

## Library official discusses fees with Student Senate

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON  
The Battalion

Dr. Fred Heath, Dean of Sterling C. Evans Library came before the Student Senate Wednesday, January 19 in order to make the Student Government more familiar with the facts behind the proposed fee increase.

Heath came to the Student Senate asking for a one dollar increase making the fee \$6 per credit hour. The library wants

to emphasize making a wealth of information available at the students fingertips, Heath said.

"We are in the process of making additional services available to the students, such as extending the West Campus Library hours to a 20 hour day, extending the Library Annex hours, opening a textbook reserve room, creating a digital library, and adding a new coffee shop to the Evans library," Heath said. "This increase will allow us to continue these services, and also add others."

"When I look at the services we are getting for the increase, and how Dr. Heath works for the students, it is obvious that we should be behind this increase full force," Rob Ferguson, junior political science off-campus senator said.

Will Hurd, student body president and a senior computer science major, acknowledged Dr. Heath for keeping Texas A&M on top of digital technology.

"I applaud Dr. Heath for trying to stay at the forefront of

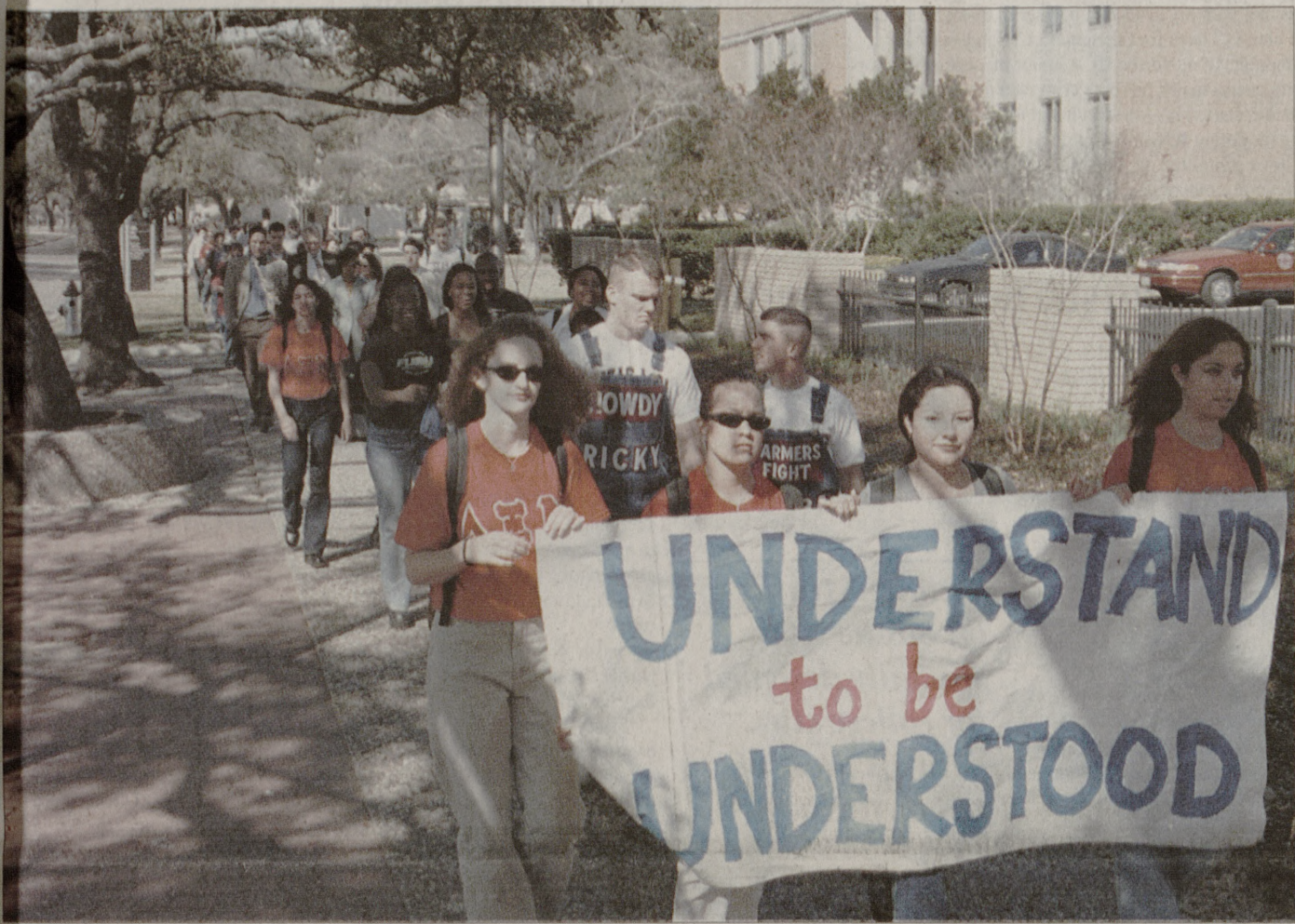
digital technology and I think he and his staff's efforts to continue to stay on top is important to the university," Hurd said.

Legislation for the increase has not yet been put before the Student Senate, but is scheduled to do so in the coming weeks.

Among other business the Student Senate passed a resolution thanking all the colleges and universities for sending their thoughts, sympathies, and prayers to Texas A&M.

The resolution pointed out specifically the University of Texas' extraordinary efforts in their display of empathy.

## UNITY MARCH



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M campus came together yesterday to support unity. A march was held in conjunction with "Campus with a Dream" week.

## Students, faculty gather for University rally

BY BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

The Campus Unity March kicked off "Campus with a Dream" week Wednesday with a call for Aggies to make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of racial harmony a reality for the Texas A&M community.

"Recognize your power to make a change. Recognize your power to realize the dream," Deirdra Crawford, Greek Life adviser for the Department of Student Life, said.

The march was held with two purposes in mind, Nathan Cray, one of the organizers of the event and a senior mechanical engineering major, said.

"The purpose was to kick off events of 'Campus with a Dream,'" Cray said. "But more importantly, it was to begin 'Campus with a Dream' with a sense of unity and promote that image and prepare the campus for a great semester, new year, and new millennium."

"It is no secret that Texas A&M is not the most diverse school in the world, but we are constantly fighting against that," he said.

Crawford and other University leaders, including President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, challenged the students, faculty and staff of A&M to live the dream of King.

"[Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.] dreamed of an America that is free of hate, and that is a lesson we need to think about," Bowen said. "We need to think about it in our own campus, and we need to think about it in our own lives. Texas A&M should be trying to live Dr. Martin Luther King's dream."

Crawford spoke of King and his vision of a nation that lived without regard to skin color.

"Don't let anyone fool you into believing the [Martin Luther King Jr.] holiday is simply for the black community," Crawford said. "Each and every one of our lives are different because of men like Martin Luther King Jr. who would not wait for justice tomorrow — but demanded it today."

In his speech, Bowen reflected on the events of the past two months, and urged Aggies to consider these things as they journey forth in the new semester.

"I think it is appropriate at this time, slightly over

two months after the Bonfire disaster, for all of us to use this as a moment to think about unity on our campus, to think about togetherness, and to think about the significance of that event and how important it is for us to stand together," he said.

Following the speeches, the group, led by junior Yell Leaders Bubba Moser and Ricky Wood, marched around campus to celebrate a renewed commitment to diversity awareness.

"I believe this was a good start, because here at Texas A&M, diversity is something they are trying to concentrate on," Greg Davis, a participant in the march and senior industrial distribution major, said.

The "Campus with a Dream" events continue today with a motivational talk by Bertice Berry in Rudder Auditorium at 7 p.m. MSC LEAP will present "Skin Deep" in the MSC Flag Room at 12 p.m.

A performance of "The Meeting" will be presented by MSC Black Awareness at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

## Leadership conference brings TV host, author

BY APRIL YOUNG  
The Battalion

When eight Texas A&M University students attended what was known as the "Big 8 Conference" on African-American student government 12 years ago, the idea to form the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference (SBSLC) was born.

Tonight, more than 1,000 students and advisers from all over the United States will explore the theme "Ambition is the Path, Success is Your Destiny, Make the Vision a Reality" during the 12th Annual SBSLC.

The weekend-long conference will feature several well-known speakers such as Tavis Smiley, host of "BET Tonight with Tavis Smiley," best-selling author Bertice Berry and financial consultant Hasanni Pettiford.

A number of other speakers are scheduled during a series of workshops.

The conference will also sponsor a free career fair featuring over 30 of America's finest corporations and graduate schools.

Tamika Stigers, conference chair and senior political science major, said all students are encouraged to attend the workshops, regardless of background.

"When students hear that it's a black student leadership conference they think it's

only for black students and they don't want to come, but that's not the case," Stigers said.

As the largest student-run conference of its kind, the conference is intended to inspire and motivate the intellect of young African-Americans collegians to be productive leaders of tomorrow.

"Through SBSLC I have had the opportunity to enhance my leadership skills, network with prospective employers as well as meet students from other universities," Erica Mason, conference hostess and a sophomore marketing major, said.

Felicia Scott, director of Multicultural Services, SBSLC adviser and SBSLC co-founder, said she has watched many aspects of the conference change throughout the years.

"I have been on campus since the beginning [of SBSLC] as a founder, and I have seen it grow in terms of

See SBSLC on Page 2.

SOUTH-WESTERN BLACK STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE		JANUARY 20-23, 2000
EVENTS - OPEN TO PUBLIC		
THURSDAY 20	SPEAKER - Bertice Berry	Rudder Auditorium, 7 p.m.
FRI 21	CAREER FAIR	MSC Flag Room, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
THURSDAY 22	VENDOR FAIR	Rudder Exhibit Hall, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	SPEAKER - Tavis Smiley	College Station Hilton, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY 23	"Millennium Magic Concert"	G. Ruffin White Coliseum, 9:30 p.m.
	Worship Service	All Faiths Chapel, 10 a.m.

JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

## Students prepare for May graduation

BY APRIL YOUNG  
The Battalion

The deadline for May graduates to submit degree applications — a requirement for graduation — is quickly approaching.

Donald Carter, registrar, said this is the most important thing for graduate and undergraduate students to do to prepare for graduation.

The deadline to apply for graduation is Friday, Jan. 28. All graduates must fill out an application for degree card by the January 28th deadline, which consists of two cards requesting students' information.

Undergraduates planning to graduate in May must file applications in room 105 of Heaton Hall 105 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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## New Jersey fire kills 3, injures 58

Deadly dormitory fire at Seton Hall



SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (AP) — Fire broke out at a Seton Hall University dormitory early Wednesday as hundreds slept, killing three people, injuring 58 and sending terrified students crawling in pajamas through choking smoke into the freezing cold outside.

Four students were critically burned. One of them suffered third-degree burns over most of his body.

Many of the 640 residents of Boland Hall rolled over to go back to sleep when they heard the alarm around 4:30 a.m., thinking it was another in a string of 18 false alarms set off in the six-floor building since September.

But many soon heard screams for help, smelled the smoke and saw flames creep under doors.

"I opened the door just to check," Yatin Patel said. "All the ceiling tiles were coming down. I saw a ceiling tile fall on someone."

"It was panic. Everybody was just, 'Go! Go! Go!'" said Nicole McFarlane, 19. She was treated for exposure because she left her room in only a short nightgown, a jacket and hiking boots.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

The tragedy cast a pall of grief over the campus of the Roman Catholic school 15 miles southwest of New York City. Classes for the 10,000 students were canceled for the week. A memorial service was planned for later Wednesday. Sports events also were postponed through Thursday.

"There's not much you can say at this

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## A&M student receives \$50,000 to study abroad in Great Britain

BY ANN LOISEL  
The Battalion

For the first time in Texas A&M history, an A&M student has been named as a Marshall Scholar by the British Embassy, entitling him to a \$50,000 scholarship to study in Great Britain.

Tommy Miller, a senior chemistry and math major, is one of 40 American students to be awarded the annual two-year scholarship.

About 800 to 1,000 applicant competed for it, Helen Mann, the British Embassy's Vice Consul for Press and Public Affairs, said. Winners receive a full-ride to the British school of their choice.

"The Marshall Scholarship is as competitive as the Rhodes Scholarship and almost more academically rigorous," she said. "Tommy competed against many Ivy League students, members of the military service academies — basically the best of both private and public universities." Don Curtis, Honors Program coordinator, said. "It's a very prestigious scholarship."

He will attend the University of London in this fall to study under one of the world's foremost leaders in theoretical chemistry, Dr. David Cleary.

Miller said Cleary's particular field and his approach to research was the reason he applied for the scholarship.

"Cleary has consistently led the field in full quantum mechanics, both in science and in creativity of problems," he said.

Miller will research theoretical chemical dynamics with Cleary in Great Britain.

"Theoretical chemical dynamics is basically small-molecule collisions — performed on a computer," Miller said. "It affects the way we understand collisions and chemical reactions. We use

rigorous quantum mechanics to solve chemical problems... which is then applicable to all chemistry."

He said he wants to be a professor and continue performing research.

"It's very important to me that I do problems-oriented research," he said. "I want my work to have a substantial social impact."

Miller has already been published in three scholarly journals, including "The Journal of the American Chemical Society," "The Journal of Physical Chemistry," and "Organometallics."

He said he has also worked with three different research groups: one at A&M, one at the University of Florida, and one in Minneapolis, Minn.

He is also a Goldwater Scholar and was named "Outstanding Junior of the University" by the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi last year.

The Marshall Scholarships were established in 1953 as a British gesture of thanks to United States citizens for their financial aid in rebuilding post-World War II Europe, Mann said.



TOMMY MILLER

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