

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## Enrollment sets record

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M University's annual 12th class day enrollment report released yesterday indicated a record enrollment of 43,500 for the 1999 fall semester, with decreases in freshmen, Hispanics and African-Americans, compared to totals from last fall.

The total number of students increased by 111.

Ronald Douglas, executive vice president and provost, said the University intended to accept and enroll fewer new freshmen this fall than were enrolled last fall.

"As outlined in Texas A&M's Vision 2020 report released in June, one of the University's objectives is to maintain the strong undergraduate program we have," Douglas said in a news release from the Office of University Relations. "We planned for a reduction in the overall number of freshman and, as a result, there was also a decline in every category of student."

Last year, A&M's freshman class totaled a record 7,354, compared to 6,699 this fall. The admissions officers aimed to bring the number of freshmen attending the University this fall

down to 6,300, according to the report.

In addition to the decline in the number of freshman attending A&M, the report indicated declines in the numbers of Hispanic students and African-American students attending the University.

The number of new African-American students enrolled at A&M declined from 197 in the fall of 1998 to 181 this fall. The number of new Hispanic students enrolled at A&M declined from 669 last fall to 572 students this fall.

However, Douglas said the numbers are more encouraging considering more than half of the African-American and Hispanic students admitted to A&M have enrolled.

"This, combined with an increasing number of applications among minority groups, gives us some optimism that we are experiencing the end of the downward minority enrollment trend resulting from the Hopwood decision," Douglas said.

The 1996 Hopwood decision handed down from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered that all public universities in Texas ignore race in admissions

### 12th Class Day Figures

- The report indicates a record number of students, 43,500, enrolled at A&M this fall.
- The total number of students increased by 111.
- The total of African-American and Hispanic students who enrolled this fall totalled 4,900. In fall 1998, a total of 5,273 had enrolled.
- Last year, A&M's freshman class totaled a record 7,354 students. This year the freshman class totals 6,699.

and awarding financial aid through grants and scholarships.

Douglas said he is optimistic in increases in minority enrollment for A&M because of new programs such as scholarships.

"With the new efforts we recently made, and with some other initiatives we are exploring, we are optimistic that we will once again be experiencing increases in enrollment of both African-American and Hispanic students," Douglas said. "Our goal has always been to have the make-up of the student body reflective of the population of the state."

African-American and Hispanic students total 4,900 this fall, compared to 5,273 in fall 1998.

In response to the decline in the number of minority students since the Hopwood decision, the privately funded Texas A&M Foundation awarded 145 scholarships to A&M students, predominantly minority freshmen. Of the 145 Foundation Excel-

lence Award (FEA) Scholarship recipients, selected from a pool of more than 1,000 applicants, 55 percent were Hispanic, 30 percent are African-Americans, 13 percent were white and one percent are Native American, according to a report from the Texas A&M Foundation.

Joe Estrada, director of admissions, said he expects the scholarship program to continue to attract more minority students to A&M in future semesters.

"The program was implemented after the application-acceptance cycle that would have impacted this fall's enrollment, but we fully expect that the program to have significant and highly positive results on minority enrollment, beginning next year," Estrada said. "The quality of students who were recruited were such that they had enrollment opportunities available to them throughout the United States."

## Death toll at eight in church attack

FORT WORTH (AP) — Eight people died and seven others were injured after a man dressed in black walked into a church service filled with teen-agers last night, pulled a gun and began shooting before fatally shooting himself, police said.

Fort Worth police Lt. David Ellis said three teen-agers and three adults were shot to death inside the church in the city's southwest corner. Another victim died at a hospital. The shooter appears to have been in his 30s, and his motive was unknown.

Seven others went to hospitals with injuries, some of which appeared extremely critical, Ellis said.

No victim names were available. A pipe bomb exploded on a balcony inside the sanctuary after the 7 p.m. shooting and a bomb squad was inspecting several suspicious packages found at the church, Ellis said.

Shortly after 8 p.m., police told reporters and bystanders to get inside an

elementary school across the street from the church because of the explosives.

Four wounded were taken to John Peter Smith Hospital, two went to Harris Methodist Hospital and one 12-year-old went to Cook Children's Medical Center, fire officials said.

With tear-stained eyes and blood splattered across her green crochet purse, 16-year-old Bethany Williams described the shooter as wearing "Rambo attire." He wore a black jacket, jeans and a white T-shirt.

"I saw him. It looked like a skit. It looked like something out of a movie," Williams said. "I thought it was a fake gun making fake noises."

Witness Christy Martin, 17, told KDFW-TV, "He was very calm and looked normal and was smoking a cigarette."

"The man walked into the sanctuary, pulled a gun and began firing," she said. "I just saw him point the gun and

SEE SHOOTING ON PAGE 2.

## Ags gather to mark Mexican heritage

BY BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

Mexican-American Aggies will celebrate El Diez y Seis de Septiembre today as part of Hispanic Heritage Month, and fellow students at Texas A&M will have the opportunity to learn about the unique culture of Mexico.

Martha Aguilar, vice-chair for programs for the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture (CAMAC) and a senior wildlife sciences major, said Sept. 16 commemorates the beginning of Mexican independence from the rule of Spain. She said liberated in 1810, Mexico celebrates this event annually with cultural festivities, fiestas and family activities, and it is most similar to the celebration of the Fourth of July.

Hispanic Heritage Month started yesterday with 18 different Hispanic student organizations on campus planning a variety of activities to celebrate their heritage and the legacy of their culture.

Today's events will feature Hispanic games, salsa dance lessons and a variety of ethnic foods accenting aspects of Mexican-American culture.

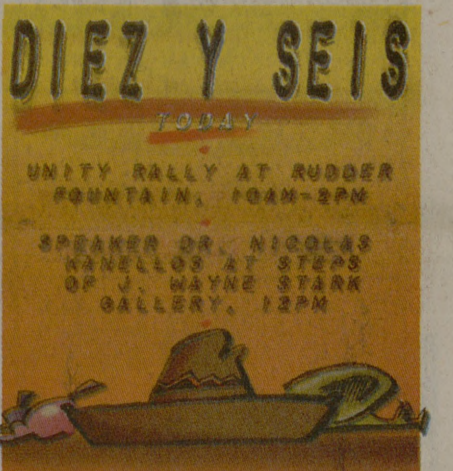
Aguilar said the purpose is to promote Hispanic culture within our culturally diverse student population.

"Any student is welcome, and I encourage everyone to come out," Aguilar said.

Angie Castro, program adviser of CAMAC, said the highlight of this week's activities will be the Diez y Seis celebration along with the Hispanic Unity Rally, also held today next to Rudder Fountain from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The Unity Rally provides Hispanic-American Aggies with a program that gives them a way to be proud of who they are, in addition to bringing awareness to the Mexican culture," she said. For some students this will be the first year they celebrate Diez y Seis de Septiembre with out their family.

Lisa Escobedo, a freshman industrial engineering major, said being away from home will not be difficult. She said she attributes this to the organizations on campus that will be offering



MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

activities to allow all students to enjoy Mexican-American culture throughout the month.

"I have a lot of friends here who wouldn't mind going with me, even if they aren't Hispanic," Escobedo said.

Sandra Medina, communications coordinator for the Department of Multicultural Services, said one of the highlights of the celebration will be a speech delivered on the steps of the J. Wayne Stark Gallery at 12 noon by guest speaker Dr. Nicolas Kanellos, a professor at the University of Houston and founder of Arte Publico Press — one of Mexico's largest publishers.

Olivia Cortez, president of the Hispanic Presidents Council (HPC) and a senior psychology major, said the address will be about Latinos and higher education in the next millennium.

She said the integration of activities this year is a change from what has happened in the past.

"We usually march around campus, but we decided not to march because there was nothing to march about this year," Cortez said.

She said the HPC has a display case in the MSC, featuring flags and other paraphernalia from Latin American countries.

SEE HISPANIC ON PAGE 2.

## Violence, dating focus of program

BY MATT LOFTIS  
The Battalion

The Gender Issues and Education Service will sponsor a "He Said/She Said" program tonight at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room in the Commons Lobby.

The program will focus on the issues of relationship and dating violence and sexual assault.

Program actors are two student volunteers acting out contrasting sides of a fictitious story. The skit depicts both sides of a story about two students who go on a date that escalates into a fight and ends in a sexual assault.

Afterward, audience members will be given an opportunity to discuss what they have seen and learn more about the occurrence and severity of sexual assault and relationship violence.

Shaun Travers, Gender Issues Education Service coordinator, said the program is being held now because students in their first four to six weeks of college are the most at risk group to be victims of sexual

SEE VIOLENCE ON PAGE 2.

## Turf touch up



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Patrick Tate (left) and Miles Stanhalter (right), turf management majors and student workers for the Athletic Department, paint the south end zone of Kyle Field Wednesday afternoon. Approximately 90 gallons of paint are used to complete both end zones.

## CARPOOL gives drunken students safe way to get home

BY BROOKE HODGES  
The Battalion

Students can get a safe and free ride home after an evening of partying from student volunteers known as CARPOOL, Caring Aggies 'R' Protecting Over Our Lives, which begins today.

Jeff Schiefelbein, CARPOOL founder and chair and a senior management major, said CARPOOL is a student-operated service to prevent drunken driving accidents for students who are unable to drive or find a safe ride home after an evening out.

"[CARPOOL] will travel to any bar, party or club in Bryan-College Station city limits," he said.

Schiefelbein said the idea for CARPOOL came to him while attending a Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Victim Impact Panel after he received a DWI in 1997.

He said the idea was originally for his friends to call his cell phone when they were in need of a ride after drinking, and then he realized the same service should be available to all students.

Angela Winkler, CARPOOL student activity adviser, said the committee consists of four faculty advisers and 147 volunteers including four directors, 11 team leaders and 132 student drivers.

Winkler said a typical night has one director, one team leader and two people from each of the 11 teams.

She said the program will be available every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Plantation Oaks apartment complex donated an apartment, which will serve as headquarters to answer the phones. For each call, two students, one man and one woman, will be assigned to a vehicle.

The seven vehicles used in the program are rented from Enterprise Rent-A-Car, who is paying for one of the three nights the program runs each week. The cars are equipped with Readiness and Awareness Kits, containing things that may be needed such as trash bags, plastic gloves, and maps and flashlights. A cell phone was

donated to the service by donated PrimeCo.

Schiefelbein said co-ed driving teams were formed for comfort and safety reasons.

"One girl might not feel comfortable with two guys, and two of our girls picking up a couple of guys who have been drinking isn't safe," he said.

Winkler said a log will be taken of each trip, recording the passenger's name and where they went. She said the log could be used in case of legal problems.

To become a driver, students have to apply, go through an interviewing process and participate in three training sessions. The sessions included skills train-

STARTS TONIGHT  
Call 10 p.m. - 3 a.m.  
693-9905



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

ing on how to detect alcohol poisoning and date-rape drug effects. Drivers are also taught defensive driving safety tips.

Ashley Zeni, CARPOOL volunteer and a senior biology major,

SEE CARPOOL ON PAGE 2.

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Tonight marks the seventh annual event, featuring Pat Green

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A&M Football player Bethel Johnson shines as wide receiver.

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Drivers who insist on using cell phones put themselves and others in danger.

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