



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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aggielife

• Traditional domino, "bones," games create strong sense of competitiveness.

PAGE 6

today's issue

Toons 2
Opinion 11

Battalion Radio

Bryan named All-American City finalist. Find out more at 1:57 p.m on 90.9 KAMU-FM.

sports

• Texas A&M Baseball Team sweeps weekend series with Kansas Jayhawks.

PAGE 7



Dinner joins unique cultures

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN
The Battalion

With every turn of a kaleidoscope, a unique combination of colors and shapes appear. Jaime Diversy, daughter, president of Delta Xi Nu chapter and a senior ocean engineering major, said society is similar to a kaleidoscope.

"There are so many different cultures, and every time you look at someone, it's like looking through a kaleidoscope," she said. "You never see the same thing twice."

At the sorority's second annual Unity Dinner Friday, Joyce Bricso, keynote speaker, carried the theme "A Kaleidoscope of Cultures" one step further to a "Tapestry of Diversity."

Bricso, a speech communication teacher and a founder of a multicultural club in Austin, said in order to understand and respect other cultures, people must understand and be proud in their cultures. She quoted author and poet Maya Angelou, "I said the only way to understand other cultures is through education."

"It is time for parents to teach young people early on that there is beauty and there is strength. We all could know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all threads are equal in value, matter their color," she quoted.

Rena Kharbat, Unity Dinner airwoman and a junior international studies major, said 100 students, faculty and staff attended the dinner.

"There were many representatives from student organizations, and a staff member even brought her children," she said.

During dinner, Apotheosis, an a cappella group comprised of A&M students sang, and Los Floccitas, a group of children from Ryan and Hearne, danced a ballet to "Klorko."

Delta Xi Nu is a multicultural sorority whose aim is to educate the A&M campus on cultural diversity and spread cultural awareness.

Whoopstock unites campus

Students celebrate diversity, enjoy international cuisine

BY EMILY R. SNOOKS
The Battalion

Attendees of Whoopstock sampled international cuisine, sunny weather and a variety of music Saturday on O.R. Simpson Drill Field.

Students, faculty and staff celebrated diversity at the 7th annual Whoopstock Unity Festival presented by the Department of Multicultural Services.

Visitors enjoyed tropical drinks from the Puerto Rican Student Association, green tea ice cream from the Japanese Student Association and fajitas from Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (M.A.N.R.R.S.).

The day's festivities had a carnival atmosphere, including cotton candy and a space walk. Entertainment was provided by D.R.U.M., a reggae band; the Aggie Wranglers; Invisible Cindy, a 1960s-type band; DDK, a rap group; children from 'Magination Station; and youth members of the Bahai faith.

Brandt Martin, a wax master from Beaumont, said college functions, like Whoopstock are his biggest venues.

"The most popular wax impression people made was the gig 'em sign," he said.

Santhi Thotakura, member of the Hindu Students Council and a sophomore biology major, said the groups booth had a consistently long line of students wanting the traditional Hindu body paint, called henna.

Holly Doughty, a chair of Whoopstock and a senior agricultural development and entomology major, said attendance at the festival grows every year.

"What is great about the attendance this year is that everyone who came stayed," she said. "We are all really pleased that a variety of people came out and stayed to enjoy the festivities."

Doughty's family participated in Whoopstock, and her father took first place in the cricket-spitting contest.

Becky Pettit, an adviser for the Department of Multicultural Services, organized a unity circle toward the end of the festival. Pettit said gathering the visitors, vendors and performers in the circle celebrated the purpose of the festival — unity.



PHOTOS BY SALLIE TURNER

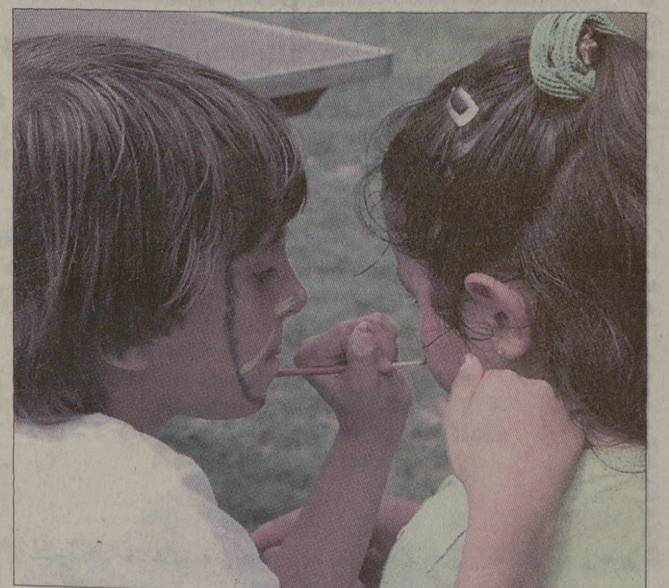


Top Left: Bindu Joesph, a senior accounting major, paints a henna drawing as part of the Hindu Students Council.

Above: D.R.U.M., a reggae band, performs Saturday afternoon as part of Whoopstock. The festival included bands and poetry celebrating cultural diversity.

Left: Helen Dadfar (l) and Norma Islan have their hands waxed together by the Waxmaster, Brandt Martin.

Right: Sunshine Hanze, 8, paints the face of Linda Mathews, 6, both of College Station, at Whoopstock Saturday.



Ring Dance '99 takes seniors on world tour

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN
The Battalion

At Texas A&M's largest Ring Dance ever, members of the class of '99 stepped through a giant replica of the Aggie Ring and turned their rings to face the world.

Ring Dance's theme, "Around the World in 99 Days," allowed students to enjoy food and music of seven world cities in one night.

The seven cities featured were Nashville, Tenn.; Paris, France; Manhattan, N.Y.; New Orleans, La.; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Monte Carlo, Monaco; and Tokyo, Japan. Each guest received a keepsake passport to be stamped at every city and a complementary picture frame.

Ring Dance attendees two-stepped and jitterbugged at Nashville Nights, swing-danced at Big Easy Swing, danced latino-style at Rendezvous in Rio and grooved to top 40 and R&B at Midnight in Manhattan.

For those seniors with two left feet, there were other options at Monte Carlo Magic, Tunes in Tokyo and the Parisian Cafe. They tried their luck at the casino, sang along at the piano and karaoke bars and relaxed with friends at the Parisian coffeehouse.

Michelle Tillery, event coordinator, said among the most popular attractions were the piano bar, where Bill Ingram made a special appearance, and the karaoke bar.

"He played the piano and took requests," she said. "The room was packed. So was Rumours Deli, where there was karaoke."

Tillery said this year's was the biggest Ring Dance in A&M history.

"The Class of '99 surpassed last year's attendance record of 3,005 students," she said. "It was very successful."

Marissa Alanis, head of public relations for Ring Dance and a senior marketing major, said the types of music offered at Ring Dance are usually the same each year, but a difference from last year was the addition of swing.

"[The Big Easy Swing] was popular because of this year's swing revival," she said.



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

Patrick Hutson of Freeman Photography poses with Ryan Therrell, a senior construction science major, and Emily Curtis, a junior finance major, Saturday night at Ring Dance.

Harris Lectureship brings MIT atmospheric chemist

BY SAMEH FAHMY
The Battalion

Nobel Prize winner Dr. Mario Molina said Friday that his research, which led to a ban on ozone-depleting chemicals, was an environmental success story, but many challenges still need to be addressed.

Molina, an atmospheric chemist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke as part of the Harris Lectureship of the College of Geosciences, designed to bring speakers to Texas A&M to share their knowledge and experience.

Molina said air and water pollution, depletion of natural resources and changes in the chemical composition of

the atmosphere are major environmental challenges for the 21st century.

He said these environmental problems stem from human overpopulation.

"The capacity of the planet to regenerate itself is not large enough to support the human population we have," he said.

Molina said cooperation among scientists, policymakers and the chemical industry made the United Nations accord banning ozone-depleting chemicals possible.

He advocated a similar approach for solving environmental problems in the future.

"It is no longer appropriate to look at issues in isolation," he said. "We really have to take an integrated look."

Following the speech, Molina answered questions from the audience and commented on possible ways to repair the ozone hole, such as transporting ground-level ozone, a pollutant, to the stratosphere.

Molina serves on President Clinton's Committee of Advisers on Science and Technology.

In addition to the Nobel Prize, Molina has received the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement.

He holds a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley.