



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY

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College Station, Texas

aggielife

• Architecture professors display artwork at J. Wayne Stark University Galleries.

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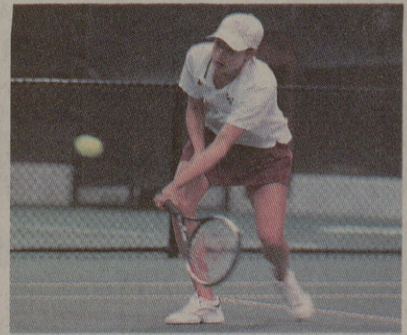
Battalion Radio

Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on the new depression pill for dogs.

sports

• A&M Women's Tennis Team defeats Texas Tech University 8-1 at Monday's game.

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Record-breaking 16,158 prospective students apply

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

More than 16,000 prospective students have applied to Texas A&M for Fall 1999, but less than half will enroll, according to a report from the Office of Admissions and Records.

A record 16,158 prospective freshmen applied to A&M, exceeding the 1996 record of 15,973 applicants for Fall 1996 and representing a 19-percent increase from the 13,534 applicants for the Fall 1997.

Gary Engelgau, the executive director of the

Office of Admissions and Records, said the increase may be attributed to the new common application for all public universities in Texas and to the installation of the application on the Internet.

Electronic applications accounted for 42-percent of the applications submitted by the March 1 deadline for admissions.

"We are continuing our recruitment efforts," Engelgau said. "We hope and presume there are growing expectations for Texas A&M."

Engelgau said the University will offer admission to between 10,000 and 11,000 freshman applicants in hopes of generating 6,300 new stu-

dents. The largest categorical increase came from the students who checked "other" or left the race/ethnicity slot blank on the application.

According to the report, the number of male and female applicants increased, in addition to race and ethnic categories, excluding international students.

The number of applicants in the top 10-percent of their high school graduating classes increased, with an increase in the applicants to all colleges.

Engelgau said more students than anticipated accepted their admissions for Fall 1998, leading to a freshman class enrollment of 7,354.

Verbal altercation over banner ends in citation issuance

BY SAMEH FAHMY
The Battalion

A Texas A&M student was cited for misdemeanor assault by contact Wednesday after an altercation in front of the Academic Building where evangelist Tom Short was speaking.

Armando Roberto Chavez, a sophomore computer science major, was given the citation, which carries a fine of up to \$500.

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police Department, said Amy Hinze, a sophomore political science major, was holding a pro-choice banner when Chavez approached her and began a verbal altercation. Wiatt said Chavez grabbed the banner and destroyed it and, in doing so, intentionally and knowingly caused physical contact by bumping Hinze's right shoulder.

Wiatt said no injuries were reported as a result of the incident.

Chavez said he never touched Hinze and that he is remorseful for his actions.

"I was very immature," he said. "I've tried to apologize but haven't got a response. I hope she forgives me. I hope this doesn't carry on further."

"Expressing pro-choice beliefs is one thing, but devaluing God, you're looking for trouble," he said. "I didn't have to be trouble. I was immature."

Hinze said Short ridiculed her after she began crying. Attempts were made to contact Short, but they were unsuccessful.

"I do not believe Tom Short had the right to personally insult me or demean my choice to call the police," she said.

Hinze said Short also ridiculed her the day after the incident.

"I support free speech, but when it creates an atmosphere of hate and violence, I think it's gone too far," she said.

Ben Welch, director of student activities, said he does not foresee any implications for A&M Christian Fellowship (AMCF), the organization that sponsored Short's visit.

"The only way a student organization is involved is if [the assaulting person] is a member of that organization," he said.

Penny Appleton, president of AMCF and a junior animal science major, said Chavez is not a member of the group and that the incident will not affect any future plans to sponsor Short on campus.

SEE CITATION ON PAGE 2.

Senate considers salary increases

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Professors at Texas A&M and other higher education institutions across the state may earn more in the upcoming academic year if the 76th Texas Legislature approves a bill to raise their salaries.

Senate Bill 466, sponsored by Sen. Tom Haywood, a former college professor, is under review by the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education.

Tom Hoffman, the president of the Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT) and an English professor at Midwestern State University, said he expects a 7.5 to 9-percent increase in professors' salaries if the bill is passed.

"We urged [Haywood] to introduce the bill," Hoffman said, in a press release. "We're seeing a shortage in teachers for certain disciplines. We have a shortage in Midwestern State University's education department that has remained unfilled for two years."

An average A&M salary was reported to be 92 percent of the overall average Texas salary for fiscal year 1998, compared to 92 percent of the state average in 1994 and 95 percent in 1990.

Hoffman said increasing professor salaries could potentially attract more qualified educators to Texas higher edu-

cation institutions.

"We want the salary increase for professors so we can attract good people — the students of Texas deserve the best teachers we can get them," Hoffman said in the press release.

In a measure affecting higher education institutions within the Texas A&M University System, the Texas A&M Board of Regents approved Friday an increase of \$4 per semester credit hour in the University Authorized Tuition (UAT).

The revenue gained from the UAT increase, beginning in Fall 1999, will go to increase professors' salaries at A&M.

A Texas A&M professor earns an average salary of \$73,000, compared to \$82,000 at the University of Texas, according to a report from the Office of Institutional Studies and Planning.

An A&M associate professor earns \$52,000, compared to \$53,700 at the University of Texas.

An A&M assistant professor earns \$45,800, compared to \$49,700, at the University of Texas.

In addition to the professor salary increases, Hoffman said TACT has urged legislators to consider increased funding and grants for student scholarships and grants based on need and merit.

Cooling construction



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Construction workers from Garrett Mechanical work Monday afternoon on a new cooling tower for the physical plant. The 55-year-old cooling tower, which should be finished by August, is being replaced at the corner of Ross St. and Ashbury St.

Res Week unites Aggies

BY AMANDA STIRPE
The Battalion

Resurrection Week 1999 started Sunday at the Armory in Bryan with a live swing band and free swing lessons.

Since Spring 1993, Resurrection Week has united thousands of students and between 30 and 40 Aggie Christian organizations for a week of worship prior to Easter; what started with Bobby Dean, Corps of Cadets chaplain in 1993, planning prayer events before Easter has grown to a large-scale event.

Monday, Dr. Walter Bradley, a professor of mechanical engineering, talked about his book, *Scientific Evidence of the Existence of God*, attracting a standing-room-only crowd in Rudder Auditorium.

Tonight, Breakaway, which attracts 3,000 students per week and is the largest college Bible study in the nation, will be in Rudder Audi-

torium at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

A corporate praise will be at Rudder Auditorium at 7 p.m. Wednesday. A live satellite down link will connect 40 Resurrection Week groups at colleges across the nation on a movie-theater-sized screen.

In addition, Caedmon's Call, a band from Houston, will be broadcast during various parts of the evening and will play songs from its new CD, which will be released April 13. Louis Giglio, founder of the Passion Conference, will speak via satellite. Praise songs and prayers will be broadcast along with seven campus ministers live at Rudder Auditorium throughout the evening. Also, By The Tree, a band from Fort Worth, will lead praise songs live throughout the evening.

The week will be rounded out with a Crucifixion drama at Rudder

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Feminist lectures against abortion

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

Working together to eliminate the reasons women seek abortion was the solution offered by Serrin Foster during her lecture last night in Rudder Tower, "Feminist Case Against Abortion."

Foster, executive director of Feminists for Life of America, said there are a number of things people can do to help make abortion rare.

"We can systematically eliminate abortion by empowering women with knowledge, funding pregnancy crisis centers and making businesses and colleges supportive of pregnancy," Foster said. "No woman should have to

choose between her education and her child."

Lauren Donohue, director of Brazos Valley Coalition for Life, said abortion is not justified under any circumstances.

"A life is a life at every stage and in any situation," Donohue said.

Donohue said the pro-choice rally Saturday made the forum timely.

"Since [National Organization for Women] had their pro-choice rally on Saturday and we have Feminists For Life here today, I think the forum is extremely timely," Donohue said. "We are talking about similar, almost identical problems, and we are both trying to provide women with the best



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Serrin Foster, executive director of Feminists for Life of America, spoke Monday night in Rudder.

solutions for their situation."

Foster encourages women who are considering abortion to think the process out fully.

"Women considering abortion need to consider all their choices and slow down to really think it through," Foster said. "Give your-

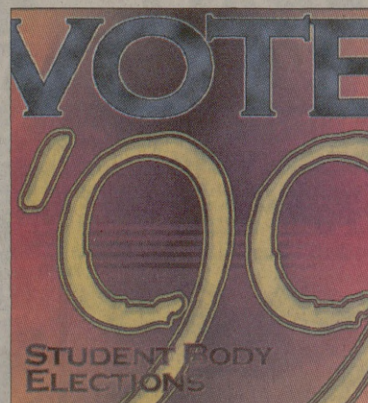
SEE FOSTER ON PAGE 2.

Candidates propose safety measures

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. This is the second of four installments.

BY EMILY SNOOKS
AND NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Student body president candidates say the keys to alleviating drug and hazing problems among Texas A&M students is education and the safety of students is education and enhanced safety programs.



The candidates discussed student safety, including hazing, racial crimes and alcohol- and drug-related accidents.

Jason Royster said substance abuse is a big problem because alcohol is influential at A&M.

Royster said he knows hazing exists in some organizations, including Greek groups and the

Corps of Cadets. He said whether it is a freshman getting books for an upperclassman from the MSC or a more violent act, the organizations should find new traditions.

"We are all Aggies, and I don't think anyone should be punished to become a part of an organization," he said.

Royster said some people say the actions of the organizations help build character, but that there are other ways to build character, including community service and fundraisers.

Brandon Clarke said educating students about the hazards of abusing alcohol and drugs is their best way to curb the ongoing problem. Clarke said getting students involved in campus programs, giving students alternatives to drinking, displaying wrecked automobiles and increasing punishments

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 2.