

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## NAACP selects B-CS for convention site

Sharpton, Cochran to attend; A&M to host dinner

BY RICHARD BRAY  
The Battalion

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will hold their annual state convention in College Station beginning today and continuing through Saturday. Texas A&M will honor the groups arrival by hosting a dinner for 300 people participating in the NAACP meeting and will present the organization with a plaque.

The NAACP convention patrons will include former O.J. Simpson defense attorney, Johnny Cochran and the Rev. Al Sharpton. The reception for the NAACP will be tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m.

Mary Russar, the coordinator for special programs for the associate provost of the graduate programs and academic services, said this is the first time the NAACP has chosen the Bryan-College Station area for a meeting.

"What we're trying to do is honor the fact that the NAACP has selected the Brazos Valley to host their state convention," she said.

She said this is a historic moment for A&M because this is a function of national stature.

"This is the first time that A&M has hosted a major state meeting of this kind," she said. "We will have people from not only the national office but regional board members and regional directors from the NAACP."

Russar said that at the reception, A&M will give NAACP delegates a commemorative brochure featuring A&M African-American students, leaders and faculty.

"We have a history of African-Americans here at Texas A&M that we are very proud of," she said. "The brochure will highlight the first [African-American] students admitted to the University in 1963, the first African-American yell leader, the first [African-American] stu-

## NAACP CONVENTION

- Convention will be held in College Station Sept. 30 - Oct. 2
- Attendees will include Johnny Cochran and Reverend Al Sharpton
- Reception will be Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Reed Arena

JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

dent body president and the first African-American faculty member."

The gesture on the part of A&M is one of the many unheralded activities that the University participates in to improve race relations.

Maco Faniel, a sophomore speech communication major and vice president of communication improvement for Student Government Association, said the convention will hopefully shed a positive light on College Station in regards to past attitudes on minorities.

"In the past and even now, Texas A&M University has gotten a negative reputation [for its attitude toward minorities]," he said. "We only hear about the negative things. We never hear about the good things that Texas A&M is doing."

## RHA discusses garage parking

BY BROOKE HODGES  
The Battalion

Students with reserved parking in the Southside Parking Garage may have to compete for parking spots in the future, according to a Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) proposal presented and discussed at last night's Residence Hall Association General Assembly.

Sherry Wine, executive associate director of PTTS, said they are looking into changing the reserved parking of the Southside Garage to unnumbered, unreserved spots. She said this change will allow University's parking resources to be better allocated.

Wine said the 1,976 available spots in the Southside garage are rarely full and electronic counts

conducted during the first three weeks of school showed an average of around 1,600 occupied spaces.

She said the unreserved parking will also be convenient when residents move in and out of the halls at the beginning and end of each semester.

Wine said some other issues being evaluated this semester are the impact of football games and other largely-attended events on parking situations and providing options for faculty and staff who are required to be at work during inconvenient hours.

Wine said the garage will require some maintenance before it changes to unnumbered parking.

Presently, the painted arrows directing traffic on the first floor

SEE RHA ON PAGE 2.

## Lady Aggies' leader leaves for UTSA

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON  
The Battalion

Texas A&M Athletics will say goodbye and good luck to Lynn Hickey the senior associate athletic director of the Athletic Department at the reception today from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in MSC 206 in recognition of the years she has spent at A&M as a coach and athletic administrator.

Dr. Tina Cheatham, assistant athletic director for women's sports, who worked closely with Hickey, said in her 15 years as a coach and administrator of women's athletics, Hickey helped bring women's athletics to a new level at A&M.

"She genuinely cared, and she had a strong commitment in putting the Lady Aggies on the map," Cheatham said.

Hickey is leaving A&M to accept the position of athletic director at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Hickey coached the Kansas State basketball team for five seasons where she led her team to 25 wins and the NCAA postseason tournament each year, before joining the A&M coaching and administration staff in 1984 as assistant athletic director for women.

She was promoted in 1991 to associate athletic director for women.

As head coach of the women's basketball team she shared many victories with the players.



HICKEY

SEE HICKEY ON PAGE 2.

## Here's the kicker



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION

Travis Baldwin, (left) a sophomore aerospace engineering major, and Jeremy Wilson, (right) a junior electrical engineering major, practice their daily Muay Thai exercises at their apartment complex Wednesday.

## Program aids Aggies, children

BY ROLANDO GARCIA  
The Battalion

To help pay for college, Mary Hammond, a senior marketing major, tutors struggling school children, but she says her job involves more than just teaching kids to read.

"You're kind of a role model that these kids can look up to," she said.

Hammond is one of 120 Texas A&M students participating in America Reads, a federal program that encourages college students to tutor elementary school children for their financial aid work-study jobs.

Patricia Lynch, the program coordinator and a senior lecturer with the Department of Educational Psychology, said the program, which includes 16 elementary schools in the Bryan-College Station area, benefits both the tutors and the students who participate.

"It's a great way to help children who need one-on-one help and for A&M students to see the value of helping in public schools," Lynch said.

Tutors work approximately 10 hours a week and work with students individually or in small groups to help them with reading and math skills.

Hammond said the children look forward to the tutoring sessions and that the extra academic help makes a difference.

### AMERICA READS

- 120 Texas A&M students participate
- 16 elementary schools in the Bryan-College Station area participate
- tutors spend 10 hours a week and work with students individually or in small groups
- tutors help with reading and math skills

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

"You can definitely see the kids' progress," she said. "They're more confident in their schoolwork, and they're not afraid to speak up or raise their hand when they don't understand something."

Mary Ellen Linder, an assistant principal at Fannin Elementary in Bryan, said the tutors also play the role of mentor to the at-risk children they tutor.

"One of the biggest benefits is that the children bond with the tutor," Linder said.

"The attachment that forms not only helps the students learn to read, it helps build their self-esteem."

Melissa Ramer, an America Reads tutor and a junior management information systems major, said encouraging children to feel good about themselves is an integral part of being a tutor.

"I think that if all we ever did was give a child confidence that they didn't have before, then we would have made our mark," Ramer said.

"But we don't stop there, we make them excellent readers."

Ramer, who works at an after-school reading program, said what many of her students need is just an extra positive push to get back on track with their school work.

"It's an extremely rewarding job," she said.

"You can really make a difference in these kids' lives, and it's a lot more meaningful than filing papers."

## University Committees select student advisers for officials

BY ERIKA DOERR  
The Battalion

Final decisions have been made for 1999-2000 student representatives which will gather input and advise various coordinating officials on campus.

Student Body President Will Hurd, a senior computer science major, said these committees are instrumental to the University and the representatives were chosen through an application process.

"The bulk of most University-wide decisions are made within these University Committees," he said. "Carrie Garcia, the University Committees chair for student government and the University Committee executive team, helped choose these student representatives."

Hurd said examples of committees include Academic Appeals, Bus Operations Advisory Board, Financial Aid Student Advisory, President's Advisory Committee on Art Policy (PACAP), Parking Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) Advisory and University Lecture Committees.

Hurd said each committee reports back to their respective student government vice president and approximately 45 University Committees report to faculty and staff members such as,

A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, Dr. Jerry Gaston, vice president for administration, and Dr. Ronald Douglas, executive vice president and provost of the faculty senate.

**"I want to help deal with the issues and controversies ..."**

— Jack Long  
PTTS advisory member

"I want to see these student representatives take a more active role within their committees," he said. "If a student has a concern, I want the appropriate University Committee to inject student input in their policy making."

Jack Long, a PTTS advisory committee member and a sophomore political science major, said an applicant can only serve on three committees but was able to apply for a total of five positions.

"I was very excited to have been chosen to be on the PTTS advisory committee," he said. "I want to help deal with the issues and controversies of parking on

vote again today. She said the election commission was unable to reach everyone because some people do not have their phone numbers listed in the A&M system.

"We strongly encourage everyone who voted at the Blocker location to vote again at any of the locations so their vote counts," she said.

Jenkins said that if someone votes and their ballot was cast without error yesterday, the computer will catch it by checking the student identification number and will then throw out the second ballot cast. She said only a small number of ballots were affected by the error and it will not affect the outcome of the election.

"This is not going to throw the results off," she said. "[The error] will not sway the opinion of the election."

Students can vote at Sbis Dining Hall, Blocker Building, Sterling C. Evans Library, Duncan Dining Center, Zachry Engineering Building, the MSC and the Commons Lobby.

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Junior linebacker Jason Glenn discusses family life, football. Page 11

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Sharing a dorm room or apartment leads to awkward situations, lack of privacy. Page 3

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Recent court cases suggest that high-school students are not endowed with the same rights as others. Page 15

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