



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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College Station, Texas



opinion

• Vietnam syndrome still haunts America as seen in the Persian Gulf War.

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Reminder

The Battalion will not be published April 2 in observance of Good Friday.

sports

• Texas A&M Women's Golf Team readies for Ping/Arizona State Invitational.

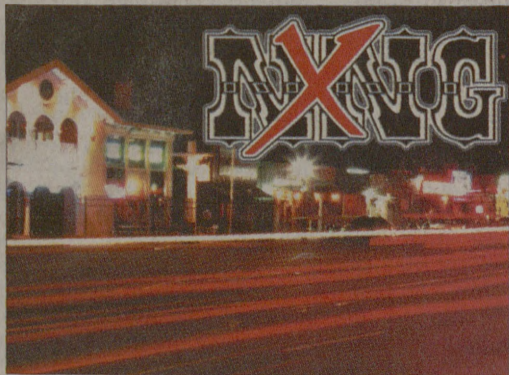
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Event draws 4,000

North by Northgate organizers call it a success

BY MELISSA JORDAN
The Battalion



MIKE FUENTES AND ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

North by Northgate coordinators recorded 4,000 wrist bands were sold to event attendees at last weekend's music festival. Jaime Thomas, event coordinator for North by Northgate and a senior biomedical science major, said, in addition to the 4,000 attendees, several hundred volunteers, band members and free-concert audience members attended. Thomas said North by Northgate grossed the same amount as last year, but the net earnings building all things decreased because of increased spending preparation for the event. Thomas said she measured the success of the event by the variety of musical entertainment it offered attendees, as well as the support it provides to charity. "From my point of view, success is not determined by the amount of money we made," Thomas said. Thomas said half of this year's earnings will be given to charity and the rest will go toward preparation for next year's event. Kristine Ogilvie, co-chair for the MSC Town Hall committee and a senior industrial engineering major, will serve as event coordinator

for North by Northgate next year and said the event affects the College Station music scene for the entire year. "I would say it breaks people into the College Station music scene," Ogilvie said. Stephen Sandlin, art director for North by Northgate and lead singer of Haywood, said North by Northgate helps strengthen the local band scene by increasing people's knowledge and recognition of bands in the area. "North by Northgate helps get people interested in the local music scene," Sandlin said.

Mourning



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Betsy Anderson, a sophomore International Agribusiness major, stops to pay her respects at an impromptu memorial that was set up for William E. Berry Jr. Berry died Tuesday afternoon after falling from the fourth floor of the Northside Parking Garage.

STDs focus of month

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

Educating the public about the effects of unprotected sex is the focus during Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Month. Margaret Griffith, health education coordinator at the A.P. Beutel Health Center, said STDs are problematic for students. "There is a huge problem with STDs in this country, and people need to protect themselves and get tested if they are having unprotected sex," Griffith said. Data from the New England Journal of Medicine reports a one-in-five occurrence of herpes among people age 12 and older in the United States, representing an increase of 30 percent over the past two decades. Griffith said students need to understand that chlamydia, the number-one bacterial infection facing students, is curable. "Four million people are diagnosed yearly with chlamydia, and many have it and don't know because the symptoms are often not noticeable," Griffith said. Griffith said chlamydia is 75 to 80 percent curable. She said Beutel offers a test for chlamydia.

Robin Johnson, director of health education and health promotion at the Brazos County Health Department, encourages people to take necessary precautions to prevent contracting STDs. "Most STDs are preventable, so people should take caution by either abstaining from sex or having safe sex to prevent contracting or spreading STDs," Johnson said. "Anyone who is sexually active should be tested for STDs, and if they definitely know they have an STD, they should get treated, because it can lead to infertility." Griffith said HIV is an STD affecting society as a whole. Griffith said experts at Beutel try to educate people on the effects of HIV. "We try to treat it, but the end result is death," she said. Students can make an appointment at Health Education Services for free HIV testing, which is provided by the AIDS Services of the Brazos Valley. Testing is available from 1 to 4:15 p.m., and tests can be taken anonymously or with identification. Although Beutel has not planned any programs to focus on STD Awareness Month, Griffith encourages anyone interested in learning about STDs to visit the health center for brochures.

U.S. Mint creates new coins

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN
The Battalion

In an attempt to honor the diverse history of the United States, the U.S. Mint designed the 50 State Quarters Program. Every year from 1999 to 2008, five new coins will be circulated, each representing one of the 50 states. The states will be honored in the order they joined the Union, the first five being Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia and Connecticut. State designs are on the tail side of the quarters, while the heads continue to display the image of George Washington. The Delaware quarter was released in January, and the Pennsylvania quarter, released in early March, should be in national circulation this summer. Dr. Victor Treat, a former associate professor of history at Texas A&M, said



PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

the new coins are interesting, but they may cause confusion with the public. "We get set in our ways, especially when it comes to money," he said. "I wonder if they will be accepted in society." Treat gave the Susan B. Anthony silver dollar as an example. "When the new dollars came out, people didn't like them, and a lot of

people refused to use them," he said. "They had to be discontinued." Craig Patke, a College Station resident, had a first-hand experience with confusion when returning items at a Best Buy. "In my change, I got one of the new Pennsylvania quarters," he said. "At the time, I had no idea about the new coins, so I thought it was fake. I even argued with the clerk, until they finally convinced me it was a real quarter." This is the first change to the quarter since the production of the Bicentennial quarter in 1975-1976. The traditional "Eagle" quarter will be put into production again in 2009. The new coins are available through circulation in commercial transactions and in collectible sets by contacting the U.S. Mint Web site at www.usmint.gov. This program is self-supported by the U.S. Mint at no additional cost to taxpayers.

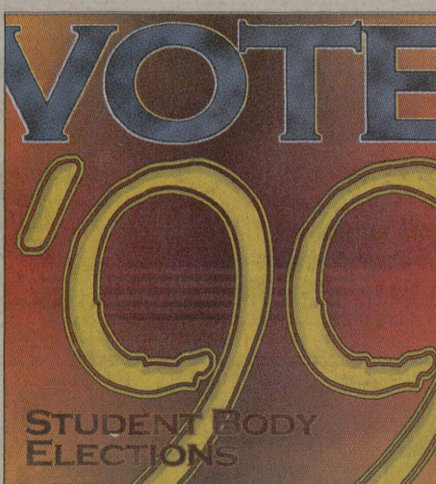
Candidates address purpose of tuition, fees

Editor's note: With the current 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 last installment.

BY EMILY SNOOKS
AND NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

The seven student body president candidates hold varying opinions regarding student fees. Kendall Kelly said raising student fees to fund faculty salary increases has more merit and priority than using the money to build another parking garage. Kelly said the idea of raising student fees 66 percent to benefit the construction of a new parking garage is too expensive. She said the University should implement the use of a debit-card system and allow students to pay for hourly-rated parking at a discounted rate. Kelly said debit systems, like AggieBucks, generate

interest for the University, and the extra money could be used to fund the garage. Kelly said raising any fee needs to be justified by lowering another. Brandon Clarke said fees should increase as needed to keep A&M current with technology and building repairs to fulfill the goals of Vision 2020. Clarke said the existing parking fees and parking accommodations are ridiculous and need to be remedied. He said many fees are unavoidable, but students need to voice concerns to the administration. "Students need to realize the power they have," he said. "Students should go back to the day when Aggies would go knocking on the president's door, voicing their opinions." Brandon Neff said the student body president has a dual role concerning student fees. "The student body president represents student government and the University," he said. Neff said he will delegate the responsibility of looking into how funds are distributed. "Through communication with the faculty and administration, I believe people can make more informed decisions about how funds from fees are to be allocated," he said.



Neff said he wants to eliminate the possibility of printing fees from the open-access computer labs. "Students already pay enough computer fees," he said. "To charge students extra money for printing once they go into the labs and write up a paper would be injustice." Will Hurd said an A&M degree is an affordable education for the majority of people in Texas. Hurd said he wants to keep the amount students pay for fees low and remove obsolete fees. Hurd said new-fee proposals should be evaluated and meet one of four criteria before enacted. "I feel a fee is necessary if it is going toward enhancing the academic environment, magnifying the sense of community, campus services or student ser-

SEE FEES ON PAGE 2.

AMA president discusses life experiences, issues

BY MEREDITH HIGHT
The Battalion

The first female president of the American Medical Association (AMA) spoke about succeeding in a male-dominated career and women's health-care issues yesterday as part of the concluding event of Women's Week '99. Dr. Nancy Dickey, a board-certified family physician from College Station, spoke about her rise through the ranks to become president of the AMA in 1998. "During my residency, the AMA decided to include students and residents on their policy-making bodies," she said. Dickey ran for one of the eight council positions created by the AMA and was selected. Dickey said after joining the board, she became fascinated by the issues being discussed. "In the 1970s, we were discussing the excessive costs of health care and variations on health insurance — issues we are still discussing today," she said. Dickey said she was surrounded by older white males on the board and described the AMA as political. "You have to spend six to eight years on the county level, 10 years on the state level and then national level," she said. "If medical schools were only accepting four to five percent women in the 1960s, no wonder



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

women weren't able to climb that ladder before. It would have to take an extraordinary person." Dickey graduated from the University of Texas at Houston Medical School in 1973; and in 1980, she was asked by the president of AMA to serve on the judicial board. Dickey said she accepted, not realizing at the

SEE PRESIDENT ON PAGE 2.