

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Group's aim: state, national awareness

Representatives discuss actions to be taken in drowsy-driving issue

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Student Senate discussed the commitment to Drowsy Driving Awareness Resolution, with representatives from the state legislature's offices and the Baylor University student body president in attendance yesterday. Rob Ferguson, an off-campus senator and a jurist-political science major, said Texas Aggies Make Changes Committee (TAMC) has been striving to develop the Lupe Medina Program. In Sept. 1998, the Student Senate passed the Lupe Medina Bill for Driving Safety, stressing dangers associated with drowsy driving, which led to a program in which hotels throughout the state offer students discounts. The initial 10 hotels that have consistently supported the Lupe Medina Program are committed to continuously offering student discounts for college students that are driving at least 55 miles from their home campus," he said.

Ferguson said more than 4,000 cards with information of hotels participating by discounting rooms and 3,000 ribbons were distributed yesterday as part of Drowsy Driving Awareness Day.

Lisa Woods, Student Senate press secretary and a junior speech communication major, said the Student Senate encourages students to contribute to the development, initiation and publicity of the preventative measures to combat drowsy driving.

"In light of the fatal accident that occurred on Saturday, Oct. 9, 1999 involving students from Texas A&M, Baylor and Southwest Texas State universities, the Texas A&M University Student Senate passed the [Senate Resolution S.R. 99 (F)5] The Commitment to Drowsy Driving Awareness Resolution, to reiterate the intentions of The Lupe Medina Program," she said.

John Rolph, Baylor student body president, accepted the resolution on behalf of Baylor. He attended the meeting because the Oct. 10 pedestrian-



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Baylor Student Body President John Rolph speaks on drowsy driving Wednesday night.

trian-automobile collision, which took the lives of six students, including four Baylor students.

"This has been a time of healing at Baylor," he said. "We have lost seven students within seven weeks ... as a result of sleep-deprivation accidents."

"We are dreaming big, we want to take the Commitment to Drowsy Driving Awareness to the state and national levels," he said.

Chris Reyes, representative for Sen. Fred Brown, said Brown wholeheartedly supports the Student Government Association's efforts to increase drowsy driving awareness.

"Sen. Brown wants to bring this issue to state level and possibly introduce this issue as a piece of legislation in the next legislative session in January 2001 census," he said.

Bush to unveil autobiography

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

Former President George Bush will discuss his new book, *All the Best*, George Bush, a collection of his personal letters and diary entries, at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex tonight at 6:30.

Kelly Lindelien, assistant to the director of the George Bush Library Foundation, said an overflow audience is booked for the hour-long lecture and therefore will not be open to the public.

"We're setting up extra chairs [because] the auditorium seats 600 people, but we expect about 700," Lindelien said. "This lecture has generated a lot of interest."

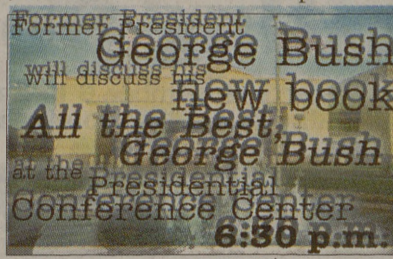
Lindelien said Bush will be taking a few questions from the audience.

Jean Becker, who worked as a research assistant on *All the Best*, said the idea for the book came after friends of the former president urged him to write an autobiography.

She said even though Barbara Bush has published memoirs, and Former President Bush has co-authored a book about foreign policy developments during his term in the White House, the former president repeatedly declined requests to write an autobiography.

Becker said a family friend of the Bushes suggested that the former president look into his archive of letters and publish some of them.

"He's a prolific letter writer, so we had a lot of letters to draw upon, and it was interesting way to tell his story," Becker said.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Former President George Bush will discuss his new book, *All the Best*, George Bush, at the Presidential Conference Center 6:30 p.m.

SEE AUTOBIOGRAPHY ON PAGE 2.

Time travel

New schedule adopted for Fall 2000 to ease commute from West Campus

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

An experimental schedule change, which will allow extra time for students to commute to the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, will go into effect next fall semester instead of the original plan of Spring 2000.

The experimental time extension was targeted to begin this spring, but is on hold until the fall due to miscommunication.

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate resolution to change scheduling for economic and political science courses taught at the Bush School was approved March 8, 1999 and then approved by A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, but was not forwarded to the College of Liberal Arts in time.

Dr. Dennis Jansen, economics department head, said the new experiment is an alternative to other proposed means of getting students to West Campus on time.

"There has been talk of more buses, but [A&M does not] have the funds," Jansen said. "This experimental time change will hopefully get students to class on time, even if they travel far distances from main campus."

While main campus classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday start at 8 a.m., political science and economic courses at the Bush School



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

Students will be allotted more time to travel from the Bush School to main campus in Fall 2000.

will begin at 8:30 a.m. The 30-minute delay will allow students a 50-minute gap to travel from main campus to West Campus. Jansen said students traveling from the Bush school to main campus, however, will miss out on the opportunity of scheduling their classes back-to-back.

"When students get out of their classes in Bush at 10:30 [a.m.], the class on main campus [will have] already started at 10:20 [a.m.]," Jansen said. "They will have plenty of time to get to their next class. Now [that] there is about an hour and a half of idle time to kill."

Jansen said students will have an opportunity to get other things done during this time, like studying or running errands. However, lining up courses between those at the Bush School and those on main campus will be impossible, he said.

Crash Test Twister



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Lorna Breault (foreground), a coordinator for Student Alcohol Education Programs, and Roganne Thueson (background), a student development specialist, portray the Crash Test Dummies Larry and Vince in a game of Twister Wednesday as part of National Alcohol Awareness Week activities.

News In Brief

OPAS Jr. to feature master puppeteer

MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS) begins the 1999-2000 OPAS Jr. seasons with puppet show, "Mozart, Monsters and Matisse."

Jim West, a master puppeteer, will perform a show that begins with the creation of a Mozart puppet and continue with stories acted with multiple puppets.

OPAS Jr. is an annual series of artistic programs intended for children ages two to 12 and their parents.

OPAS Jr. is part of MSC OPAS, a cooperative effort between students and the community to bring cultural, classical and contemporary artists as well as theater series to the campus of Texas A&M and the community of Bryan-College Station.

OPAS Jr. Performances will be at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in Rudder Theatre.

All tickets are \$6.50 and are available at the MSC Box Office.

Department hosts events for charities

The Department of Student Activities will hold a charity event including a garage sale, bake sale and silent auction tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the J. Koldus Student Services Building 146.

Two tickets donated by the Athletics Department for the Texas A&M vs. the University of Texas-Austin football game on Nov. 26 will be on the auction block.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to charities involved with the State Employee Charitable Campaign in the Bryan-College Station community.

INSIDE Sports

•McCown shining as Aggies' starter

The senior quarterback looks back at his performance at A&M. Page 9

•Aggielife

•Should I compare thee to a summer's day?

Poetry Night allows prospective poets to express themselves. Page 3

Opinion

•Loudly call the Wake-Up

Rude awakening or vocal motivation? Columnists comment on the shout out. Page 13

Batt Radio

Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on the appointment of a new interim head for Brazos Valley Solid Waste Mgmt.

Group aims to promote women in engineering

BY RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

The Women in Engineering, Science and Technology program has organized the fifth annual Women's Engineering Conference to be held this weekend beginning with a dinner tomorrow at 6 p.m.

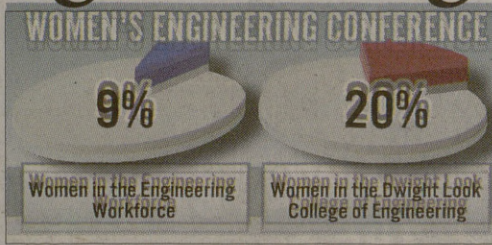
Tricia Draughn, program coordinator for Women in Engineering, Science and Technology, said the conference was designed primarily to attract women engineers, but anyone is invited to attend.

"[The conference] is geared toward the engineering community, specifically women, and some of the issues [women engineers] deal with in the engineering field," Draughn said.

Antoinette Cleveland, an electrical engineering graduate student, said the conference will offer engineers the opportunity to talk to professionals about engineering.

"The goals of the conference are to provide students a chance to explore different field specialties, to encourage and support future engineers, to allow students to feel more comfortable with engineering and to provide an opportunity for former students to return and give back to the University," Cleveland said.

Draughn said there will be a variety of activities, such as workshops, to keep visitors busy throughout the conference.



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

On Friday, there will be a dinner for industry representatives and students followed by a "teaming workshop." Saturday will offer workshops in addition to departmental panels. Attendees will be given agendas and the opportunity to choose which workshops they are interested in attending.

Draughn said a mentoring program will be available at the conference offering students the chance to meet with professionals in the field.

"We have a workshop for them during the conference and also an opportunity at breakfast for them to meet their mentor and start that mentoring relationship," she said.

Cleveland said the conference will address many issues that face women in engineering including "dealing with the glass ceiling, dealing with sexual harassment in the engineering workforce and business etiquette."

SEE ENGINEERING ON PAGE 2.

Students for Peace lecture to focus on crisis in Sudan

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

Students for Peace, a social-justice issue group at A&M, will host a lecture discussing the war that divided the African country of Sudan and the genocide in progress that has killed millions at 7 tonight in Rudder 502.

Jason Sanders, assistant adviser for Students for Peace, said the group's focus has moved toward African issues, such as the 16 year long war in Sudan.

Cesar Ricci, a member of Students for Peace and a junior plant and soil science major, will present a lecture on the holocaust in Sudan.

Ricci said the ethnic groups that make up Sudan helped stem the war. He said the north, along with the government, is dominated by Arabic Muslims, while the south consists of Black Africans.

Ricci said the main reason the war is over the oil-rich land the southern group occupies.

Ricci said the war has resulted in two million deaths, mostly civilians. He said the large amount of deaths are because of the war tactics used by the Sudanese government.

"The Sudanese government troops burn down crops and loot cattle," he said. "They

are also capturing women and children and forcing them into slavery."

Ricci said the government is also withholding food from the southern ethnic groups, causing massive starvation. He said the devastation of the war is because of the number of deaths and the fact that the war is resulting in slavery and human-induced starvation.

His presentation is aimed at raising awareness of the problem and presenting students with possible solutions to ending the war.

Ricci said a Canadian oil company, Talisman Energy Inc., is purchasing oil from the Sudan government, and the government is using the money from the purchase to escalate the war effort.

Ricci said the Divestment Campaign has been proposed to stop the purchasing of oil by Talisman Energy. He said many organizations who have stock in the company are unaware of their contribution to the holocaust. He said he hopes people become aware of this and remove their support of the company.

Ricci said he wants people become inspired to actively help in the fight to end the war.

SEE SUDAN ON PAGE 2.