



# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY

April 9, 1999

Volume 105 • Issue 125 • 10 Pages  
College Station, Texas



## aggielife

• Ninth annual Chilifest in Snook to feature The Charlie Daniel's Band and other treats.

PAGE 3

## today's issue

Toons ..... 2  
Opinion ..... 9

## Battalion Radio

Tune in at 1:57 p.m. to KAMU-FM 90.9 for details on Bryan's first "Dad's Academy."

## sports

• Texas A&M Softball Team looks to avenge no hitter at Saturday's game against the University of Texas.

PAGE 8



# Will Power

## Hurd claims victory as voter turnout breaks records

BY EMILY SNOOKS AND NONI SRIDHARA  
The Battalion

The new Student Body President, Will Hurd, was elected into office by a 57.8 percent majority in a record-breaking run-off election turnout.

Hurd, a senior computer science and international studies major, said it is an incredible feeling to be elected by his peers to such a prestigious position.

"I am excited about continuing the excellence of Texas A&M University and striving towards one campus-one vision," Hurd said.

Dawn McGill, election commissioner, said the previous record for voter turnout was 6,700 students. This year's election brought 8,200 students to the polls.

Hurd said he was thrilled to be elected by such a high voter turnout.

"I think the turnout really shows that the students know

what they want and care about A&M," he said.

McGill said the results are not valid until 48 hours after the official count. This time is allotted for reviewing candidate expenditures and allows time for the candidates to contest the results.

Brandon Neff, head yell leader and Hurd's opponent, said the campaigning process taught him much more about the Aggie spirit and he made a lot of new friendships.

"It is amazing to see how peo-

## STUDENT ELECTIONS RESULTS

Student Body President: Will Hurd

Class of 2002 Social Secretary: Katie Gilstrap

Class of 2001 President: Collin Poage

Class of 2001: Vice-President Courtney Lindsey

Junior Yell Leader: Ricky Wood



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Will Hurd, a senior computer science and international studies major, celebrates after being elected student body president by a 57.8 percent majority.

# JEOPARDY!

## Freshman takes home grand prize in online competition, awarded Sony equipment

BY AMANDA STIRPE  
The Battalion

If Texas A&M can improve their College JEOPARDY! Online score from 24th to 1st, a live taping of the game show "JEOPARDY!" with Alex Trebek will be taped on campus and the contestants will be chosen from only A&M students.

The Online game started Feb. 8 and will end May 24 with a new game starting each semester. Last semester Jason McClellan, a freshman general studies major at A&M, competed for the College JEOPARDY! Online game and was flown to Los Angeles where he won the grand prize a room full of Sony equipment. McClellan said he started competing Online because his friends were already competing.

"We figured the more people who were playing the more chances there were to win," McClellan said. "I did not think I had a chance to win."

McClellan started playing the College JEOPARDY! Online and soon became one of 500 semifinalists. He then became one of three finalists to

compete Online in Los Angeles, where he said he was shocked when he beat students that were older than him.

"I was so much younger than the other contestants," McClellan said. "There was this really smart senior from a small school in New York. I did not expect to beat a senior."

This semester College JEOPARDY! Online has been extended to a college tournament, with the grand prize being a live taping of the "Jeopardy!" television show.

The top player each day that breaks 50,000 points will win a Sony Walkman. A T-shirt will be given to all players that complete the 1,000th game. A Sony Discman will be awarded to the player with the highest cumulative score during Midnight Madness, which runs from 12 to 6 a.m.

Currently, Georgia Institute of Technology is in first place with \$389,953,823. The University of Virginia is in second place with \$355,036,582 and the College of William and Mary is in third place with \$302,200,026. Currently Texas A&M is 24th place with \$36,723,897.

As the grand prize winner McClellan will



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

Jason McClellan, a freshman general studies major, was flown to Los Angeles to compete in College JEOPARDY! Online.

compete in the televised version of College JEOPARDY! in Chicago, which will be taped April 10 and 11 and aired the first two weeks in May.

"I used to always watch it this summer and my friends said I should be a contestant," McClellan said. "I tend to remember useless information. I didn't have to study."

Steven Yee, vice-president of Marketing for Sony Online Entertainment, said in a press release, "Over 100,000 students played College JEOPARDY! Online last semester and we're excited to beat this number this spring."

For more information on College JEOPARDY! Online go to [www.station.sony.com](http://www.station.sony.com).

## Blacksmith demonstration



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

Dave Koenig, of Tudor Forge in Houston, is heating up a latch for a belt buckle in front of Rudder Fountain. He is participating in a Blacksmith Demonstration sponsored by University Art Collectors.

# Marines dine in style

BY LISA K. HILL AND ANDREA BROCKMAN  
The Battalion

At the Semper Fidelis Society's annual Spring Dining-In last night, active duty Marines, Marine officer candidates and their guests dined in traditional Marine Corps style.

John Hunt, president of the Semper Fidelis Society, said this event served a good purpose.

"This is an excellent chance for Marines to get together at a formal occasion," he said. "Tonight Marines and interested candidates were able to experience the distinct protocol and etiquette of the traditional Marine Corps 'Mess Night.'"

The evening began with a cocktail hour that led to a formal dinner. Toasts were made to honor retired Marines, fallen comrades and 19th century Marines.

Guest speaker, Lt. Col. Jerry Patterson, Aggie and state senator, spoke about traditions of the Marine Corps and today's role models.

"One of my heroes is Audie Murphy, who was a former Marine," he said. "Heroes like him do not compare to some of today's heroes like Dennis Rodman and Marilyn Manson."



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Tracey Johnson, Class of '98, and John Tebbet, a senior history major, are checked into the Spring Dinner by Randy Farris, a junior COSC major.

Patterson spoke on instilling good values and explained how joining the Marines can be a motivating and respectful experience.

Captain Jeff Daniels, officer selection officer for the Marine Corps, said the evening was a success.

"Tonight's main objective was to have fun, and I felt we did that," he said. "We built camaraderie by carrying out customs, courtesies and traditions together."

Patterson said 80 percent of the attendees were already enlisted in the Marine Corps officer programs. These individuals will be attending Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Va., to train to become officers.

Approximately 120 individuals attended the dinner including Jeanette Lawson, former Marine during World War II. Lawson grew up in College Station and joined the Marines in 1944.

# New program presented to city council

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

Mike Mullen, the City of College Station volunteer coordinator, presented the new City Municipal Volunteer Program to the College Station City Council last night.

The Municipal Volunteer Program has been in development since December when Mullen was hired as the part-time volunteer coordinator in charge of creating the program.

The objective of the program is to increase citizen involvement in the local government.

Mullen said he began by researching other cities and their volunteer programs to see how they were organized and what their success rate has been. He then looked into the history of volunteering in the Brazos Valley and what departments in the city of College Station would be interested in utilizing volunteers.

"Now we are ready to go," Mullen said. "We are beginning to recruit volunteers and fill positions."

Volunteers can choose from a variety of time commitments which can vary from a few hours to a few days to more involved projects that last at least three months. Internships are also available for students seeking work experience while earning credit hours.

Mullen said volunteers make a difference in their own lives and the community.

"Volunteering is not a one-way street," Mullen said. "Volunteers can explore new career paths, learn new skills and help others."

Mullen said anyone can volunteer and make a differ-

SEE PROGRAM ON PAGE 2.

# Gay awareness week aims to dispel myths

BY SAMEH FAHMY  
The Battalion

A former member of the Association of Fraternity Advisors, an organization composed of professional Greek affairs advisors, said last night fraternities and sororities need to create a more supportive environment for homosexual members.

The speaker, Dr. Charles Goodman, a lecturer in the department of management and a fraternity alumnus, spoke to more than 30 people as part of Gay Awareness Week, designed to dispel myths about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

Goodman said every fraternity and sorority at Texas A&M has a gay member in its chapter and that homophobic rhetoric hurts these members.

"Fraternities need to educate themselves and recognize that by being homophobic, they are losing the heart and soul of many people in their organization," he said.

Goodman cited a statistic from the book *Out on Fraternity Row: A Personal Account of Being Gay in College Fraternities*. The book said 5 percent of fraternity and sorority members are homosexuals.

Goodman said gay fraternity members often have a tremendous fear of coming out because they feel they will not be supported by their fraternity brothers.

"Few of us can appreciate the strength of fear as an emotion that paralyzes us to complete inaction," he said.

Goodman said being gay is not contradictory to the principles of fraternities.

"Fraternities are based on the concept of brotherhood," he said. "It's becoming more and more of an accepting environment."

Goodman pointed out that few, if any, Greeks attended the event and said this could be because people may find it intimidating to discuss sensitive subjects when they think they are in the minority.