

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Freshman vote begins

BY STASIA RAINES
The Battalion

The members of the Class of '03 will have their first chance to make their opinions count by voting for five freshman senate members and six class-council officers today and tomorrow in freshman fall elections. Kristen Starwalt, director of programs for the election commission for the Student Government Association, said the commission is trying to raise voter turnout by making voting more convenient. "One of our main goals is to get as many freshmen vote as possible," she said. "This is why we, the Election Commission, have set up seven voting sites." Students can vote from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Sbis Dining Hall, Blocker Building, Sterling C. Evans Library, Duncan Dining Center, Zachry Engineering Building, MSC and the Commons Lobby. Melissa Tripp, Election Commission director of administration, said the number of candidates has increased from last year.

1999 Freshman Elections

Polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the following locations.

- Sbis Dining Hall
- Blocker building
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Duncan Dining Center
- Zachary Engineering building
- Memorial Student Center
- Commons Lobby

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

"Over 70 freshmen applied," she said. "Hopefully this is indicative of a high turnout of voters." Ashlea Jenkins, election commissioner, said she hopes the turnout for this year's freshman elections is as good as last year's. "Last year about 3,000 freshmen voted out of about 7,000 [freshman] students, which is pretty good," Jenkins said. "Fish normally come out and vote because they are excited to get involved." She said she hopes the number of candidates will help get the word out to the freshman student body. "Since there are so many candidates, hopefully more freshmen will be aware and get out and vote," Jenkins said.

Former Beutel staffers: Work conditions hostile

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

When Donald Freeman, M.D., started working at A.P. Beutel Health Center in October 1986, he thought there could be no job more fun or fulfilling. Twelve years later, he walked out of Beutel for the last time, not because he was retiring, but because of what he describes as Beutel's transformation into "one of the most miserable places to work." Freeman is not alone. He and 10 other physicians formerly employed by Beutel have issued letters of complaint, saying the current administration of the health center, headed by director Lucille Isdale, Ph.D., has created a "hostile work environment," driving

away many qualified staff members and ultimately lowering the level of care received by students.

Janet Krueger, M.D., a former physician at Beutel, said the administration created this environment by repeatedly refusing to recognize staff concerns or by applying "band-aid" solutions to problems which resurfaced a short time later.

"The health center tends to ignore the problems of the staff, such as the overwhelming patient load, which leaves many students with shorter time slots and very often leaves the doctors overly fatigued," Krueger said. "The administration has an 'open-door' policy with a brick wall on the other side."

According to a survey of staff

satisfaction conducted by the Division of Student Affairs in 1998, the "Student Health Service had a large response of dissatisfied to very dissatisfied employees."

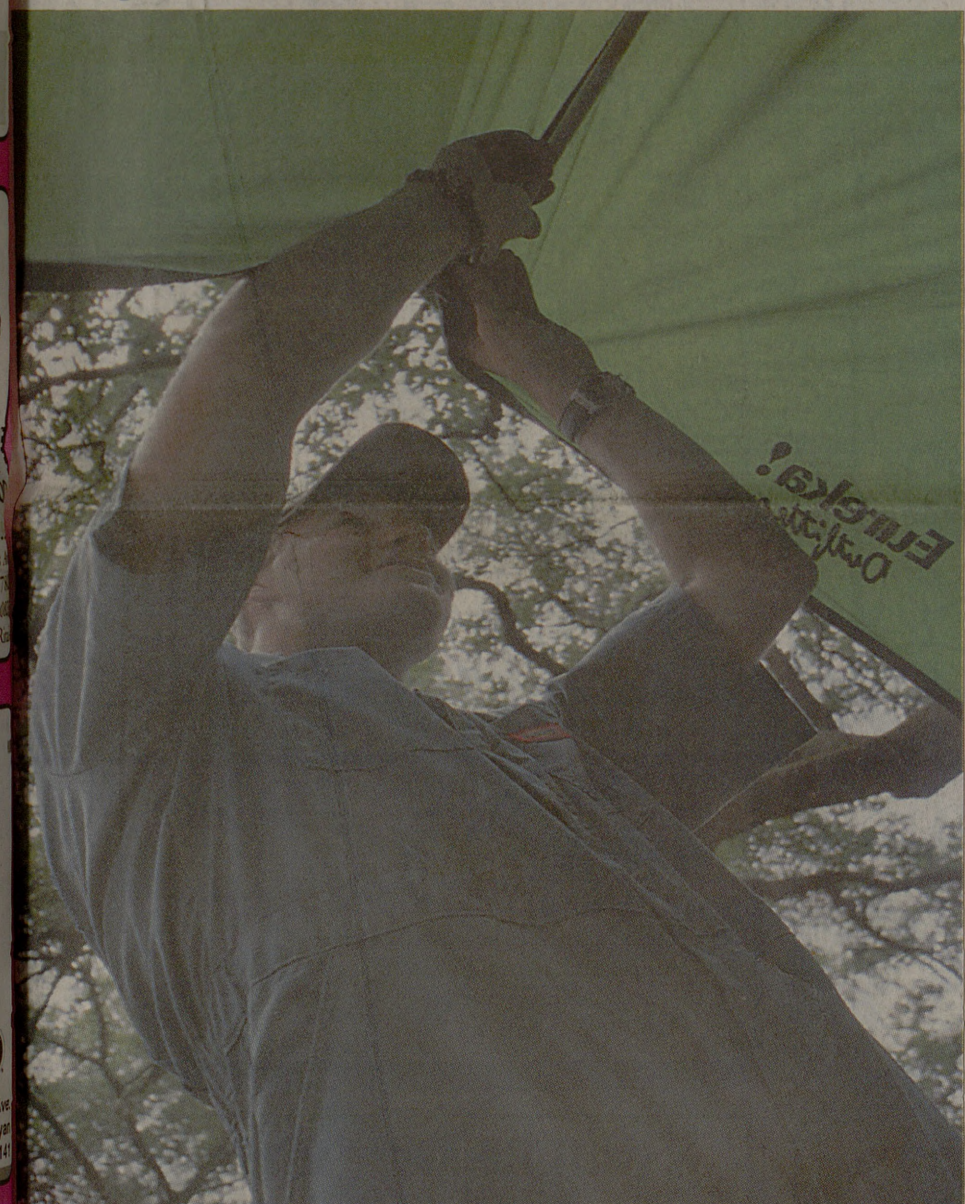
The survey revealed a 74.1-percent dissatisfaction rate with how work-related problems were solved and a 70.4-percent dissatisfaction rate with overall work-place morale.

Comments in the report included there was very little job security reported by employees and an extreme lack of flexibility in office hours.

Isdale said she wishes she could please all her staff while at the same time maintaining high-quality care for students, but her

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Stoop Out



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Mike Gerecke, a sophomore sociology major, puts up a tent Tuesday afternoon outside Hart Hall as part of the first "Stoop Out '99," an effort to meet students who do not live in Hart, by relaxing and playing video games on the stoops of Hart Hall. "Hartland," the residents of Hart's third floor, are coordinating the event.

Board bans hall from Bonfire

BY CHRIS MENCZER
The Battalion

Upcoming Bonfire events will proceed without the help of Walton Hall, a residence hall traditionally known for its involvement in the Texas A&M tradition.

Walton Hall is officially banned from this fall's Bonfire due to hazing incidents that occurred during and prior to last year's Bonfire.

A student-organization hearing concluded Walton Hall was involved in forcing new crew chiefs to hug trees, and abused them with verbal and physical harassment.

Alcohol also may have been involved.

Ann Marie Morgan, department of student activities adviser, said Walton is restricted from participation in Bonfire because of its infraction of University hazing policies.

Anthony Andenoro, Walton Hall graduate hall director, said the measures taken will have a positive effect on reducing hazing.

"We're doing an anti-hazing program in Walton and one on Southside," he said. "We're trying to educate people on how they can have a fun and safe Bonfire."

Andenoro said although Walton Hall residents as a group cannot be involved in

Bonfire, individuals from the residence hall are more than welcome to participate in Bonfire as individual.

Hannes Brueckner, a Walton Hall resident and a sophomore general studies major and, said the disciplinary measures were unjust because they punish the wrong people.

"It's hurting the freshmen more than its hurting anyone else," Brueckner said.

Brueckner said the freshmen are being limited in their involvement in Bonfire because of the actions of others.

"Walton's always been really active and played a big role in [Bonfire] because



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Walton Hall has been banned from participating in A&M's Bonfire, due to hazing incidents.

"We were the only dorm that did load," he said.

University adds film studies minor

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

For students interested in the film industry, this fall's addition of an Interdisciplinary Film Studies minor to the College of Liberal Arts provides an opportunity to explore the film industry both analytically and professionally.

Logan Youree, coordinator for MSC Film Society's Network Event Theater and a junior speech communication major, said he is considering adding the new minor to his degree plan.

Youree said he is interested in the production and behind-the-scenes work of film.

"I have a lot of interest in film," he said, "and it is important to take courses to learn and understand the culture of film," he said.

Dr. Terrence Hoagwood, Interdisciplinary Minor of Film Studies coordinator, said the idea for the minor came in 1997 when College of Liberal

Arts' dean, Dr. Woodrow Jones, formed a committee to research the desirability of a film-studies minor among students and faculty.



Hoagwood said the minor could benefit students interested in the intellectual aspect of film.

He said people need to have the opportunity to understand and think critically about film.

"We felt film is likely to be part of

one's life regardless of their major or career choice," he said.

Hoagwood said there are two classes being offered for the minor this fall: English 251, Language of Film and English 289, Introduction to Film Analysis.

Dr. Robert Shandley, assistant professor of German, is teaching the ENGL 289 class this semester.

Shandley said of the 18 required credit hours, three are set classes and three are electives which can be taken from various areas of the liberal-arts college.

He said students participating in the minor are pursuing careers in everything from directing to the marketing and distributing of films.

Shandley said it was very interesting to find out how enthusiastic students were about the prospect of the addition of the minor.

"I think we will find it a very popular and sought-after minor," he said.

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Black journalists group makes return to campus

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) returns this fall for students interested in all areas of journalism.

The NABJ became obsolete after members graduated in 1996.

Adrienne Ballare, NABJ president and a senior journalism major, said the organization began in January 1989 and stopped functioning. Because of new membership, however, the organization is now up and running again.

Ballare said the NABJ helps to gear students interested in advertising, marketing or engineering toward a career in journalism.

She said the organization provides scholarship and internship information and hopes to strengthen connections between African-American students and African-American professionals in the Bryan-College Station media.

Roshawnda Little, NABJ secretary and a senior journalism major, said the association is open to all students.

"[We] encourage all students to come out and learn, not just African-Americans or journalism majors," she said. "[This is a] gateway for students to learn what careers and opportunities there are for people who like to write."

Ballare said the organization is concerned with providing minority students information about opportunities in the journalism field.

"[We hope to improve] unity of black journalists dedicated to excellence," she said. "We hope to encourage the TAMU journalism department to appoint black instructors and professors."

Ballare said the organization, which consists of 10 upperclassmen, is still recruiting members and hopes to recruit underclassmen. She said NABJ also aims to increase the number of black journalism students in the Department of Journalism.

Apryl Reed, NABJ director of programs and a junior journalism major, said future programs will include tours of radio and television stations to help students become familiar with the settings.

MSC committee's Bio Data Sheet eases process of joining programs

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

Student applicants to any of the 26 MSC committees will be able to use a Bio Data Sheet, a Scantron form on which applicants indicate other committees they are interested in besides the committee they would like to join.

The MSC human resources department administers and compiles the sheets, and if student users are not accepted to the committee of their choice, their information is put into a database so other committees can use it as a referral source.

Committees which previously did not have as many applicants as they would have liked to now have a tool to reach out to students whose first choice was not available.

Matt Hobson, executive

vice president of development for the MSC Council and a junior computer engineering major, said he believes Bio Data Sheets will be a useful tool for committees and for the human-resources department.

The human-resources department will use the Bio Data Sheets to compile biographical data of those who applied, which allows them to research what kinds of students are applying and gives them a tool to learn who they need to focus on to increase application in that committee.

"[These Bio Data Sheets] allow the [Human Resources] department to provide student referrals to those committees who need more members," Hobson said. "It [Bio Data Sheets] allows us to see what people are involved."

Hobson said the MSC

Council received a much larger turnout of students utilizing the sheets than expected.

Tish Shanley, chair of MSC Hospitality and a senior biomedical science major, said the committees in the MSC are excited about the implementation of these Bio Data Sheets, because through these sheets they are able to recruit those who they may have not been able to recruit initially.

"This program is a great way for the committees to get people involved, and it gives the students a chance to be a part of a committee they maybe did not know about," Shanley said.

Janiece McGuire, a sophomore English major, said she used the Bio Data sheet so she would have a chance of becoming a part of a committee. She said the sheets work as an advertisement for committees students may not know about.