

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Friends mourn passing of Texas A&M student

BY EMILY R. SNOOKS
The Battalion

Close friends of deceased Texas A&M student Mark Dennis Klockentager, mourn his death and strive to inform the student body in order to help those in similar situations.

Klockentager, a 21-year-old senior marketing student from Lake Jackson, had aspirations of becoming the youngest governor of Iowa. He committed suicide Friday morning at his home in College Station.

Leah Russell, Klockentager's best friend and a junior management information systems major, said he was still reveling about ordering his class ring just a few weeks ago. Russell said that to a perfect stranger, Klockentager seemed like the happiest, most motivated person, but to his closest friends there was a different profile.

"He was unhappy and had a lot of issues, but not about grades or his parents," Russell said. "He had talked about suicide before but I never said anything about it."

Rachel Perry, a longtime friend of Klockentager's and senior environmental science major said she, and others had one out together Thursday night with Klockentager, who was in good spirits the entire night.

"He was so happy that night, he talked about how he wanted to go to law school in Tulsa," she said. "When we were dropping him off at home he was talking about how we were going to an Astros game Friday night."

"He had talked about suicide before but I never said anything about it."

— Leah Russell
Friend of suicide victim

Russell said he was her best friend and she was the last person he spoke with and they had argued before his death but she knows it is not her fault. However, she expressed regret that she did not inform others of his depression and said she encourages students to tell someone if any of their friends ever say anything about ending their lives.

"Please tell someone about [suicide]," she said. "Don't keep it in like I did."

Carissima Gori, a senior speech communications major, said she considered Klockentager her best male friend and a great person all-around.

Gori said Klockentager was an extremely good-looking, intelligent, kind person who always brought her spirits up, but seemed to neglect his own emotions and feelings.

"Mark would become obsessed with his looks and being fit and dwell on [his] failed relationships," she said.

She said she believes certain common beliefs at A&M may have an ill effect on students' interpretations of what is expected of them in college.

"Just because we go to A&M and that most people are engaged by the time they are 20 doesn't mean that anyone who doesn't follow that same path is a failure," she said.

Perry said she is upset because apparently A&M has contacted people who knew him but no one has reached her, a close friend since high school.

"I myself want to go and talk to someone but no one [from A&M] will help me or wants to talk about it," she said.

Perry said that improvements need to be made as far as campus services to aid students in need of help. She said students

SEE STUDENT ON PAGE 2.

Byrd's sister reacts to trial testimony

BY RYAN WEST
The Battalion

Mylinda Washington, sister of James A. Byrd Jr., the 49-year-old African-American male who was dragged to death in Jasper, said she does not feel prison is responsible for making killers, in response to today's opening testimony.

JASPER TRIAL

"At this point, I still have faith in the judicial system — color is irrelevant," she said.

Washington said the prosecution worked hard to put the details of the case together, and they have a strong case.

"It's hard to say [how the trial is going]," she said. "It's very tiring, and I'm emotionally drained."

Washington is taking vacation time from work to stay in Brazos County for the next couple of weeks, or until the trial's end.

The first morning of the trial moved quickly — the prosecution's opening statement was less than 15 minutes long and the defense chose not to make a statement.

Following their opening argument, the prosecution brought in witnesses, including several convicts with gang related tattoos, who knew Brewer during his former prison years.

One witness for the trial, former member of Texas Syndicate (TS), a Hispanic-

American prison gang, showed the TS tattoo displayed on his arm.

"[If you are not in a gang] and if you ain't strong enough or smart enough, you will get killed or raped in prison," the former TS member said.

The witness said when he met Brewer in the Texas Department of Correction in the Summer of 1998, he asked Brewer what he would do if he had the [Byrd] situation to do all over again.

"[Brewer] said he'd do it better," the witness said. "He said if it was up to him he'd take the whole population and shoot them behind the head — man, woman and child."

Another witness, former member of the Confederate Kings of America (CKA), the Anglo-American prison gang Brewer led for a short time, said gang affiliation provides protection in prison.

"If you're a small white person in prison, you are preyed upon—you can get killed, turn homosexual or kill yourself," the former CKA member said after showing the Ku Klux Klan symbols, confederate flag and burning cross tattoos covering his stomach.

He said although he does not feel as strongly about racial hatred as before, if a prison officer said there was no need for gangs in prison he would laugh at him.

"You either get with your kind or have a lot of problems throughout your [prison] stay," the witness said.

Testimony throughout the week will offer further insight into Brewer's character and recount the death of James A. Byrd Jr. for the Brazos County panel of jurors.

Stress relief



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION

Eric Ferguson, a junior management information systems major, participates in "Beat the Hell Out of Stress" Week as he gets a massage from Jodi Hicks, a registered massage therapist Monday afternoon in the MSC.

The right chemistry

A&M marks achievements of Dr. Frank Cotton

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

More than 120 chemists and students of chemistry from all-around the world gathered in the George Bush Presidential Conference Center last night to celebrate the career achievements of Dr. Frank Albert Cotton, a distinguished professor of chemistry and director of the laboratory for molecular structure and bonding at Texas A&M.

The event was the second annual celebration of a professor chosen by the University provost office and council of distinguished professors for his or her outstanding achievements in research and his or her accomplishments while at A&M.

Cotton said while he feels honored, the importance of the event was to show the world A&M's outstanding faculty.

"I feel it is appropriate that A&M use this opportunity to show its distinguished professors to the nation and to the world," Cotton said.

Cotton received his Ph.D. in 1955 from Harvard University. In his 44 years of professional chemistry, he has obtained numerous achievements including the National Medal of Science in 1982 for his work in organic chemistry and an appointment to The National Science Board in 1986 and 1992.

Marye Anne Fox, professor of chemistry and chancellor at North Carolina State University, said Cotton first began his studies of inorganic chemistry at a time when physical chemistry was the dominant area of study.

"What he brought with him was a passion for originality," Fox said. "Inorganic is now one of the most studied fields of chemistry, and Al Cotton is one of its premier researchers."

Carlos Murillo, a professor of chemistry at the University of Costa Rica and an adjunct professor of chemistry at Texas A&M, said some of Cotton's biggest achievements are the text books he has written which have reached thousands of students.

"Advanced Inorganic Chemistry has now had over half a million copies sold and is used all over the nation," Murillo said. "Many, many students have benefited from Dr. Cotton's wonderful insight."

Cotton has also written *Basic Inorganic Chemistry*, a college text which has been translated into eight foreign languages, and *Chemistry-An Investigative Approach*, a high school text used in high schools around the country.

George G. Stanley, a professor of chemistry at Louisiana State University, said one of the achievements which sets Cotton apart from other research scientists is the sheer numbers of his 1,421 research papers, 111 Ph.D. graduates and 156 post doctoral fellows he has produced during his career in chemistry.

"These are absolutely remarkable and mind staggering numbers for any chemist," Stanley said "These papers and chemists have had a tremendous impact on the study

SEE COTTON ON PAGE 2.

Campaign effort focuses on teaching responsibility

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

Texas A&M is joining with 112 other universities in the National Campaign for Alcohol and Drug Education which aims to enhance awareness among college students about the dangers of binge drinking.

Patti Collins, coordinator of campus-wide alcohol and drug education at A&M, said the campaign is designed to change students' perception of drinking. She said one-third of high school students come to college with an image of binge drinking as part of college life.

"The idea that everyone boozes is ridiculous," Collins said. "If we can change that idea students have, we have made the first step in the right direction."

The campaign's main focus is to convince students not to binge drink. Collins said binge drinking is equal to a man consuming more than five beers in one hour, or a woman drinking more than four hours. It can also be related to chug-

ging, drinking to get drunk, drinking too fast or mixing drugs and alcohol.

According to the National Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study in 1997, three million college students met the standard for binge drinkers. The study said one in five students identify themselves as a frequent high-risk drinker.

Collins said engaging in high-risk drinking is life threatening, and students need to know the facts. She said most students at A&M don't put themselves in a high-risk drinking situation.

"Students don't come to college to become alcoholics," Collins said. "That is why our campaign is so important. We need to reach the students and help them before they hurt themselves."

According to a 1998 survey conducted by the Department of Education, 56 percent of A&M students do not engage in high-risk drinking.

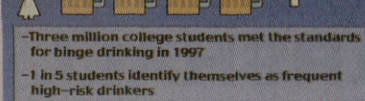
The campaign at A&M is motivating students to become aware of the risk by incorporating the information into curriculum.

National Campaign for Alcohol and Drug Education

-Binge drinking is defined as the consumption of more than five drinks per sitting by a man or four drinks by a woman



-Three million college students met the standards for binge drinking in 1997



-1 in 5 students identify themselves as frequent high-risk drinkers

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

Collins said there will be information available through kinesiology classes, Alcohol 101 workshops, peer educators and counseling services at A.P. Beutel Health Center. The campaign is starting a project called "The 21st Birthday Card" where cards will be sent to students on their 21st birthday to remind them to celebrate responsibly.

Daphne Dykes, a sophomore business major, said the campaign needs to get the word out about the effects of high-risk drinking.

"As long as the campus is aware of the problems high-risk drinking has, students will listen," she said. "I just know students will drink no matter what."

SEE CAMPAIGN ON PAGE 2.

A&M hosts career fair, 2nd largest in nation

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

The Fall 1999 Capitalizing on Engineering Opportunities Career Fair, is giving engineering majors a chance to meet with representatives from various companies and increase their chance of getting a job after graduation, which begins today and runs through Thursday in Reed Arena.

Danny Boyer, the career fair chair and a senior mechanical engineering major, said 200 companies from around the world will attend the fair to help students find jobs.

"[We've done this] for 12 or so years, but this is the biggest," he said. "This is the second largest engineering career fair in the country."

An estimated 4,000 students are expected to attend the fair and meet with representatives from companies.

Boyer said some large companies attending the fair are Dell, Compaq, Microsoft, Texaco, Shell Oil, NASA and Anderson Consulting Company.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Terry Frank, a senior mechanical engineering major, said the career fair is an opportunity to meet with companies.

"[This] gives me a good chance to talk to employers, get my resume out there, and talk and see what they have to offer when I graduate in May," Frank said. "I've been every year and it's very exciting because I'm really looking for a job."

Justin Ring, the Capitalizing on Engineering Opportunities Career Fair Fall 1999 golf director and a senior civil engineering major, said today begins with a golf tournament on the A&M Golf Course in which a student will be paired with a repre-

SEE FAIR ON PAGE 2.

INSIDE

sports

•Taking on the world

World Cup player Martha Moore brings experience to Texas A&M.

Page 15

agglife

•Flat Broke

Learn how to manage money while earning an education.

Page 3

opinion

•Frankenstein foods

Europeans have overreacted to the introduction of genetically altered foods into markets.

Page 19

Batt radio

Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on Bryan's search for its citizen of the year.