



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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College Station, Texas

aggielife

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Listen to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. to learn how to participate in a College Station group's medical research.

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• The U.S. treatment of Cuba, China shows inconsistencies in American foreign policy.

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Behind the mask



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Sophomore catcher **Lisa Klam** (near building) of the Texas A&M Softball Team works with a group of junior-high campers Monday at the Aggie Softball Complex. Several members of the team are working with the softball-camp participants on campus this week.

Committee offers report on diversity

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

A Faculty Senate committee on minority conditions at Texas A&M presented its annual report on minority representation and recruitment of faculty and students with recommendations for improvement to the Faculty Senate yesterday.

The committee's recommendations will be sent to A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen.

Robert H. Strawser, co-chair of the committee and an accounting professor, said the report shows A&M has made some progress when it comes to diversity, but steps still need to be taken.

According to the report, in 1988 A&M faculty was 89.4 percent white, 1.8 percent African-American, 2.6 percent Hispanic, 3.2 percent Asian-American and .4 percent Native American. In 1998, the faculty was 86.2 percent white, 2 percent African-American, 4 percent Hispanic, 7.4 percent Asian-American and .3 percent Native American.

Ruth Schaffer, a 20-year member of the committee on minority conditions and a professor emeritus of so-

Committee Recommendations

- Increase Challenge Scholarships and the Development Foundation awards
- Establish a new position in the Admissions Office to develop formal alliances with community colleges
- Gain community support in terms of tolerance and diversity
- Determine factors which may enhance the retention and recruitment of additional minorities and women faculty
- Review Campus Climate Study for implications for the recruitment and retention of minority students and faculty
- Establish program to improve retention rate of minority students and faculty by 25 percent annually

ciology, said the reports provide a clear history of the attempts A&M has made to improve student and faculty diversity.

"Every year, we have progressed even if it's not in the area we hoped for," Schaffer said. "The report each year helps us trace the historical change."

SEE DIVERSITY ON PAGE 2.

Taking the First Step

Program brings research to schools in Texas, surrounding states

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

The Texas Alliance for Science, Technology and Mathematics Education at Texas A&M, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Agricultural Research Service have joined forces to create the First Step program, a project with the goal of bringing local, cutting-edge scientific research into middle schools of Texas and surrounding states.

Each year, the program selects 30 science teachers from grades five through nine to participate with a research scientist from a USDA laboratory within a 75-mile radius from the teachers' schools. Each teacher and scientist pair develops a mini-research program

for the students based on the scientist's own studies.

Craig Wilson, First Step coordinator, said the goal of this program is to give middle school students first-hand experience with the specific subject being studied in their local communities. Students and teachers in Beaumont are conducting research into rice whereas in the Texas Valley they learn about bees.

"Instead of science being words in a book, it becomes something practical and tangible," he said. "They learn it is not always so cut-and-dry."

Robert James, director of the Texas Alliance and a science education professor at A&M, said this program is a step in making USDA laboratories integral parts of the communities which will be affected by their research.

SEE FIRST STEP ON PAGE 2.



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

Aggie senior first baseman **John Scheschuk** takes a swing during the Texas A&M Baseball Team's game against Florida State University Saturday. **Scheschuk** went 1-for-3 Monday against Cal-State Fullerton.

Campaign to raise money for Corps

BY KRISTIN STOCKTON
The Battalion

Joyce and Dick Birdwell of College Station gave a \$25,000 gift to the Corps of Cadets for the Ensuring the Future Campaign, a three-year campaign started in an effort to raise \$25 million for the Corps to be used towards scholarships, academics, recruitment and other programs.

This is the Birdwells' fourth \$25,000 donation to the Corps in support of its Ensuring the Future Campaign.

Richard Biondi, director of development for the Student Affairs Development Foundation, said the campaign has been successful so far.

"There are two and a half months left in the campaign, and the Corps has raised \$31 million," Biondi said.

Forrest Lane, corps commander and a senior political science and economics major, said the campaign is important to the cadets in

that it provides them with a link to former cadets.

"This is a chance for us to get former members of the Corps involved and for them to play a role in today's Corps of Cadets," Lane said. "We only receive so much money from the University, which is understandable, and this is a way for us to find the means to make things better."

Dick Birdwell, Class of '53, was a member of the Ross Volunteers and the Engineering Student Council. Birdwell is now a consulting engineer.

The Birdwells' gift will establish the Joyce and Dick Birdwell Sul Ross Scholarship.

Other donors who contribute \$25,000 will have a Sul Ross Scholarship designated in their name. Sul Ross Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who are planning to enter the Corps and who have excelled both in academics and extracurricular activities.

SEE DONORS ON PAGE 2.

Ags end year in Omaha

BY REECE FLOOD
The Battalion

Texas A&M found itself in the losers' bracket once again Monday night, facing off against Cal State-Fullerton (50-13) in Omaha, Neb.

The Aggies fought their way back through the losers' bracket to win their Regional and Super Regional but were unable to repeat the magic in the 1999 College World Series.

The Aggie bats were fired up with 10 hits and two runs in the game, but so were the Fullerton bats.

Matt Ward started for the Aggies, pitching 6 and 2/3 innings. Ward gave up six times in four innings for

two runs, one coming on a David Bacani homerun in the third.

But reminiscent of Saturday, A&M's troubles started in the fifth.

Bacani started off the inning with a double out to right field. Reed Johnson then bunted down the left foul line, advancing Bacani to third base.

After failing to properly call for time, Aggie senior first baseman John Scheschuk began walking towards home plate with the ball in his hand. With no one covering second base, Johnson was able to take second as the Aggies could do nothing but watch, giving Fullerton a man on second and third with no outs.

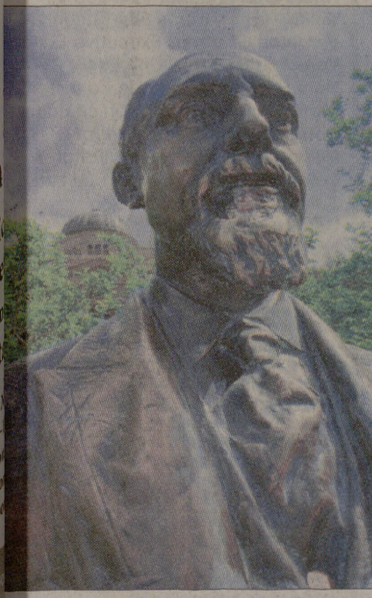
The next batter, Spencer Oborn

came up to the plate and hit a double, scoring two runs and giving Cal State a 4-2 lead.

Aggie reliever Chris Russ came into the game pitching 2 1/3 innings, giving up only one hit and no runs.

A&M's last chance for a come-from-behind victory came in the bottom of the ninth inning.

With one out, second baseman Sean Heaney hit a single to left field. Designated hitter Greg Porter followed with a double to left center field. Following an out by junior third baseman Dell Lindsey, junior leftfielder Chad Hudson came to the plate as the potential go-ahead run, but Fullerton reliever Kirk Saarloos struck Hudson out swinging.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Sul Ross Scholarships are awarded to high-school seniors who have excelled both in academics and in extracurricular activities.