy and horror merchandise.

"There will be an art show and a charity auction that will benefit Scotty's House, a non-profit organization that provides help to abused and neglected children," Gantt said. "Autographed books, comics and artwork in addition to non-mass produced originals and unpublished manuscripts will be

auctioned off for Scotty's House." Anime, Japanese adult animation, and computer gaming will be happening 24 hours a day Thursday through Sunday.

"One of the activities is nostalgic computer gaming," Gantt said. "A network of computers will be set up in a room and people can play different games against each other. One of the games will be

SEE AGGIECON ON PAGE 6.



MARK C. MACICEK

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

Cadets Forrest C. Lane, a junior political science major, and Mark C. Macicek, a junior business administration major, have been selected to serve as corps commander and deputy corps commander, respectively, during the 1999-2000 school year. Lane and Macicek were se-

# Corps commander, deputy appointed

## Highest ranking cadets plan for future

lected from 26 other cadets by a board of military officers and current cadet leaders.

Lane, existing university relations sergeant, will become the highest-ranking cadet in the 2,200-member Corps of Cadets and a cadet colonel of the corps. He will lead the largest uniformed body of students outside the U.S. service academies.

Lane said the duties of the corps commander vary.

"The corps commander provides a direction for the member of the corps and move the corps in that direction," He said. "Other duties of the corps commander include providing public relations for the Corps of Cadets and recruitment of future cadets."

As the 1998-1999 school year comes to an end, Lane is making plans for his leadership position next school year.

"I want to continue the positive atmosphere of the corps that Tase Bailey, the current corps commander, has created," Lane said.

Lane and Macicek said they want the Corps to become more involved in the community.

"Since we are the largest organization on campus, I feel that we need to be more involved in the community," Lane said. "We have the resources to do more,



FORREST C. LANE

## Research Week enhances awareness

More than 200 undergraduate and graduate students are participating in Texas A&M's second annual Student Research Week as part of an effort to enhance awareness of student involvement in research at A&M.

Posters displaying student research projects will be in Rudder Exhibit Hall today from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Oral presentations and competition will be today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in various locations throughout Rudder Tower. Seventy A&M faculty members and mentors will serve as judges for the poster and oral competitions where students will compete for \$10,000 in cash awards.

In conjunction with Student Research Week, the Office of Professional School Advising will present "Advising for Graduate Studies" Friday from 1:50 to 4 p.m. in 201 Harrington Education Center.

The Society of Mexican-American Engineers and Scientists will present U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady and Mark Westhusin, professor of veterinary physiology and pharma-