



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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aggielife

• Students share shameful stories of succumbing to slumber in class.

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Battalion Radio

Tune in to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on new tests for College Station police officers.

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sports

• Texas A&M Softball Team wins three of four games in weekend Big 12 action.



Former A&M athlete arrested on campus

BY AMANDA PALM
The Battalion

Former Texas A&M football player Derrick Spiller was arrested on campus Thursday and charged with weapons possession and misdemeanors for theft and drug possession. Bob Wiatt, director of University Police Department (UPD), said UPD officers arrested Spiller and Courtney Young, both of La Marque, after an officer saw the men removing hubcaps from a 1997 Dodge truck. The officers searched the 1999 Dodge the men were driving and found a loaded 9 mm automatic pis-

tol. In the glove compartment of the vehicle, the officers found a box of 9 mm shells, \$1,590 in cash and an unlabeled bottle of pills. Spiller, 21, was charged with a third-degree felony of possession of a dangerous weapon and two misdemeanors, Class B theft and Class A possession of dangerous drugs. Young, a student at the College of the Mainland in Texas City, was charged with Class B theft and Class A possession of dangerous drugs. A third-degree felony charge is punishable by 2 to 10 years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine; a Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to six months in jail and/or a \$2,000 fine;

and a Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a \$4,000 fine. The men were released from the Brazos County Jail on Friday after Spiller posted \$2,250 and Young posted \$1,750 in bonds. UPD took the bottle of pills to a pharmacist who identified them as Alprazolam, commonly known as Xanax. The drug is used to treat nervousness and anxiety disorders and is only available by prescription. Spiller, a former tight end for the Aggie football team, is awaiting the NFL draft in April. He is not currently enrolled at A&M.



Derrick Spiller, No. 87, catches a pass against the University of Texas last November. Spiller was arrested on campus Thursday night.

Regents approve fee hikes

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Students will pay an extra \$4 per semester credit hour in University Authorized Tuition (UAT) beginning in Fall 1999. The Texas A&M Board of Regents voted Friday to bring the UAT to \$38 per semester credit hour, the maximum level allowed by the state. The revenue generated from the \$4 increase is expected to generate \$4.4 million over a two-year period and will be applied to a 3-percent faculty pay increase. The Board of Regents approved increases in the Student Services Fee from \$10 to \$11, the Computer Access Fee from \$6 to \$7, the Graduate Application Fee from \$35 to \$50 and the International Student Fee from \$24 to \$28.

In other business, the Board of Regents:

- Approved the preliminary design and the revised project budget of \$30 million for the construction of a West Campus parking garage, which will accommodate 3,200 cars.
- Appropriated \$10 million for the design and selection of the architect/engineer design team for the Wellborn Road pedestrian passageway, a crossing that will run under the Wellborn Road/Union Pacific Railroad corridor connecting main campus and West Campus. The passageway will be integrated into the new West Campus parking garage and the new Kyle Field entry plaza.
- Approved the preliminary design for the estimated \$2.5 million University Apartments Community Center, which will include two conference rooms, three meeting rooms, a general-use recreation room, kitchen facilities and a laundry room.
- Approved \$9.46 million for the preliminary design and construction of the Regional Health Science Education Center, an addition to the Texas A&M University Health Science Center at Temple.
- Authorized the request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to create the Department of Performance Studies by combining the existing music section in the Department of Philosophy and Humanities and the Theatre Arts Program in the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts at A&M.

Deadly gas forces hall evacuation

BY RACHEL HOLLAND
The Battalion

Residents evacuated Krueger Hall Thursday night while carbon monoxide was ventilated from the building. The College Station Fire Department and the Texas A&M Environmental Health and Safety Department responded to complaints from Krueger residents of headaches and a gas smell at 6:30 p.m. Chris Meyer, director of the Environmental Health and Safety Department, said a compressor pumping water from a leaking tunnel that supplies Krueger with water was the source of the carbon monoxide. He said the gas-powered compressor released high levels of carbon monoxide because the engine was old and not maintained. Meyer said a pump that added air to the tunnel for repair workers to breathe contributed to the problem.

... Besides the carbon monoxide flowing from the compressor, it was also being pumped in."

—Chris Meyer
Director, Environmental Health and Safety Department

Gate keepers



Steph Sandlin, lead singer of Haywood and Class of '96, performs at North by Northgate. Spectators watched the band though rain plagued Haywood's set Saturday night. More than 90 acts took part in the music festival.

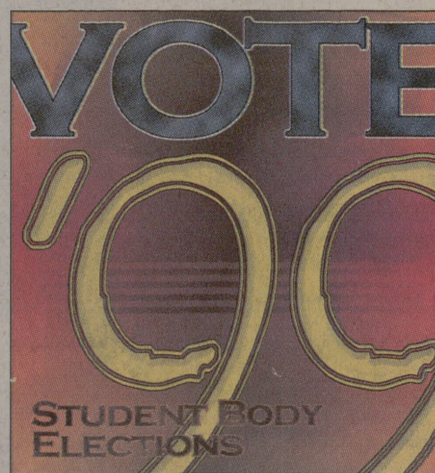
Candidates list education as one key to diversity

Editor's note: With the upcoming student body elections, the editorial board of The Battalion, has selected three topics which it feels are among the biggest issues facing the Texas A&M campus. The seven candidates for student body president as identified by the election commission were asked about diversity, student safety and fee increases. Each day, an article will be dedicated to one of these issues and Wednesday, each candidate will discuss their top platform priority.

BY EMILY SNOOKS
AND NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

The seven 1999 student body president candidates said they have solutions to the lack of diversity on the Texas A&M campus. Neil Lewis said A&M needs to inform students early in their college careers that they are no longer in high school and need to understand the amount of diversity represented on

campus. Lewis said programs including Fish Camp, T-Camp and Howdy Camp should help increase awareness because incoming students may not have been exposed to a diverse population. Lewis said students must understand the level of respect required for students from other parts of the country and the world. Will Hurd said spreading awareness to 43,000 students is difficult, but using new student conferences to stress a variety of issues, not simply academia, would help. Hurd said events like Whoopstock celebrate diversity and aid students in understanding culture. He said one of the main points of his campaign is that A&M needs to increase the variety of backgrounds of the student body. "A&M is an outstanding institution, and to make it even better, we need to go out and get in touch with all potential Aggies starting at the intermediate and high-school level," he said.



"In addition to going to those high schools from which present Aggies graduated, we need to reach out to those schools in Texas that do not have any graduates attending Texas A&M." T.J. Edwards said he believes diversity is important for the A&M student body because as Aggies graduate and

enter the work force, they will experience an ever-changing world. "I think it is important that we educate the student body, not only about the different students, not only here at A&M, but the different types of people they will run into in the workplace," Edwards said. He said he would also like to see a subcommittee of the Aggie Recruitment Committee created to reach out to the more disadvantaged students to help diversify the student body. "By not having representatives of Texas A&M at these areas, we miss out on a lot of good and diverse students," he said. Brandon Clarke said the University needs more than one International Week per year to learn about the other cultures that constitute the student body. Clarke said one idea is to create a weekly event in which cultures represented in the student body have a display with information educating students about the cultures' backgrounds.

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