

Replant honors 12 Aggies

BY ANNA BISHOP
The Battalion

The sun shone brightly on Polo Street Saturday morning as Texas A&M University students gathered for the ninth annual Replant.

This year, in addition to trees, the Replant Committee sowed memories deeply rooted in tradition.

Prior to meeting at their designated planting spots, students gathered on Polo Street, behind the bonfire site, to pay tribute to the 12 students lost in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse.

Three separate services were held to plant twelve live oak trees, which will serve as living, growing memorials to these fallen Aggies.

The 12 Aggies honored were Chad Powell, Jamie Hand, Michael Ebanks, Tim Kerlee, Christopher Breen, Jerry Don Self, Jeremy Frampton, Lucas Kimmell, Miranda Adams, Bryan McClain, Nathan West and Christopher Heard.

Family and friends of these students were present for the tree-planting memorials.

Speakers for Saturday's memorials included A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, Student Body President Will Hurd, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland, Director of Student Activities Kevin Jackson and Pete Smith of the National Tree Trust.

Bowen said Saturday morning's memorial services provided a time and opportunity to honor the lost Aggies and a legacy to pass on to generations to follow.

First time Replant participant and senior sociology major Jacki Franzen said she thought it was very important to plant the oaks.

"I find it a blessing that people have donated these trees to contribute to the beauty of the University," said Franzen. "Today's ceremonies and tree plantings are the least we can do to honor our fellow classmates lost in the collapse."

Following each memorial, Replant participants left to go to either the Bryan



Twelve trees were planted Saturday in memory of the twelve Aggies killed in the collapse of the Bonfire stack last fall. (From left clockwise) **Janice West** places a sign in front of the tree she planted in memory of her son **Nathan Scott West**. Corps members from Company D2, (left to right) **Jacob Shelton**, a freshmen business administration major, **Nathan New**, a freshmen civil engineering major and **Robby Acosta**, a freshmen biomedical science major, plant a tree in memory of **Lucas Kimmel** who was a member of Company D2.

Melissa Hand, an junior agricultural business major (third from left) stands with friends (from left) **Jennifer Johnson**, a sophomore business major, **Lori Makarski** a junior animal science major and **Sara Gasaway**, a sophomore Health Education major, in front of the tree planted in memory of her sister, **Jaime Hand**.

Regional Athletic Complex (BRAC), Lake Bryan or Lake Somerville. There they planted large trees and replanted one- and two-year-old trees to be used in next year's Replant.

Replant organizers said more than 200 trees were planted in Bryan alone, and



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

over 2,000 students volunteered in this year's Replant.

"This is my second year to participate [in Replant]. I always have so much fun out here replanting trees. I feel this is a small way for me to help give back to the environment and community," said Deserea

Wirtz, a sophomore mechanical engineering major.

"Replant has proven itself to unify students in one common goal," senior biomedical science major Leroy Cortinas said. "To sustain tradition — to let the memory live on and never die."

Student dies in car wreck

BY MEREDITH HIGHT
The Battalion

Texas A&M student Charles Williams II was involved in a fatal car wreck Friday.

Witnesses said Williams' Ford Explorer was southbound on Highway 6 when the back right tire blew out, causing him to lose control of the vehicle.

The Explorer then went onto the shoulder of the highway and rolled several times. Williams was then transported to the College Station Medical Center by ambulance.

Williams, a junior political science major, returned to A&M this semester after a year at the University of Houston. Williams, originally from Galveston, was diagnosed with leukemia his sophomore year and transferred to the University of Houston so he could be treated for leukemia in Houston.

At the time of the accident, Williams' leukemia was in remission. Williams' mother died of cancer during his freshman year at A&M.

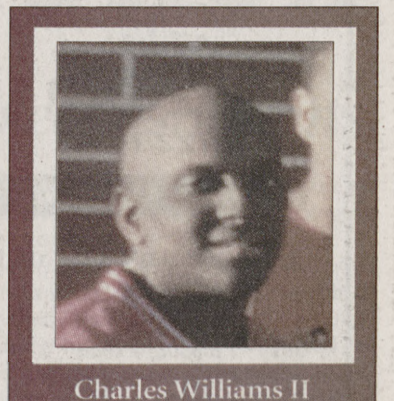
Williams was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity at A&M. "He was a very determined and strong individual. He had a lot of goals," said Curtis Pete, president of Kappa Alpha Psi and a senior civil engineering major. "He had been through a lot, and he didn't let that stop him."

"[His death] was a shock to us. It came so sudden," he said. Metric Manning, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, said Williams worked for cancer awareness.

"He was a very strong-willed individual. He was a hard worker, especially on the cancer issue. He pushed for public awareness," Manning said.

Part of the proceeds from the recent Greek Olympiad show are going to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

His father could not be reached for comment. Williams will be honored at Silver Taps on Tuesday, March 7.



Charles Williams II

Candidates file for 2000 election

BY KENNY MACDONALD
The Battalion

Four student body president and 11 yell leader candidates have officially filed for the spring elections.

Ashlea Jenkins, election commissioner and a political science major, said Brandon Garrett, a senior international studies major; Forrest Lane, a senior political science major; Corey Rosenbusch, a junior agricultural development major; and Jeff Schiefelbein, a senior marketing major, will be running for student body president, pending confirmation of their eligibility.

"On Monday, I will go and check their grades and make sure they are high enough to qualify. Until then, it is not official yet," she said.

Candidates were required to file by Friday, March 3. Candidates need an overall grade point ratio of 2.5 to run and must post a 2.0 GPR while they are in office. Candidates must also be in good standing with the University and be here for three full semesters.

While the eligibility check is required, Jenkins said she doubted that anyone would take the trouble of applying if they knew that they did not meet the requirements.

Campaigning for spring elections will begin March 19, the Monday after spring break.

Voting will take place on March 29 and 30. Jenkins will determine Monday if online voting will be allowed in the

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STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT CANDIDATES

- Brandon Garrett**
- SENIOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MAJOR
- Forrest Lane**
- SENIOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR
- Jeff Schiefelbein**
- SENIOR MARKETING MAJOR
- Cory Rosenbusch**
- JUNIOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MAJOR

REUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Men's tennis team upsets Gators

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

The University of Florida men's tennis team boasts the nation's fourth-best ranking and a defending NCAA singles champion in junior Jeff Morrison.

High rankings and national titles would not be enough to spoil the Aggies' home opener.

The 18th-ranked Texas A&M men's tennis team — fresh off a three-week, five-match road trip — opened its home schedule with a vengeance Sunday afternoon, trouncing the Gators, 5-2, in front of a rowdy Varsity Tennis Center crowd of 502.

"Our team's effort was just unbelievable today," A&M junior Shuon Madden said. "We played our hearts out for the whole match, and it paid off for us."

The Aggies evened their record at 3-3 with the win, with all three of their losses coming on the road against top-15 teams.

"We've been playing on the road a lot, and this first home match was just unbelievable," said A&M freshman Ryan Newport, who joined the Aggies in January after graduating from Houston's Cy-Fair High School in December. "All the fans made it so exciting to be here at home."

Madden, ranked No. 8 in singles play, helped key the victory by dominating Morrison, who entered the

match with a No. 7 ranking. Madden broke serve in the first game and rarely looked back, cruising to a 6-2, 7-5 victory over the defending NCAA champ.

Junior Cody Hubbell and Newport also grabbed quick leads in their singles matches. Hubbell coasted to a 6-0, 6-2, victory at No. 4 singles over Florida's Oliver Levant, while Newport — whose victory clinched the match for A&M — knocked off UF's Dylan Mann at No. 5, 6-2, 6-3. Sophomore Jarin Skube added a fifth point for the Aggies at the No. 6 spot, defeating Florida's Troy Hahn, 7-5, 6-4.

The Aggies took control early, winning two of three doubles matches to clinch the doubles point. The 12th-ranked duo of Madden and junior Dumitru Caradima was victorious in the No. 1 spot, 8-6 over Mann and Morrison.

Playing in the third doubles spot, Hubbell and Skube secured the doubles point with an 8-5 victory over UF's Justin O'Neal and Marcos Asse.

"We did a great job of getting the momentum early in the match and keeping it," said A&M coach Tim Cass, who now has three victories over top-10 teams since arriving at A&M in 1996. "I was really pleased with our composure when we got into pressure situations."

The Aggies return to action Wednesday at 6 p.m. against No. 51 South Alabama at the Varsity Tennis Center.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Eighth-ranked Texas A&M junior **Shuon Madden** returns a serve from seventh-ranked University of Florida junior and defending NCAA singles champion **Jeff Morrison** Sunday afternoon at the Varsity Tennis Center. **Madden** defeated **Morrison**, 6-2, 7-5, in the 18th-ranked Aggies' 5-2 victory over the fourth-ranked Gators.

International Week ends with talent show, parade

BY DANA JAMUS
The Battalion

In celebration of the unity of their diversity, students from around the globe filled the seats of Rudder Auditorium to watch fellow international students bring alive a host of cultures last Friday.

Winners for the talent show performances included the African Student Association, China Club, Philippine Student Association, Indonesian Student Association and the Venezuelan Student Association, according to talent show director Maria Morgun.

The judges were nominated officials from the University, including professors and officials with University-related organizations.

The judges chose the best five performing associations with no ranking order. International Student Association (ISA) President Gustavo De Sousa said this is to ensure that no chosen cultural performance is referred to as the "best," and [it] is a method voted on by all the association presidents.

Fidel Moreno, Venezuelan Student Association coordinator and a graduate student, said winning one of the talent show awards "was great."

"We've been celebrating all weekend," he said, explaining that the group of 25 performers had been practicing two or three times a week, and on weekends, since the beginning of January.

In the dress parade, the top five winners were the Indonesian Student Association, the China Club, the Chinese Student Association, the India Association and the Indian Student Association, according to Reny Vargas, director of the dress parade.

Although 13 clubs or associations participated in the dress parade,



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

The India Association present "Scenes from an Indian Wedding" at the International Talent Show Friday night in Rudder Auditorium.

not all the clubs or associations in the talent show participated in the dress parade.

Mohamed El-Ahmady, an Egyptian graduate student, felt that the belly dancing by the Arab Association "does not represent the Arab culture."

attend A&M, she said.

However, she feels that A&M has "greatly improved its accommodations and friendliness for international students," than in the past.

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