

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Former members of Corps gather

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Harless R. Benthul, former member of the Corps of Cadets and Class of '57, stared down at a brick bearing the name of a departed friend in front of the Sam Houston Corps of Cadets Center, remembering the days they spent together at a place he will forever carry in his heart. Benthul is one of many former cadets who returned to campus this weekend to relive their college days during the third annual Corps reunion. Benthul said the brick bearing his friend's name was surrounded by bricks engraved with the names of other cadets from the Class of '57. "We all got together during the last reunion and decided to get these bricks," Benthul said. "Maybe just to be as much of a permanent part of A&M as A&M is a permanent part of us." John Richard, former Corps member and Class of '74, said he has met Aggies everywhere he has traveled, teaching him a valuable lesson.

"A&M becomes a part of you, and you become a part of it," he said. "No matter where you are or how long you have been gone, that is something no one can ever take away from you." Jim Payne, a former Corps member of Cadets and Class of '67, said although he has been gone from the University for 30 years, the qualities which turn students into Aggies are still alive in the Corps. "Being a member of the Corps is still and always will be a worthwhile endeavor because of the sense of discipline and camaraderie it instills," he said. "Even though some things may seem to have changed, they haven't changed." Christy Hall, a member of the Corps and a senior psychology major, said the reunion is a valuable learning experience for returning cadets and current cadets. "They give us a taste of our history and give us something to aspire to," Hall said. "It gives them the opportunity to see that they have left something behind that will be remembered through a bright future for the Corps of Cadets."



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION
Col. Shady Groves takes members of board of regents for Kyonggi University in Korea on a tour of the Sanders Corps of Cadets Center during the third annual Corps of Cadets Reunion Saturday afternoon. The visit was part of an agreement the Universities signed in 1996.

She said she could see how much the reunion meant in the eyes of returning cadets and felt honored to have had an opportunity to learn how they see the University. Benthul said he can see beyond the new faculty and equipment, the expanded campus and huge increase in enrollment to look back on a side of Texas A&M he will always consider home. "I can appreciate the school for what it is now, with its improved academics," Benthul said, "but I will always enjoy returning to A&M for the place that I remember."

Lecturer to speak on Presidential press office

BY MATT LOFTIS
The Battalion

Former White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater will lecture at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex exhibit "Call the Briefing!: The White House Press Office." The first lecture, from 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. at the Bush Complex, will give an inside look at the Presidential press office and the role of the press in society. The lecture is open to students and faculty of the journalism department and all others interested. Barbara Gastel, interim head of the Journalism Department, said the some journalism classes will attend the lecture as a group. "Our students are very fortunate to have this opportunity," Gastel said. "We appreciate this chance to hear firsthand some perspectives of a former presidential press secretary." Fitzwater will attend a reception tonight, followed by an invitation-only lecture from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. He will also meet the public in the museum today and tomorrow from 10 to 10:30 p.m. Guests will

be admitted to the meetings with purchase of normal museum admission. Dave Olsobrook, Bush Library director, said the museum was glad to have Fitzwater return to A&M. Fitzwater has visited the University several times in the past for such events as the dedication of the George Bush Presidential Library and the annual library advisory council meeting. "All of us associated with the Bush Library Museum are eager to see Marlin Fitzwater again," he said. "We welcome him back because he always has some interesting comments when speaks." Fitzwater worked in the press office under former presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush. Prior to his work at the White House, Fitzwater was a speech writer for the Department of Transportation and a press officer for the Environmental Protection Agency. The library's exhibit was assembled at A&M and contains memorabilia from Fitzwater's term as press secretary and the office of press secretary in general. The exhibit will travel to Franklin Pierce College, which is naming its school of journalism after Fitzwater, before returning to A&M.

Billiards pro to show skills at exhibition

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

International pool shark and trick shot artist Jack White will demonstrate his skills and answer questions about the fundamentals of pool today in the MSC Flagroom from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

JACK WHITE
Pool Shark & Trick Shot Artist

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the MSC Basement

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

Nathan Cray, vice president for MSC Programs and a senior mechanical engineering major, said White's exhibition will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. White's free clinic will be from 2 to 4 p.m. in the basement of the MSC. "Jack White is an entertaining and hilarious professional pool player," he said. "He has some great tricks to demonstrate and has great sense of humor." White said showing his talents has been his lifelong occupation. Cray said the clinic offers students an opportunity to learn basic theories of the game and to meet the player and artist.

SEE BILLIARD ON PAGE 2.

Kappa Alpha returns after 3-year suspension

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

After a three-year hiatus, the Kappa Alpha Order officially marked its return to Texas A&M last night with an induction ceremony where 42 new pledges were welcomed into the fraternity. Kappa Alpha was suspended in the fall of 1996 after a student pledging the fraternity was seriously injured in a hazing incident. Ann Goodman, associate director for the Department of Student Life, said a fraternity member walked up behind a new pledge and forcefully pulled his pants up, giving him a "wedgie." The student suffered a twisted testicle that had to be surgically removed. Goodman said the accident, which occurred at a new-pledge rally, spurred an investigation into Kappa Alpha which uncovered hazing activities such as forced alcohol consumption, forced exercise and physical assault. Thirty-two Kappa Alpha members were disciplined by the University for hazing, and the national office of Kappa Alpha followed suit, expelling four members. All other members of the chapter were granted immediate alumni status, and the A&M chapter was shut down. Scott Blackwell, Greek Life adviser, said although the fraternity has served its three-year suspension, certain expectations must still be met before the order is granted a permanent charter. In addition to following all University rules and guidelines governing fraternities, the chapter must fulfill community-service requirements and host educational pro-

grams for students on such topics as the responsible use of alcohol. Kappa Alpha members also must maintain a collective grade-point ratio above the overall fraternity average at A&M. The order is required to have alumnus advisers at every new-member event and is allowed only eight weeks for membership education, as a precaution. "We wanted to limit the time between pledging and initiation so there would be less opportunities for hazing to occur," Blackwell said. Larry Hodges, Class of '88 and a former Kappa Alpha Order president, is the chapter's alumnus adviser and is coordinating the "recolonization" project. He said getting the order's charter and reputation back will not be easy, but the group is focusing on the positive and is determined to reflect the highest ideals of fraternity life. "We've gotten rid of everything from the old fraternity and started from scratch," he said. "We recruited mature, responsible students—men with high standards and good character." Hodges said unlike other fraternities, Kappa Alpha recruited new members through ads in *The Battalion*, and included informational meetings with the chapter's alumnus committee instead of having parties with alcohol during rush activities. Founded in Virginia in 1865, the order is dedicated to the ideal of the antebellum Southern gentleman, Hodges said. "KA was founded on the principles of chivalry, gentility, reverence for God and respect for women, basically—what we believe here at A&M," he said.

Mini-PMC



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION
Danny Salinas (center), age 7 from Laredo, takes advantage of senior privileges Saturday after a win over Southern Mississippi, and helps out John Boles (left), a senior agricultural development major, and Marcus Edwards (right) senior construction science major.

A&M honors businesses

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

Texas A&M honored five Bryan-College Station establishments Saturday for upholding the Aggie name as approved by the University. Fat Burger, Gina's Restaurante Mexicano, Red Bandana, Tom's Barbecue and Aggie Cleaners received certificates of appreciation for including "Aggie" on the menu or in the name. Toby Boenig, manager of collegiate licensing, said other schools do not get this kind of support from local businesses. "This [ceremony] is just a way we can tell the businesses how much we appreciate them," he said. Mark Horn, director of operations at Tom's Barbecue, said Tom's Barbecue has been around for 25 years and they will continue to uphold the great reputation of the University. Fariborz Estakhri, owner of Fat Burger, said the "Aggie Burger" is the most popular menu. Bill Krumm, vice president of finance for A&M, said the honor is about more than licensing. "The honorees display the right image for the University, and what we strive to be for Vision 2020," Krumm said. Boenig said businesses are welcome to use "Aggie" in their promotions, but University guidelines must be followed. According to the Office of University Rela-



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION
Bill Krumm, vice president of finance for A&M, hands Mark Horn, Director of operations of Tom's Barbecue, a certificate of appreciation Saturday afternoon. "Aggie" is a trademark of A&M, but the establishments honored Saturday signed an agreement authorizing to use the name at no charge. In 1981, A&M filed "Aggie" as a trademark with the Texas Secretary of State. A&M holds 32 other trademarks including "Texas A&M," "Gig 'em Aggies," the ATM block and the Aggie ring crest. Boenig said the certificates are something he wants the business to feel proud to display. "It will show the community that these businesses are committed to Texas A&M, its employees and students," he said.

Nicklaus to design golf course

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

A new signature golf course, designed by Hall of Fame golfer, Jack Nicklaus, will be the future home of the Texas A&M Men's and Women's Golf teams. Tom Coyle, director of development services, said the \$1 million golf course will benefit A&M students and the golf teams and should be completed by Spring of 2001. "Students and [A&M golf] team members will receive many benefits from this signature golf course, such as the high-technological teaching instruments, videos and covered driving ranges," he said. Coyle said the development of the course and surrounding areas will cover 800 acres with a perimeter of University Drive to the south, Harvey Mitchell Drive to the east, 47th Street to the west and Villa Maria Drive to the north. "This course will take about 14 months

to build," he said. "Designers are beginning with [the] reconnaissance work of forming the holes, the green and the routing plan." Coyle said a contract between The Club Corporation of America and the Texas A&M Athletic Department is close to being signed. "The routing plan will be finalized between now and Christmas," he said. "The land-use plan will include a 180-room hotel and 50 to 75 villas. Golf course parking lots and residential development [also] are part of this plan." Joe Brown, public information officer for the city of Bryan, said the course will encourage business in the area to grow. "This is the future home of the Texas A&M Men's and Women's Golf Teams," he said. "The course and the residential development is a tremendous effort to encourage businesses to come back into the Bryan-College Station area."

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- Batt Radio: Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for more on the Aggie's win over the Golden Eagles.