

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Thursday • December 2, 1999

College Station, Texas

Volume 106 • Issue 66 • 14 Pages

## MADD to host vigil

BY STASIA RAINES  
The Battalion

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is hosting its 14th annual candlelight vigil to remember those who have lost their lives or have been injured in alcohol-related accidents during the holidays at 6 p.m. at the Brazos Hall.

**The holidays are hard for those who have lost loved ones in alcohol [related] accidents."**

—Christianne Mendenhall  
MADD victim advocate

Christianne Mendenhall, MADD victim advocate, said the event will help people affected by alcohol-related accidents to heal.

"The holidays are hard for those who have lost loved ones in alcohol-related accidents—there is that empty place at the table," Mendenhall said. "We hope to help everyone heal by bringing them together and remembering the victims in a positive way."

The event will include a reading of names of those who have died or been injured in drunken-driving accidents.

MADD recently modified its mission statement to include prevention of underage drinking. Sgt. Bryan Tuscano of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Committee's (TABC) Bryan office will speak at the vigil to educate the community on the purpose of TABC.

Tuscano said he will introduce a new hotline created by TABC and MADD to help alleviate the problem of underage drinking.

"Most people don't know all the functions of TABC, and I want the community to understand the different jobs we do and roles we play," he said.

Jeff Schiefelbein, founder of Caring Aggie's 'R' Protecting Over Our Lives (CARPOOL) and a senior marketing major, said the free taxi service for students who are too drunk to drive supports MADD and the vigil.

"We are in strong support of MADD in every way possible way," he said. "We all just want to make the roads safe."

Schiefelbein said students have misconceptions about MADD and its function.

"MADD is not against drinking; it's against drinking and driving," he said. "Many people don't understand that."

Mendenhall said the vigil is open to anyone who is interested.

## Preserving the past



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Matt Timmons, a member of the Traditions Council and a senior community health major, volunteers his time cataloging and tagging memorabilia at Bonfire site. The MSC Council, Traditions Council, Department of Anthropology, Physical Plant and office of the Vice President for Student Affairs have joined to create a program to preserve items placed at the site.

## 'One campus, one vision'

### Student Body President Will Hurd works towards completing goals

BY ERIKA DOERR  
The Battalion

Texas A&M Student Body President Will Hurd has a motto, "One campus, one vision," which has stood true recently. He said the unexpected occurrences this semester have required effective decisions.

Hurd, a senior computer science major, said he formulates decisions based on how they will affect academics, campus services, student services and the community.

"I have found the strongest aspect of my position this semester is in professor accountability, transportation and fees," he said. "My weakest is in offering academic resources to students, the atmosphere of campus and campus lifestyle."

Hurd said this semester has provided a firm foundation for his visions and expects details will be summed up and tied together in the upcoming semester.

Hurd said his committees have produced a Website offering comparative prices of per-

sonal and household items in surrounding communities, as well as information on A&M professors and their courses, grade distributions and course syllabi.

"Professors need to effectively communicate their course material and expectations to the students, and I know the Faculty Senate and members of the Student Government [Association] have been discussing the operating philosophy on what is the proper teaching and academic environment for students," he said.

## Star trek

### A&M professor says he has found Bible's Star of Bethlehem

BY ANN LOISEL  
Special to The Battalion

The "star of wonder, star of light" mentioned in Christmas carols is more than a lyric, one Texas A&M management professor says.

Frederick A. Larson says he believes he has identified the Star of Bethlehem described in the Gospel of St. Matthew as a conjunction of Jupiter and Venus. "[The star is] an age-old mystery, and I think we've solved it," Larson said.

Larson made his find using basic astronomy software to calculate and display what the sky over Jerusalem looked like 2,000 years ago.

Larson said he used the software and first-century history to define the time frame. "The Bible recounts unusual, or even impossible, astronomical events at Christ's birth," he said.

He said finding a star matching biblical accounts "challenges our beliefs about Christ and the Bible."

Larson will offer a free one-hour multimedia demonstration of his findings at 7 p.m. in the Wehner College of Busi-

## STAR OF BETHLEHEM?

A&M Professor believes he has identified the Star of Bethlehem using software to:

- calculate and display what it looked like in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago
- establish a time frame

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

ness Building tomorrow and Wednesday and community presentations at the Brazos Center, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. and Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.

"Those who attend will see what the Magi saw," Larson said. "This presentation should be interesting to anyone who enjoys a genuine mystery and its solution."

Dr. Ronald A. Schorn, an observational astronomer, has reviewed Larson's conclusions and said his research is logical.

"He really did his homework," Schorn, a retired acting program chief for planetary astronomy at NASA, said. "About 99.9 percent of the Star of Bethlehem stuff is nutty, but this isn't that. It's well-researched and reasonable."

## Student Senate OKs legislation on garage issue

BY ERIKA DOERR  
The Battalion

The Student Senate approved several bills last night relating to Southside Parking Garage issues.

They discussed student and health-center fees for the 2001 fiscal year and honored Jeff Schiefelbein, founder of CARPOOL (Caring Aggie R Protecting Over Our Lives) and a senior marketing major.

Mamta Patel, a student senator and a sophomore aerospace engineering major, said the bills dealing with the Southside Parking Garage — including the assignment bill, the fall move-in bill and parking-identification bill, — were passed.

Patel said the approval of the Parking Garage Bill will allow Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) to cross-reference the Southside Parking Garage resident-user database with the Department of Residence Life's on-campus database to weed out nonresident garage users.

Patel said the Southside Parking Garage Assignment Bill also calls for PTTS to develop a timeline for students issued new permits.

Lorenzo Gonzales, a Student Senator and a sophomore environmental design major, said the bills are concurrent with PTTS actions.

"We are pleased with the professional and mutually respectable relationship Student Senate is engaged in with PTTS," he said.

Gonzales said PTTS will coordinate temporary public use of the Southside Garage during move-in week.

### The Southside Parking Garage Bill will:

- allow the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation (PTTS) to coordinate the use of the garage during move-in week.
- allow PTTS to cross-reference users of the garage in a database with the Department of Residence Life.
- call for PTTS to create a timeline for students issued new permits.

Patel said the bill concerning the garage's parking-space identification system states the color-coding of levels in the garage is ineffective.

Old business discussed at the Student Senate meeting included student-service and health-center fees for fiscal year 2001.

Chad Wagner, external affairs chair and a sophomore political science major, said the Student Service Fee Advisory Board recommends raising in the Student Service Fee from \$10.92 per semester credit hour to \$11.62 per semester credit hour.

He said A.P. Beutel Health Center has requested an increase in the Health Center Fee, from \$48 per semester to \$50 per semester.

In other business Schiefelbein accepted a resolution on behalf of CARPOOL commending the group for establishing a safer commuting environment in the Bryan-College Station area.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

## INSIDE AggieLife

• Stressed Out  
Students discuss pros, cons of stress.  
Page 3

• Aggies beat SFA Lumberjacks, 70-65 for first win of season  
Page 9

## Opinion

• Not playing with a full deck of cards  
Donald Trump's bid at presidency is not a good idea.  
Page 11

## Batt Radio

Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on Judge Davis' run for state district court judge.

## BAC prepares for Kwanzaa holiday

BY KENNETH MACDONALD  
The Battalion

The MSC Black Awareness Committee (BAC) is closing out its 30th-anniversary year with its annual Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration at 7 p.m. in MSC 201.

Tammy Henry, BAC chair and a junior political science major, said Kwanzaa started in 1969 by college professor Muihla Karenga because he felt there was a need for African-American cultural reaffirmation.

"During the Pre-Kwanzaa celebration, the organization will present the seven princi-

ples of Kwanzaa through entertaining ways, such as dance and spoken word," Henry said.

She said there are seven principles celebrated during the seven-day Kwanzaa celebration: Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), Umoja (unity) and Imani (faith).

The MSC Bookstore will sell Kwanzaa books and traditional kente cloth at the celebration. There also will be African jewelry, clothes and other Afrocentric novelties for sale at the function, Henry said.

"Kwanzaa is a time for fasting, feasting and self-reflection," she said. "It is a time to show pan-African solidarity."

Henry said the Kwanzaa family will gather around a celebration table and meditate on the principle of the day during each of the holiday's seven evenings. The youngest person present will light the candles on the table, which symbolize the principles.

"It is the fastest-growing holiday in the world," she said. "It is a family holiday — family from the nuclear family [to] the

SEE KWANZAA ON PAGE 2.

## MSC Hospitality to hold craft fair

BY JULIE ZUCKER  
The Battalion

Sixty-three vendors will sell crafts ranging from Texas A&M apparel to candles and soaps today and tomorrow at the 16th MSC Hospitality Craft Fair.

Sanaz Khanbolooki, MSC Hospitality executive special-events chair, fair director and a senior biochemistry major, said the event is aimed primarily at students.

"This is a great time for students to get their holiday shopping done," she said. "There are great prices and good stuff for sale."

## 16th Annual MSC HOSPITALITY CRAFTS FAIR

63 Vendors today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

Vendors and Aggie Mom's Clubs have set up tables on the first floor of the MSC to sell a variety of homemade gifts, including vests, wooden

SEE CRAFTS ON PAGE 2.