

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Freshmen elect class officers

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

The Class of '03 elected six new Class Council officers to steer class activities and fundraisers after two days of run-off elections held yesterday and Monday.

Freshmen elected for the 1999-2000 year include Marke Sharp, president, with 65.7 percent of the vote; Dustin Hammit, vice president, with 63 percent; Melissa Tyroch, secretary, with 56.3 percent; Ryan Nolen, treasurer, with 56.3 percent; Melissa Abshier, social secretary, with 49 percent; and Armando Garcia, historian, with 52.5 percent.

The election commission announced the results at 10 p.m. last night in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue.

Sharp, elected as Class of '03

president and a political science major, said he decided to run because of his interest in government and to become involved in class decision-making.

"I went to a small Christian school, and now I am at one of the largest universities in the nation," Sharp said, in response to his introduction to the class-election process at Texas A&M.

Ashlea Jenkins, the 1999-2000 election commissioner and a junior political science major, said the run-off elections went smoothly, giving some of the newer members of the election committee more experience.

"I think we did a wonderful job," Jenkins said. "It is good practice for the spring elections and a good learning experience."

Garcia, elected as Class of '03 historian and a kinesiology ma-



(Back row left to right) **Dustin Hammit**, vice president; **Armando Garcia**, historian; **Ryan Nolen**, treasurer; (front row, left to right) **Melissa Abshier**, social secretary; **Marke Sharp**, president; and **Melissa Tyroch**, secretary.

major, said he wanted to participate in class activities as a freshman at A&M.

"I wanted to get involved and help the class anyway I can," he said.

Jenkins said 900 freshmen voted in the run-off elections, compared to 1,500 students participating in the primary elections.

The Class of '03 elected five student senators in primary elections last week.

Freshmen elected as student

senators include Katie Chastaine, Chris Collins, Jenny Isgitt, Brad Knox and Lara Pringle.

More than 70 students ran in the primary elections, according to reports from the election commission.

Jenkins said the pool of freshman candidates in the fall elections is relatively small, compared to the large number of positions open to all classes for student body president, Student Senate and Class Council positions.

Student senators: support loan bill

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

The Student Senate discussed the endorsement of Proposition 13, a bill that if passed by the State Legislature would amend the Texas Constitution to authorize the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board to issue \$400 million in general obligation bonds to continue college loan assistance through the Hinson-Hazelwood Student Loan Program, last night.

Chad Wagner, external affairs chair and a sophomore political science major, said the Hinson-Hazelwood Loan Program is self-supportive.

"Not a single penny of state funding is used to pay for administration or to repay loans," he said. "The Hinson-Hazelwood Loan Program provides more than \$900 million in student loans to more than 260,000 low- and middle-income students."

Wagner said the Student Senate en-

courages students to vote for Proposition 13 on Nov. 2. He said the Proposition 13 bill is similar to the Proposition 17 bill, which amends the Texas Constitution to make the Permanent University Fund (PUF) a "total return" fund. Proposition 13 would provide additional funding for higher education without increasing taxes.

"We want students to be motivated enough to get out to the polls and vote 'yes' for these propositions," he said.

Student Body President Will Hurd, a senior computer science major, said Proposition 13 and Proposition 17 are positive initiatives by the State Legislature to provide more opportunities for the youth of Texas to attend institutions of higher learning.

In other business:
• The Senate presented a resolution of appreciation to former Chancellor Dr. Barry B. Thompson.

SEE SENATE ON PAGE 2.

Job wanted



Students view the 1999 Agriculture Career Exposition at the Kleberg Animal and Food Sciences Center. Twenty four companies participated in the career fair.

Mays Business School selects CEO to receive award for rescuing airline

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

The Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business will host a reception and award ceremony honoring Gordon Bethune for rescuing Continental Airlines when it was on the verge of liquidation.

The reception will be held today at 9 a.m. in Wehner Business Administration Building 159.

Donald Fraser, head of the Department of Finance, said Bethune will receive the Kupfer Distinguished Executive Award for the work he did as CEO of Continental Airlines in 1994, when it was one of the worst airlines.

"Now [Continental] is first among airlines in terms of on-time performance, lack of complaints and other areas related to customer service and business efficiency," Fraser said. "We view that [turnaround] as an entrepreneurial activity. Bethune took

an airline that had twice been bankrupt and was heading for bankruptcy again, and created one of the top airlines."

"We view that [turnaround] as an entrepreneurial activity."

—Donald Fraser
Head of the Department of Finance

Beginning in 1987, faculty and administrators have chosen a recipient of the award, which was established by two A&M Corps of Cadets members, Gerald Ray and Donald Zale, in memory of their classmate, Harold L. Kupfer, Class of '57.

At the reception, a current Corps member will receive a scholarship in the name of Ray and Zale. The Corps members pick the scholarship recipient, who is usually a junior or senior.

Fraser said recipients must have made a large impact on companies and businesses, but the real focus is a professional with entrepreneurial skills.

Since Bethune joined the company, Continental Airlines has achieved four consecutive years of profit sharing and was named one of the "100 Best Companies to Work for in America" by Fortune magazine.

Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine named Continental Airlines the best managed major United States airline in 1998.

One thousand invitations went out, and Fraser is expecting a few hundred attendees.

That last recipient of the Kupfer Award was Michael Dell, C.E.O of Dell computers in 1997.

Professor says Christianity, medicine clash

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

Dr. H. Tristram Engelhardt Jr., a bio-ethics professor at the Baylor College of Medicine and a professor of philosophy at Rice University, said last night in the All Faith's Chapel the Western world living in a post-Christian society has serious ramifications for the medical field.

Engelhardt delivered the first in a series of three lectures sponsored by the Brazos Valley Orthodox Institute, an association of Orthodox Christians.

"We live in an age after a period in which Christianity was an established religion, and you think that these social norms still exist, but they don't," Engelhardt said.

The shift to secularism has led to a "culture war" between traditional Christian and an emerging pagan culture. This has made healthcare a prime battleground as society wrestles with issues such as abortion and physician-assisted suicide, he said.

"What you see is radically

different understandings of reality," Engelhardt said. "Christians see prenatal screening and abortion as murder, while in the secular world, it's viewed as responsible parenting."

He said these procedures are now widely accepted in the medical field, and with health care now consuming one-seventh of Americans' income, medical ethics on issues dealing with life and death decisions will come under more scrutiny.

"When I first entered medicine, almost nobody would have thought of performing physician-assisted suicide," he said. "Today, maybe 60 percent of my colleagues would do it if it were legal."

In response to audience questions, Engelhardt said the medical field is highly secularized, and Christian doctors can expect to have their faith-based beliefs scorned.

"If you go into medicine, you will be a stranger in a strange land," he said.

Chris Bathurst, a senior biomedical engineering major, said he is planning to go to medical



Dr. H. Tristram Engelhardt, a bio-ethics professor at the Baylor College of Medicine, speaks on conflicts between medicine and Christianity.

school and he found Engelhardt's discussion enlightening.

"[Engelhardt] answered our questions really well, especially about being a Christian entering the medical field," he said. "We have to realize that there's some differences [between] Christian views and the medical field, and that you have to stand up for what you believe

and not just shrug and say that's the way it is."

The next two lectures in the series will be about a new Texas law concerning living wills and end-of-life decision making on Oct. 12 and living as a Christian in a post-Christian world on Nov. 30. The Oct. 12 lecture will be held in McReynolds Building 102 and the Nov. 30 in Rudder 302.

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Batt Radio

Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details about donating used sports equipment.

Greek life creates new council on multiculturalism

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

The Office of Greek Life created the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), new fall, to address the needs of traditionally Hispanic and Asian fraternities and sororities.

Deidra Crawford, Greek Life adviser, said the council consists of four fraternities and five sororities, which, because of the lack of national councils for Hispanic and Asian Greeks, were without an umbrella organization.

"This pulls these groups together and allows them to coordinate activities, work together on campus issues and act as a support network," she said.

Crawford said the council will also serve as a liaison to University administration for fraternities and sororities. She said Greek organizations not aligned with councils are welcome to petition for admittance to the MGC.

MGC will have a total membership of 150 students, making it smaller than the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council,

SEE COUNCIL ON PAGE 2.

Aggies create organization for animal rights

BY RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

Aggies for Animal Rights, a new student organization, aims to inform students about animal rights and how to peacefully inform others of the message.

Jennifer Gentry, president and founder of Aggies for Animal Rights and a junior English major, said Aggies for Animal Rights will be as forceful as possible while avoiding confrontation.

"Our goals are to educate people about animal rights and animal welfare issues in as [peaceful] a way as possible," she said. "Animal rights people have a very negative stigmatism, and I don't want our group to be that way. I want us to be open-minded."

Luke Klima, vice president of Aggies for Animal Rights and a senior marketing major, said he joined the organization because he believes in its mission.

"I think it is a worthwhile cause, and I want to do anything I can to help," he said.

Gentry said the group is already planning activities for the future.

"One of the things we are planning on doing is setting up a table on campus [and] trying to get a petition signed for a dissection option on campus," she said. "We've also been thinking of doing a pet-food drive for one of the local animal shelters."

Gentry said the organization is already considering changing its name from Aggies for Animal Rights to Aggies C.A.R.E. (Ag-

gies Care for Animal Rights Everywhere).

"We feel as if people cringe when they hear the words 'animal rights,' so we were thinking of changing our name to something less confrontational," she said. "We're going to vote on it at the next meeting on Oct. 13 at 7 at my house."

Students can become a member by contacting the Student Activities Office.

While Aggies for Animal Rights is just getting started, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is beginning a contest where students can win free vegetarian food delivered to their residence hall room for an entire semester by correctly answering five questions about animal rights.