

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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College Station, Texas

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## Attack on homosexual raises students' concerns

BY ROLANDO GARCIA  
The Battalion

A recent assault against a homosexual College Station resident during Coming Out Week has renewed concerns about the perceived hostility against homosexuals in the city and at Texas A&M.

Sandra Boyle, 21, a former A&M student who is currently enrolled in Blinn College, said she was riding in a car with friends in the early morning hours of Oct. 12, when she was assaulted. She said while they were stopped at a red light at the corner of George Bush and Wellborn Road a truck pulled beside them, and the male driver began yelling at them.

Boyle said the driver got out of the truck, walked over to the passenger side of Boyle's vehicle and punched her in the face.

"It all happened really fast, but I was bleeding all over the place," she said. "Police were alerted, and the assailant was apprehended. A police report was filed; however, the name of the suspect was not made available."

Boyle received eight stitches on her upper lip and also suffered two loosened teeth.

She said her sexual orientation was probably the motive behind the attack.

**"It's just one more piece of evidence of how hostile the climate here is for gays and lesbians."**

—Megan C. Wright  
GLBTA vice president

"I know he saw the gay rainbow sticker [on the car window], and that's why he punched me," she said.

Megan C. Wright, vice president of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Aggies and a junior sociology major, said the incident reflects poorly on the environment toward homosexuals in College Station.

"It's just one more piece of evidence of how hostile the climate here is for gays and lesbians," she said.

Wright said University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's recent rejection of an amendment to add sexual orientation to the Student Rules Handbook's non-discrimination clause in the has sent a negative message to homosexual students.

"They can't just say the University is inclusive; they should take concrete steps to make it inclusive," she said.

The incident also prompted Sam Rasch, a friend of Boyle's and a senior English major, to confront Bowen last Wednesday at the Bowen Barbecue to discuss his rejection of the amendment and the University's hostile environment toward homosexuals.

"I wasn't on the guest list, but I went to the backyard [of Bowen's residence] and asked him," Rasch said, "but he said it was neither the time nor the place to discuss it."

Bowen's spokesperson, Lane Stephenson, declined to comment.

SEE ATTACK ON PAGE 2.

## Propositions 13, 17 to go before voters

BY ERIKA DOERR  
The Battalion

Nov. 2 will offer Texans a chance to vote on two amendments to the Texas Constitution to improve higher education.

Proposition 13 would authorize \$400 million in general-obligation bonds to finance student loans through the Hinson-Hazelwood Student Loan Program.

The program is completely self-supporting and provides more than \$900 million in student loans to 260,000 low- and middle-income students.

Proposition 17 would provide additional funding for academic programs and facilities at Permanent University Fund (PUF) institutions in The University of Texas and the Texas A&M University systems without increasing taxes. The constitution presently prohibits spending any capital gains of the PUF.

Student Body President Will Hurd, a senior computer science major, discussed and promoted the two amendments at a news conference Oct. 15.

Hurd said those in attendance at the conference were State Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos of District 14, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, Texas state senators, student body presidents from several universities, and with news and television spokespersons.

Hurd said the news conference promot-

ed awareness for and the importance of the two amendments.

He said the state-operated Hinson-Hazelwood Student Loan Program will provide more than 16,000 Texas students with student loans to allow them the opportunity to attend college.

Erin Blaney, director of public relations for the Student Government Association and a junior political science major, is helping remind Texans to vote for both propositions through the use of radio advertising.

"This radio campaign is intended to help people understand that Proposition 13 and 17 will increase higher-education systems," she said.

The campaigning began Saturday, Oct. 16, and will end on Nov. 2. The ads will help spread the word out to vote 'yes' for Proposition 13 and Proposition 17.

"People around the Bryan-College Station area, parents of A&M and [University of Texas-Austin] students, everyone who is registered to vote, is encouraged to vote for these two propositions."

Blaney said she and several other members from student government will speak to student organizations about the importance of voting for the two propositions. Flyers and stickers with information about Propositions 13 and 17 will be handed out to help inform students about the two amendments.

## Body slam



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M sophomore defensive lineman Evan Perroni, No. 93, slams University of Kansas running back Mitch Bowles to the ground in Saturday's game at Kyle Field. The Aggies defeated the Jayhawks, 34-17.

## Committee to kick off alcohol education week

Group aims to prevent excessive drinking at Bonfire

BY STASIA RAINES  
The Battalion

The Bonfire Alcohol Awareness Committee kicks off National Alcohol Awareness Week today by staffing an alcohol-education information table near Rudder Fountain.

Patti Collins, coordinator for Campus-wide Alcohol Education Programs, said each day of the week will feature a different theme related to alcohol education.

"The theme for the first day is 'Make healthy choices,' emphasizing the fact that most students are not binge drinkers but choose to make a decision to live a more healthy life," she said.

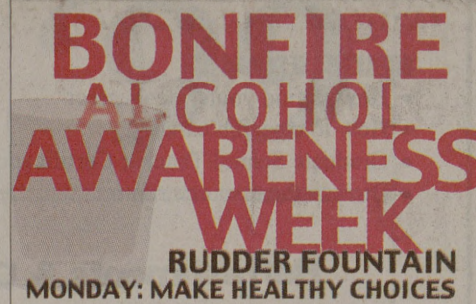
Collins said there will be speakers around lunch time each day who will speak on such topics as alcohol on campus, having fun while sober, alcohol laws and not allowing alcohol shatter the tradition of Bonfire.

Counselors from Student Counseling Services will speak in the 12th Man International Food Court today at noon.

Collins said the goal of the program is to educate students about the dangers of alcohol abuse.

"This national program was started in the '80s with a few schools and now is nationwide, impacting hundreds of campuses all over America with education on alcohol awareness," she said.

Collins said the program corresponds well with Bonfire, the yell practice held be-



BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

fore A&M's annual football game against the University of Texas-Austin.

Rusty Thompson, Bonfire adviser, said the program has had a big effect on Bonfire.

"Historically, Bonfire in the '80s had become a concern for the Bryan-College Station community due to alcohol," he said. "The event wasn't something A&M could be proud of, and the future of Bonfire was in jeopardy."

The Bonfire Alcohol Awareness Committee was established in 1989 to work with the community to reform Bonfire.

"Since 1989, Bonfire has done so much better," Thompson said. "Now [members of the committee] do outreach all over the state of Texas in high schools and college campuses on what is acceptable conduct at Bonfire."

## '99 yearbook distribution starts on time

BY DIANE XAVIER  
The Battalion

After hours of writing, editing, cutting and pasting, '99 Aggieworld yearbooks will be distributed on time this year.

Students can pick up their copies in the basement hallway of the Reed McDonald Building Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students will need to show their student I.D.'s to get their copies.

This year was one of the few in which the Aggieworld was completed on time.

Alicen Swift, '00 Aggieworld editor, '99 managing editor and a senior journalism major, said the production of the '99 Aggieworld was ahead of schedule the entire year.

"We had an extremely dedicated staff," she said. "There was a lot of unity on our staff and no competition between the people."

Swift said the early distribution of the books may confuse students who expect them to be distributed at a later date.



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Students pick up their '99 Aggieworld yearbooks in front of the Reed McDonald Building Friday.

"The '98 Aggieworld was passed out in March, but this year's book was finished on July 14," she said. "Our editor, Trisha Morelock, was a great leader. I think it's a great thing for this book and hope that this will boost our sales for the 2000 book."

Swift said the '99 edition is one of the better Aggieworld's to be produced.

"This yearbook is really beautiful, with quality photographs and great content," she said. "We have more in-depth coverage of events, and people will enjoy looking at this book for a long time. It's a miracle that we met deadline for this book."

Swift said yearbook staffs aim to finish the book in July each year, but in previous years they often fell behind.

"Our problems in the past were due to the organization process," she said.

SEE AGGIEWORLD ON PAGE 2.

## International association to host Mini-Olympics

BY BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

Texas A&M students from more than 35 countries will participate in the International Students Association (ISA) Mini-Olympics this month.

The Mini-Olympics is a sequence of games for students to compete. Teams are organized by country of origin.

Gustavo De Sousa, ISA president and a senior food sciences and technology major, said the games give students a chance to come together in fun, friendly competition.

"We want to bring students together to form friendships through sports," De Sousa said.

De Sousa said students from more than 110 countries attend A&M, and events such as the Mini-Olympics give international students a chance to meet. He said ISA has produced the Mini-Olympics for more than 10 years.

Events began Friday with racquetball and basketball tournaments.

De Sousa said there usually are opening ceremonies for the mini-olympics but this year the ISA did not have enough



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Eugenio Urquiza plays table tennis during the Mini-Olympics, sponsored by the International Students Association, time to organize the ceremonies.

No events were held Saturday, and softball and flag-football games were postponed yesterday because of rain.

De Sousa said the new schedule will be posted by Wednesday on the Website. A complete schedule of events also is available at the site.

Thirteen events, including soccer, volleyball, badminton and track and field will be held. Competition is slated to continue the rest of the month. The events will conclude Nov. 5, at which time the champions will be named.

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**Batt Radio**

Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on an arrest made in a Beanie Baby scam run through an Internet site.