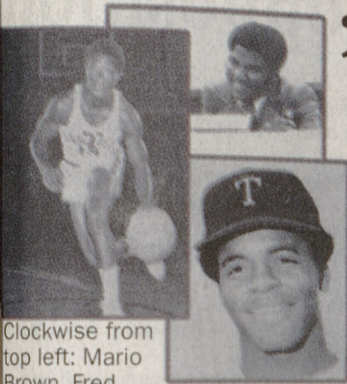


'70s important time in A&M history

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion



Clockwise from top left: Mario Brown, Fred McClure, and Mike Frazier.

By the late '70s, there were 66 African-American students — out of 21,000 — at Texas A&M, but one in particular was making his mark. Fred McClure, Class of 1976, was the first African-American student body president at A&M. After McClure graduated, he interned with President Gerald Ford's administration and later became an assistant to President George Bush. In 1994, McClure was named one of Time magazine's "50 Most Aspiring Leaders Age 40 or Under," along with Bill Gates, John F. Kennedy Jr. and Oprah Winfrey. The '70s opened other doors for African-American groups at A&M. In 1970, the Black Student

Affairs (BSA) committee was formed with only seven African-American students.

The BSA fought for more African-American literature, more African-American athletes, an equal ratio of African-American and international students and more African-American professors for a more "well-rounded University environment."

According to University documents, there were a few racial demonstrations before BSA arrived on campus, and administrators at A&M wanted to work with the students of BSA to avoid further complications and improve student-administration communications.

"As long as A&M tries to solve the black problem, I can foresee no violent action," one BSA member said. "But if [the University] chooses to ignore the problem as other colleges have, I don't know what will happen."

The Black Affairs Committee (BAC) became a University-approved student organization on campus.

In 1971, BAC hosted Sen. Barbara Jordan, and in 1972, Wayne DeVaughn, the BAC chairperson, worked with Sbis Dining Services to create a "Soul Food" day.

BAC hosts a week-long examination of African-American culture

and history in the Memorial Student Center called "Black Experience," which has been a tradition at A&M since 1973.

By the spring of 1974, the MSC Council approved more funding for BAC programming.

However, funding for African-American students became a problem for A&M by the end of the '70s.

In 1978, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) reviewed 18 colleges and universities in Texas for discrimination through distribution of available funds.

A&M and Prairie View-A&M were two of 18 schools under investigation for racism and segregation through funding and, according to University documents, "were in serious jeopardy of losing federal funds."

A&M received more funding than Prairie View — a predominately African-American school. By 1979, HEW increased funding by \$500,000 for the lacking programs.

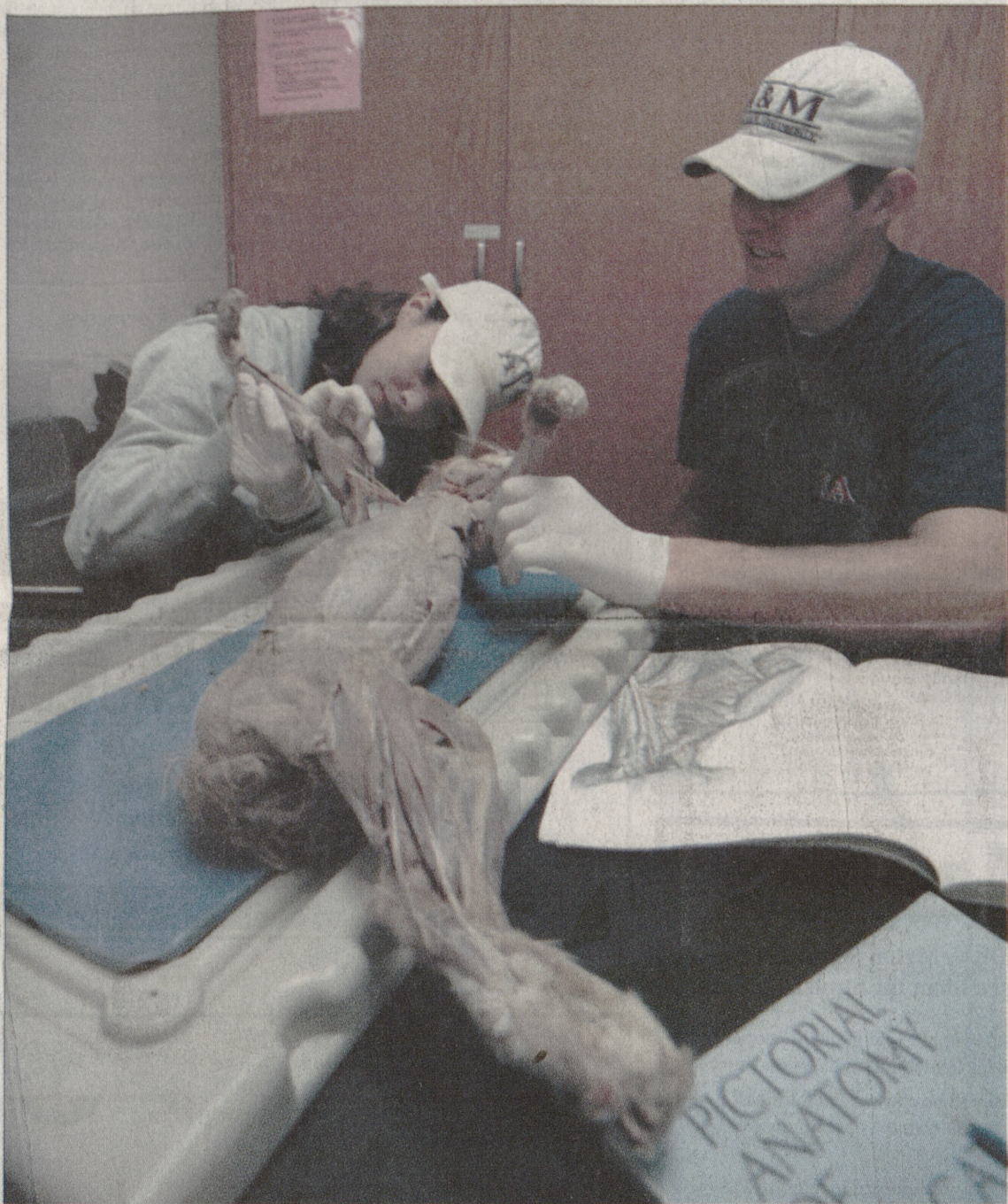
After the HEW investigation, A&M Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert used a formula from North Carolina and Florida to raise minority enrollment and increase recruitment.

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1970 BSC accepted on campus	1975 Eleven black starters on #1 defense football	1978 HEW Investigates A&M for poor distribution of funding
1971 Mario Brown, 1st on basketball team Mike Frazier, 1st on baseball team	1976 McClure 1st black SBP	1979 Curtis Mills inducted into A&M Athletic Hall of Fame

GABRIEL RUENES/THE BATTALION

Gross anatomy



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Junior health major Katie Graves and junior sports management major Jason Adam explore a cat's anatomy in their zoology lab on Monday.

Group to address issues

BY DANA JAMUS
The Battalion

A new activist group, Queer Aggies, wants to fight alleged discrimination against the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) population at Texas A&M.

"The need for an organization like the Queer Aggies has existed for a long time," said Jason Patton, president of Queer Aggies and a sophomore biomedical science major. Queer Aggies was formed to protect and promote the visibility and rights of GLBTs at A&M through educational and political means, Patton said.

Queer Aggies, which currently has 20 members, began when a group of students met at the Memorial Student Center to watch "The Times of Harvey Milk," a documentary of the nation's first gay elected official.

"We decided then and there that nothing would change for us here [at A&M] unless we did something about it," Patton said.

"Currently GLBTs are discriminated against, in that they could be fired from their jobs, not hired at other jobs, evicted from their apartments or expelled from A&M due to their sexual orientation," said Amy Hinze, vice president of publicity for Queer Aggies and a junior political science major.

"There is a hostile environment at A&M for people who aren't straight," Hinze said. "We can't go to a bar on Northgate without the fear of being beaten up."

"When two men or two women are seen together on

campus it is very usual for them to receive nasty looks and remarks."

Hinze, a bisexual, realized her sexual orientation at the age of 16 when she fell in love with a woman. She accompanied her girlfriend to her high school's prom, and said "all hell broke loose."

She said many gay people are harassed and forced to leave homes, and there is a very high suicidal rate among gays.

"That's why all this [Queer Aggies] means so much to me."

The group expects to gain recognition as a University-approved student organization by Wednesday or Thursday.

"Even if the University denies the group recognition, they will still exist as an unrecognized organization," said Megan Wright, a member of Queer Aggies and vice president of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Aggies (GLBTA).

Because GLBTA gained its recognition in 1985 after a court decision that refused to hear the University's appeal to keep GLBTA off-campus, Queer Aggies are not anticipating any resistance from the University.

A&M president Dr. Ray M. Bowen denied the inclusion of sexual orientation as a basis for discrimination, citing a Texas state law that also does not allow for the inclusion of sexual orientation as a basis for discrimination.

Bowen said A&M is an "all-inclusive institution," and that it welcomes and provides support for all its students.

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Retreat center considered

BY KENNETH MACDONALD
The Battalion

Next week, Texas A&M officials will meet with architects to design a student leadership retreat center to be built just west of Easterwood Field.

A memorandum circulated in 1998 outlining the intention for the retreat center, but the idea has only recently been re-generated, said Kevin Jackson, director of Student Activities.

"It has been my experience that it is difficult for students to find retreat sites that are affordable. MSC Hospitality and [the Residence Hall Association] must plan months in advance," Jackson said. "Larger student groups are finding it more and more difficult to utilize retreat sites."

The retreat center should hold about 500 retreaters. The price for groups to go on retreats at other locations depends on many factors, such as the quality and quantity of the food provided and the number of rooms needed.

The new A&M facility will "provide [an] efficient alternative to the costly and distant travel that now exists," Jackson said.

The administration will eventually be seeking student input on the retreat center through focus groups.

Every April, the RHA takes the new hall leadership on a retreat to help them get acquainted and prepare them for the new year.

Julie Cast, president of RHA and a junior marketing major, said a retreat center closer to campus would have financial benefits.

"If a new retreat center was built, it would definitely help with the housing and transportation costs," she said. It costs about \$50 per person to go on RHA's annual retreat. Most of that cost is covered by the hall councils.

But, Cast said, if costs were cut, the hall councils will have more money to spend on other programs.

"However, with the center being so close to campus, members of groups may be tempted to arrive late and leave early from retreats," Cast said.

"Organizations can definitely benefit from the new center; groups can use it for just individual programs and day retreats. Even trying to reserve a room in the Memorial Student Center can be difficult if you don't plan in advance," said Collin Poage, MSC Hospitality executive and junior business administration major.

A&M finally under compliance

BY BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

After three years of scrutiny and examination, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program (OFCCP) has declared Texas A&M University to be pursuing affirmative action "in compliance with their obligations under Executive Order 11246."

The order took effect in 1965, stating that federal contractors "will not discriminate against any employee because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin."

It also ordered contractors to take "affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin."

Larry Garza, district director of the OFCCP's San Antonio office, said the audit determined whether A&M was operating in accordance with affirmative action laws by examining University documents such as the University's affirmative action plan and records, sorted by race and gender, of terminations, promotions, hirings and transfers. Garza's office then conducted on-site interviews with faculty and staff at A&M.

"At the on-site reviews, we reviewed personnel files [and] interviewed administrative staff as well as faculty members," Garza said.

"We tried to approach this as a learning exercise," said Larry Potts, A&M's Affirmative Action Officer and associate director of

Human Resources. "We wanted them to support us in a consulting role to make our affirmative action program stronger."

A&M's Affirmative Action Plan states that "the compliance posture of Texas A&M is not measured by whether all goals are met, but rather to what degree a good faith effort is made to do so."

"We continue to work on those goals, but we are not going to reach them in one year," Potts said. "It is a long term proposition to reach those goals."

Dr. Mitchell Rice, president of the African-American Professional Organization and director of the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute, said the University needs to continue seeking out qualified minority faculty and professionals to make the University a better learning environment for both faculty and students.

"I am pleased to hear that the University was within compliance," Mitchell said. "But at the same time, the University does realize that it does need to take additional steps and initiatives to improve the number of minority faculty and professionals on campus."

Mitchell said members of the University's faculty should not be satisfied by only meeting compliance.

"The University should not be satisfied with strictly meeting compliance," Mitchell said. "The University must use this compliance as a means for improving faculty diversity at the University. If the University is satisfied with compliance, then where do we go from here?"

"The University should not be satisfied with strictly meeting compliance. The University must use this compliance as a means for improving faculty diversity at the University."

— Dr. Mitchell Rice
President of the African-American Professional Organization

Girl found slain; two teens arrested

MAGNOLIA, Ark. (AP) — A 15-year-old girl was found beaten to death near a freshly dug grave, and two of her high school classmates were arrested and charged with murder.

Sheriff Wayne Tompkins said the boys had planned the slaying for days or even weeks and had dug the 3-foot-deep grave hours beforehand.

The sheriff gave no motive. The body of Brittini Jone Pater was found early Saturday near a logging road. Prosecutor Jamie Pratt said an autopsy showed that the girl was pregnant.

Matthew Ryan Elliott, 16, and William E. Davis, 17, were charged Monday as adults with capital murder.

Columbia County Circuit Judge Larry Chandler denied bond and entered innocent pleas on their behalf.

Robert Depper, Davis' attorney, said he would file a motion to have his client's case moved to juvenile court and said Elliott's lawyer would file a similar motion.

Depper would not discuss details of the case. "We don't know what all the evidence is," he said. "It's really too soon to be having any comments."

The sheriff said authorities believe Elliott picked up the girl outside her home Friday night. When her body was found, a shovel was stuck upright in the dirt, he said.

Both boys are juniors at Magnolia High School and Pater was a sophomore.

The victim and Elliott were members of the band.

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Batt Radio

•Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details about the Kaplan group settlement

Batt Online

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