

# THE BATTALION

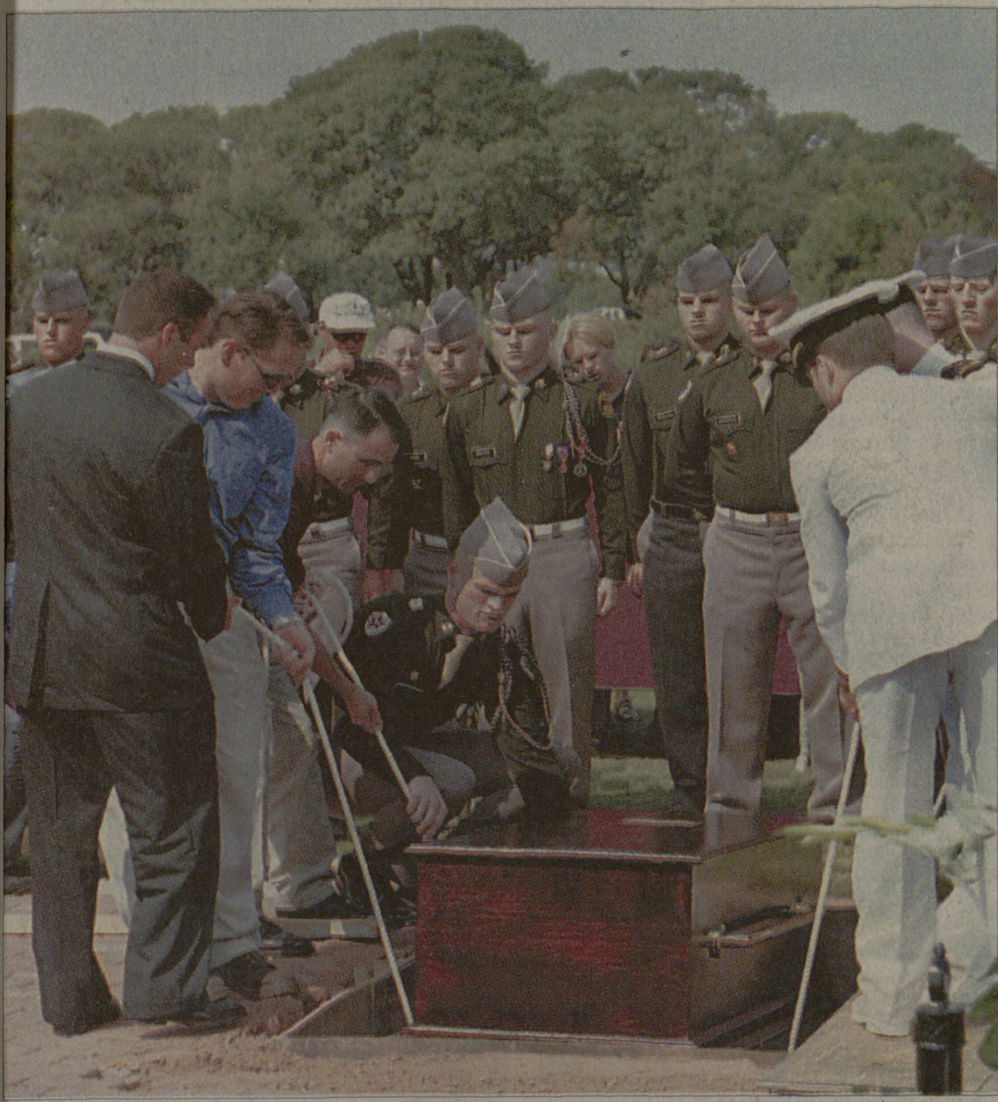
106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## Mascot mourners



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON  
The Battalion

The first deck of Kyle Field was full Saturday morning, as students and faculty of past and present somberly turned out to honor and pay respects to Reveille V, the Texas A&M mascot from 1984-1993, with a military-style memorial service.

Reveille V was euthanized June 25, due to her failing health, but her memorial service and burial were postponed to Saturday so the entire student body would have the chance to attend.

The service began with a prayer led by Corps of Cadets Chaplain Jeremiah Ebeling, a senior Spanish major, and was followed by a presentation on the Reveille mascot tradition given by Craig Serold, mascot corporal for 1998-1999 and a junior computer engineering major.

Rick Holcomb, Class of '89, and Greg Riels, Class of '94, former mascot corporals of Reveille V, shared treasured and humorous memories of Reveille V with the audience.

Holcomb reminisced on Reveille V's passion for stealing an unsuspecting professor's eraser from the chalkboards, her love of attention and her dislike of other mascots who tried to pick on her team.

Riels said he recalled once being asked why a collie was the A&M mascot. "In a school where dedication, compassion, loyalty and camaraderie play such an important role in who we are as students, I cannot imagine a better mascot," he said.

Riels said that although some might consider it a hassle to have to allow mascot corporals 30 minutes to walk to class because of the attention Reveille V always attracted, it never bothered him.

"I never felt like I was walking a dog around; I always felt like I was walking a lady," Riels said.

Riels read "Reveille," a poem that reminds all Aggies that when Silver Taps is played for her and her name is called at Muster, we should not feel sorrow but happiness in remembering

that she was not only part of the great A&M tradition but also part of the Aggie family.

"After recognition of the West family, who cared for Reveille V after her retirement, and all of Reveille V's former mascot corporals, Silver Taps was played, and the Singing Cadets sang "Auld Lang Syne" as the former mascot corporals carried the cherry-wood casket off the field and over to the burial site in Cain Park.

Traditionally, the mascots were buried at the north end of Kyle Field where they could "see" the scoreboard and watch the Aggies play.

However, on Aug. 13, 1997, Company E-2 began moving the graves of Reveilles I, II, III and IV to Cain Park as the construction of The Zone at Kyle Field began.

Once The Zone is completed, the mascots' graves will be returned to their traditional burial grounds.

Reveille V made her first appearance as mascot on Jan. 11, 1985, at an A&M basketball game and was retired Nov. 25, 1993.

## Opening arguments set to begin in Jasper trial

BY RYAN WEST  
The Battalion

Opening arguments in the capital murder trial of Lawrence Russell Brewer, the second capital murder trial regarding the death of James Byrd Jr., will begin Monday at 9 a.m. in the 85th District Court.

### JASPER TRIAL

The 14 jurors, consisting of seven white men, five white women and two Hispanic men, were chosen Friday. Jury Coordinator Ginger Lanehart said the jury selection went well — just as officials expected. "Questioning [during jury selection] wasn't quite as

long as in other capital murder cases because it was a transfer case, and there weren't a lot of people who knew the people involved," Lanehart said.

She said for the most part, the jury selection was typical for a capital murder case, and nothing unusual transpired.

Fourteen African Americans were among the 141 people who showed up for jury selection. Of the 48 people qualified as potential jurors, three were African Americans; all three were stricken by the defense in a closed-door session on Friday.

Brewer is one of three white men accused of stripping, beating and dragging James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old disabled black man, to death in June 1998. Although the death took place in Jasper the case was transferred to Bryan in May to avoid an unfair trial due to massive publicity in Jasper.

Walter Diggles, executive director of the Deep East

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## Fraternity Rush Week ends

BY CHRIS MENCZER  
The Battalion

More than 280 bids were accepted at the Fall 1999 Bid House ending Fraternity Rush Week celebration as new pledges ran down the steps of the Jack K. Williams Administration Building into the arms of their respective chapters Saturday.

Brandon Drake, Interfraternity Council (IFC) Rush co-chair and a senior industrial distribution major, said more men participated in rush this year than last year.

"Rush numbers have dramatically increased due to stronger recruitment techniques," Drake said. "[Last year] it was somewhere in the neighborhood of 175 [bids accepted]."

Scott Blackwell, Greek Life adviser, said the recruiting the 18 fraternities did this summer showed in the number of men that accepted bids. During the summer, mailers were sent to in-

coming freshmen, and events were held by individual chapters to promote rush.

Blackwell said the Bid House activities went well, and all the groups were well behaved.

**"Rush numbers were dramatically increased due to stronger recruitment techniques."**

— Brandon Drake  
Interfraternity Council co-chair

Jeff Morgan, IFC Rush co-chair and a senior finance major, said this may have been the first year that every fraternity accepted more bids because of

the higher quality of students who chose to go through rush.

"I think the higher numbers we are seeing are due to better efforts by IFC and the individual chapters to contact potential rushees over the summer and inform them not just about rush, but the Greek system as a whole," Morgan said.

Of the 18 fraternities with membership in IFC, 16 participated in Bid House. Tau Kappa Epsilon and Alpha Gamma Rho chose not to participate in the formal Bid House events.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon was also not present at the main activities but participated in Bid House earlier in the day as part of an IFC disciplinary measure. This measure stemmed from a scuffle with another fraternity that broke out at last year's ceremony.

A concert featuring 24/7, Blue Earth and the Atlantics at the Grove on main campus officially ended rush events Saturday night.

## Program aims to reduce stress

BY ERIKA DOERR  
The Battalion

Student Counseling Service (SCS) is sponsoring the "Beat the Hell Outta Stress" program today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom, with performances and games to help reduce stress in students' lives.

Performances, exhibits and activities are ways students can beat the hell outta stress today.

Performers such as the Aggie yell leaders, Apotheosis and the Prime Time Posse will be included in the day's activities.

Exhibits will include graffiti boards, massages, humor and video games, along with Student Life Alcohol and Drug Prevention programs.

Activities include football tosses, duck pond races, putting greens and ring tosses.

Dr. Andy Smith, associate director of counseling and coordinator of training, said the SCS understands that stress in college is a big factor in students' lives, and the service wants to promote itself on campus.

"We want to catch students early in the year and let them know the Student Counseling Service exists and

we are here to help them deal with everything from academic difficulty, concerns about career direction and personal or emotional relationship problems," he said. "We want students to know that this is a free service that they should take advantage of."

Dusty Batsell, senior yell leader and a construction science major, said the event will remind students to enjoy school, learning, and to have a great time at the University.

"These first few weeks of school can be very overwhelming, especially since student organization applications were due this past week," he said.

"The Beat the Hell Outta Stress event is a great program to help people relieve this stress."

Smith said the past three "Beat the Hell Outta Stress" programs have been successful because students have enjoyed them so much.

"This is the third year SCS has sponsored 'Beat the Hell Outta Stress,'" he said.

"Last year, approximately 4,000 students participated in the activities. We want to publicize SCS, educate students about stress management and about anxiety disorders."

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#### Batt radio

Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details about a bridge tournament.

## PTTS bans waiting for parking in lot

BY ROLANDO GARCIA  
The Battalion

Student drivers used to hover like vultures around the Zachry parking lot, waiting to swoop down and claim the next available parking space, but this daily ritual is no longer allowed.

Doug Williams, associate director of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS), said they are no longer allowing cars to wait in line for the next available space in Parking Area 50 across from the Zachry Engineering Building.

"Lines of cars were spilling over into the roadways between the parking lots," he said.

"It wasn't wide enough for two-way traffic, and cars were having trouble getting out."

Williams said to help alle-

viate the parking shortage, plans are in the works to enlarge the lot. Following Bonfire, PA 50 will be expanded to include 600 additional spaces, bringing the total number of student parking spaces on campus to approximately 10,200.

The gridlock created by too many cars and too few parking spaces is nothing new, Williams said, but this semester large signs were posted at the entrance of the parking lot admonishing drivers not to stop along the roadway.

Williams said an officer was stationed at the lot the first few days of school to make sure drivers followed the new rule, but now most students are complying.

With 1,125 parking spaces and a prime location, the Zachry lot fills up quickly each morning and during the peak times, 15 minutes before class



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

starts, cars waited in line for as long as 30 minutes just for a parking space to open up.

Lindsay Plesko, a sophomore animal science major, said instead of turning into a chaotic free-for-all when a space becomes available, students observe parking lot etiquette.

"Usually there's a car waiting on each end of the parking aisle, and the one that was there first gets the space," she said. "Hardly anyone would cut in line; Aggies are generally good

about courtesies like that."

After waiting in line several times last year, Plesko said she learned her lesson and now arrives before 7:30 a.m. to get a parking spot.

Shane Chiasson, a senior electrical engineering major, said he was not shy about taking a space that drivers waiting in lines had missed.

"You can always find a few empty spots that [drivers waiting in line] don't know about, and it's too bad if they can't find it themselves," he said.

## Luncheon focuses on aiding minorities

BY STASIA RAINES  
The Battalion

The "Leading with Diversity" luncheon gave minority students the opportunity to meet representatives from campus organizations, counselors from the Student Counseling Service (SCS) and Texas A&M faculty to find out to get involved.

The luncheon, sponsored by the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture (CAMAC), Black Awareness Committee (BAC) and Asian Cultures Education Committee (ACEC), hosted more than 20 students in the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries Saturday.

Stephanie R. Rhodes, adviser for the luncheon, said bringing staff and older students together to tell about their experiences at A&M helps direct students to become involved in campus organizations.

Tammy Henry, BAC chair, said she wants to emphasize to students the availability of programs on campus.

"A lot of freshmen at A&M don't realize the organizations they can get involved with," Henry said.

Jason Alexander, a freshman who attended the conference, said the luncheon gave him the opportunity to meet culturally diverse people and offered information on how to get involved at a large university.

Giseh Lin, an SCS counselor, said it is important for freshmen to get involved because they are the future

SEE MINORITY ON PAGE 2.