

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Wednesday • September 8, 1999

College Station, Texas

Volume 106 • Issue 8 • 16 Pages

Diversity Education offers forum on trial

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

The relocation of the trial of Lawrence Russell Brewer in the murder of James Byrd Jr. from Jasper Brazos County has prompted staff in the Office of Diversity Education to hold student dialogue groups to discuss specific issues involved with the time such as social power and privilege, racism, sexism, hate crime and healing.

JASPER TRIAL

Dialogue group sessions will be held once a week starting the week of Sept. 13 and continuing through the week of Oct. 18.

Becky Pettit, coordinator of diversity education, said the hate group presence during the trial in Jasper is one reason for the formation of the dialogue groups.

"I saw [Ku Klux] Klan and Panther presence during the trial of John William King in Jasper and anticipated that they would come here," Pettit said. "I wanted to do something that would allow students to talk about their feelings about the trial being hosted in our community."

Facilitators will determine a convenient time and location each week for their groups to meet.

The facilitators are faculty and staff who have

undergone a semester of training to teach them how to facilitate conversations dealing with diversity and diversity related issues.

Maco Faniel, vice president of community improvement for student government and a sophomore speech communication major, said it is important for students to get involved in the student dialogue groups.

"Even though we don't get an opportunity to sit on the jury, it is important to sit and talk about [the Jasper trial]," Faniel said. "Looking at history, most social changes have been brought about by people ages 18 to 25, so we are responsible for our future."

Faniel said he hopes moving the trial to the Bryan-College Station area will increase the chance for the defendant to have a more diversified jury.

"Students other than ethnic minorities should get involved in the dialogue groups because if only minorities talk about it, then nothing will change," Faniel said. "We need to come together and try to get on the same page about issues such as hate crimes and discrimination."

Darrell Holmes, a citizen of Jasper and a senior psychology major, said he hopes the trial will bring about a sense of racial sensitivity.

"My hope is that after this trial more people will be aware of the tension we have towards races and what they are sensitive to," Holmes said. "People need to let go of the black-white thing so we can have openness and gain an understanding of how

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Remembrance



Chris Paul, a freshman general studies major and a member of B-Battery of the Texas Aggie Band, records names yesterday afternoon of the Aggies to be remembered at Silver Taps. Silver Taps was held last night.

ROBBIE GEHBAUER/THE BATTALION

Hurd set to address University

BY RACHEL HOLLAND
The Battalion

Student Body President Will Hurd will outline his major initiatives for the year and discuss making Texas A&M a top-ranking university during his State of the University address tonight at 6 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom.

Hurd, a senior computer science and international studies major, said the student body president traditionally speaks to the Student Senate at the State of the University address, but this year he plans to expand the listening audience.

"All us of are committed to making Texas A&M a better university and this is an opportunity to involve all members of the Aggie family," he said. "Various student leaders, administrators and community leaders will also be here, giving students the opportunity to interact with the people who are responsible for the betterment of Bryan and College Station."

Hurd said one of the initiatives he will describe in his address is a listserv called "SBP Talk," a method for him to communicate weekly with students through email. He will discuss the role of academics at the University and how to establish reasonable expectations for faculty and students.

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TAMC changes program

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

The yellow color will remain, but the Borrow-A-Bike program will undergo changes this fall — including updating the mechanics of the bicycles — to better serve students who are looking for an easier way to cross campus than on foot or by bus.

The Borrow-A-Bike program, a sub-committee of Texas Aggies Making Changes (TAMC), began in the spring and gives students a new alternative to campus travel. Students can borrow a yellow bicycle to get to their class and leave it outside the classroom's building for other students to use.

Bob Shelton, co-director of the Borrow-A-Bike committee and a senior environmental design major, said this semester the committee is using the bicycles abandoned on campus during the Spring semester. Improvements made to the program this semester include updating the mechanics of the bicycles.

Shelton said the gears were removed from all bikes, making them easier to ride.



Texas Aggies Making Changes readies for the new semester by making changes to its Borrow-A-Bike program.

ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION

This past spring semester the derailleur, used to keep tension in a bicycle's chain, was also removed. Shelton said removing the derailleur led to the chain falling off which in the past made students assume the bicycle was broken; therefore this year they will keep their derailleurs.

At the beginning of the program many cycles were vandalized by students who believed the bikes were not working properly. "The bicycles in good [working] order rarely got vandalized," Shelton said.

Paige Sherman, co-director of the Borrow-A-Bike committee and a junior education major, said the staff hopes to put more bikes throughout the campus in order to make the program seem more normal.

"If we keep putting them [bi-

cycles] out there, people will get accustomed to them being out there," she said. "[It will be a] normal thing, not a big, new, fun thing to vandalize."

Sherman said all the bicycles originate at the MSC bicycle rack, and most end up around the Commons, John R. Blocker, and back at the MSC.

Sherman said, last year the Borrow-A-Bike program was well promoted, but this year the bicycles' release will be kept low key in order to try and reduce vandalism.

Ben Rodgers, chair of TAMC and a junior finance major, said that the idea for the Borrow-A-Bike program came three years ago. Rodgers said the program, which is active in larger cities, provides an easy way across campus.

Rodgers said the program was

SEE BICYCLE ON PAGE 2.

Engineering passes target enrollment

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

The Dwight Look College of Engineering surpassed its benchmark enrollment number and accepted approximately 150 students more than the 1,600 freshman targeted for the fall semester.

The College of Engineering said the unofficial number of freshman enrolled in the college is estimated at 1,750.

Karan Watson, an associate dean for graduate and undergraduate programs for the College of Engineering, said the freshman class of engineers was too large last year.

"It was too high last year," Watson said. "It was larger than we are comfortable handling. It also has to do with the resources we have for other classes as well, not just engineering classes."

Last year's class of 2,064 students marked the largest engineering class in Texas A&M's history. Watson said large freshmen numbers have impacted other colleges on campus, increasing the demand for introductory history, math, science and English classes.

Clifford Peel, a freshman petroleum engineering major, said he did not have problems registering for either engineering or core curriculum classes because he is part of a cluster. A cluster is a group of 90 students who take three classes pertaining to engineering together.

"I didn't really have any trouble getting classes because the cluster was already planned with a physics class, a calculus class and an engineering class," Peel said.

The College of Engineering offers 14 areas of engineering, with the highest number of undergraduate engineers enrolled in mechanical engineering and computer science.

Watson said she hopes to retain many of the freshman engineers enrolled for the fall semester.

"We are hoping to retain a lot of the students," Watson said. "A lot of students who change their minds about staying in engineering change by the end of their freshman or sophomore year."

SEE FRESHMEN ON PAGE 2

Corps of Cadets implements new dining-hall etiquette policy

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Instead of yelling orders and shouting to finish a meal, the Corps of Cadets are now required to use proper etiquette — the correct placement of silverware and table manners. The Corps is starting the school year with a new etiquette policy at Duncan Dining Hall which reflects the traditions of Old Army.

Corps of Cadets Commander Ernest Lane, a senior political science and economics major, said under the old procedure, each cadet would enter the dining center, take their own silverware, set their own places, and wait for their commanding officers to tell them when and how to eat according to the Corps' traditions.

"It was a lot more intense of an experience," Lane said. "While there is some merit to that, we felt that we needed to focus on making cadets more prepared for experiences not only in a military setting, but also in the business environment they may encounter after they leave the Corps."

Lane said that under the current etiquette procedure, a few freshmen from each outfit enter Duncan and set place settings according to proper dining etiquette for each cadet who will be eating. He said the cadets then enter the dining center, receive their food, and stand at the table where they will be accompanied by the rest of their outfit.

Lane said once the entire outfit is at the table with upperclassmen situated at the head of the table, each cadet greets each other during what is called the "daily greeting." When all the cadets have greeted one another, they sit and commence eating according to proper dining etiquette, including such things as placing napkins placed in their laps, he said.

Nick Ferrata, a freshman cadet and general studies major, said traditional values are still a part of meal time.

"Overall I think the change is outstanding," he said. "Both intensity and etiquette are still important."

Col. Shady Groves, assistant commandant for operations and training, said the new dining eti-

quette allows for a more relaxed atmosphere which also allows the cadets more time to eat comfortably.

"The purpose during dinner is now to allow the cadets to eat," Groves said. "In the past, it was mostly to train with [a] secondary purpose to eat."

Thomas Yantis, freshman cadet and business major, said the new meal time policy is beneficial.

"We don't have to rush to eat and we can eat all we care for," Yantis said.

Deputy Corps Commander Mark Macicek, a senior business major, said the changes in etiquette policy were partially due to a return to the older tradition of "family style" dinner in which cadets were served food and were expected to maintain proper etiquette.

"That policy changed in the late '80s and early '90s," Macicek said. "It progressed to something which we felt needed to be changed to better serve the cadets."

Tommy Danaher, a cadet and a junior environmental design major, said he thinks the new etiquette policy will be beneficial to cadets outside of the dining hall.



Burke Wilson (left), a freshman biology major, Kenny Macdonald (middle) a junior journalism major and Andrew Chaudoir (right), a freshman construction science dine in Duncan Hall.

CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

"I think that most girls think that Corps guys eat like pigs," he said "This will definitely help us develop a more mature and proper way of eating."

On the other hand, Jorge Escobar, a cadet and junior wildlife and fisheries major, said he believes the

changes will be detrimental to the motivation of freshmen cadets.

"They think that because they can be relaxed in the dining center, they can be relaxed outside the dining center," he said.

"It is reflected in the way they perform in other Corps activities."

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Batt Radio

Tune in to 90.9 KAMU-FM for information on the Houston Museum of Fine Art's film season.