

Rudder remembered



Photos L to R: Matt Knoll, a senior management major, and Dave Humphreys, a senior agriculture business major, carry a wreath to the J. Earl Rudder's headstone. (Top right) Patrick Soule, a senior civil engineering major, leads the Rudder's Rangers in a 21 gun salute. (Bottom right) Mrs. Rudder visits Rudder statue as Josh Drinkard, a freshman political science, stands guard.

Lighting poses hazard on campus

BY ANNA BISHOP
The Battalion

Each Monday night, while Texas A&M University students are fast asleep — or downing cups of coffee to pull an all-nighter — a utilities crew drives through campus meticulously checking each lamp and fixture for repair. With over 2,500 free-standing lights on campus, this makes for a busy night. According to Ronnie Arnold, A&M's master electrician, unless a circuit is out, which rarely happens, there are typically never more than a dozen lights needing to be mended each week. "Our crew begins working on the list of broken lamps early Tuesday morning. Promptly fixing the lamps is our top priority," Arnold said. Despite the efficiency of the utilities department, there is an ongoing debate over the "dark spots" on campus. These certain unit areas pose a safety concern for students such as Joanna DeHoyos, a sophomore psychology major. "There are certain places, as in front of the Meteorology Building, where I

would never walk alone at night ... proper lighting is critical for a student's sense of safety and protection," DeHoyos said. Kenieca Koehn, a sophomore political science major, said she agrees. "I remember last semester having to walk from Fish Lot to the Southside dorms after late night study sessions. The darkness always made me a little frightened. Calling Corps escorts was an option, but searching for a phone and then waiting for 15 minutes late at night in Fish Lot proved to be just as scary," Koehn said. Superintendent of utilities Charles Kruder said he is aware of the concern. "If students will voice their concerns of where they feel these dark spots are, we will fix those areas," Kruder said. "We had some complaints over the lighting situation near the machinery building ... fixtures were ordered and temporary lights were set up until the new lights came in. We have also taken action, as far as the lighting on West Campus, by recently installing several new 'pot' lamps."



Lights illuminate the sidewalk outside the Richardson Building.

The new lamps are not the typical "lollipop" lamps common throughout campus, according to Kruder. The current mercury vapor light bulbs will be replaced with high pressure-sodium bulbs, making them more environmentally friendly. With each lollipop costing nearly \$1,000, replacement comes at a high price. Eventually, pot lamps will be seen throughout campus. "I feel Texas A&M's utility department is doing a job well done in keeping the campus lit. Compared to other universities, I believe we're pretty high up on the scale," Kruder said. "We hope that students will let us know what concerns they have regarding the dark spots." Students wishing to take action regarding "dark spots" on campus should contact Charles Kruder in room S109 of the Physical Plant. Students may also contact the campus police department.

Court rules activity fee mandatory

WASHINGTON (AP) — State-run schools can subsidize campus groups with money collected from mandatory student activities fees without violating the rights of students who find some of those groups objectionable, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday. The justices unanimously upheld the University of Wisconsin's student-fee system after finding the school does not pick and choose which student groups to fund based on the views they espouse. "The First Amendment permits a public university to charge its students an activity fee used to fund a program to facilitate extracurricular student speech if the program is viewpoint neutral," Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote for the court. The amendment protects free-speech rights, and the mandatory fees had been challenged by students who said their rights were violated by forcing them to contribute to groups they oppose. Had the justices ruled the other way, public colleges and universities across America would have had to stop giving money to controversial student groups or figure out some way to give partial refunds to those students who wanted them. Liberal groups praised the ruling.

"The First Amendment permits a public university to charge its students an activity fee used to fund a program to facilitate extracurricular student speech if the program is viewpoint neutral."

— Anthony M. Kennedy
Supreme Court justice

"College and university campuses have a long tradition of providing a forum where many voices can be heard," said Ralph Neas of People for the American Way.

But conservative groups said the decision short-changed some students. The court had split 5-4 when ruling five years ago that public universities and colleges cannot create a "public forum" for students by supplying subsidies and then refuse to fund some groups because of their viewpoints.

The 1995 decision, involving a campus religious group at the University of Virginia, divided the court along its ideological fault line. That gap was not in evidence Wednesday, surprising liberal and conservative advocates alike.

When Wisconsin's student-fees system was challenged in 1996, about \$15 of the \$166.75 that students paid in fees each semester was earmarked for distribution to campus groups by the student government. For a school with some 38,000 students, that created a total fund each semester of about \$570,000.

Campus party policy affects desired profit

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

An open party policy created by the Office of Student Activities has raised concerns for the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and has its members questioning the fate of their programs. The open party policy is a set of rules governing recognized student organizations and their ability to have parties that are open to the public. Specifically included in the open party policy are security rules that Van Johnson, president of NPHC and a senior chemistry major, said are extreme. According to the open party policy, all open parties held on campus must have crowd control which consists of faculty and staff members from A&M trained to handle large crowds. The open party policy also states that if the open party has more than 200 people, the University Police Department (UPD) must be present and UPD will be used in conjunction with College Station Police and the sheriff's department as deemed necessary by the Director of Special Events Facilities. But Johnson said these safety measures are costly.

"Our major problem with the whole thing is that we have to hire all these people that drives the cost of having a party up," Johnson said. "It's eating-up our profit and making it more of a loss than a benefit to have a party." Steve Hodge, director of special event facilities, admits that the organizations do not make as much money as they would without the policy's requirements, but said he the organizations do receive a substantial profit. "There are two or three events that I know were profitable," Hodge said. "The SBSLC dance in January made money and Greek Olympiad made money." "Greek Olympiad, in point of fact grossed almost \$40,000 and our expenses were way under that," Hodge said. "We had 30 crowd control staff members present total, and remember our goal is 1 per 100." Curtis Pete, president of Kappa Alpha Psi and a senior computer engineering major, said Kappa Alpha Psi's Greek Olympiad and the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference (SBSLC) are not valid representations. "We are only two of many organizations and we are

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Student Senate's campus influence

SBP candidates emphasize the impact of student government

This is the fifth in a five-part series. The four candidates for student body president were each asked five questions in separate interviews.

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

The widespread perception of student government at Texas A&M as a group rich in titles and pretense but lacking in real authority underscores the need to be more effective in representing students' concerns, the four candidates for student body president said.

Although recent events, such as the closing of Aggie Alley by the Athletic Department without student input and the upcoming fees to be laid on students, demonstrate student government's limitations as an advisory body, each candidate pledged to improve its student advocacy role.

Brandon Garrett, a senior international studies major, said student government must not shy away from confrontation with the University administration if this is the only way for students' voices to be heard on an issue.

"If it's important to us, we can't be afraid to raise a little havoc. You can't be afraid to make the administration a little scared in their boots," Garrett said. "A problem in the past with student government or any group at this University is we haven't been as apt to go to President Bowen's office and say 'hey, we're

marketing major, said while student government can not veto a decision made by University administrators, representatives must be more proactive in communicating to their constituents what issues are on the table, so they can register student input to administrators before a final decision is made. "On constituency days, senators

stage of the process that'll actually make a difference."

Schiefelbein added that he would draw upon the trust and respect he has earned from administrators to overcome student government's limited official powers and advance student concerns. "I've proven over and over again that I have a voice among the administration. These people listen to what I have to say, and usually they'll go to bat for me when I present them with what I've researched as a complete and feasible solution to a problem I see, and I think that gives me an edge in getting things done," Schiefelbein said.

Forrest Lane, a senior political science major, said student leaders play an important role in the decision making process, but that it is also important to get other student involved.

"We all have influence, and we all have influence in different areas. Student government is important because we need to go up there and we need to represent those issues," Lane said. "But we can also reach out to other people and say, you know, this

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2000 STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS

going to stay in here, we're going to be locked in your office until we work this out.' Sometimes, that's exactly what it takes."

Garrett added that initiatives like Caring Aggies Are Protecting Our Lives (CARPOOL) show that student government can still make a difference.

"It was students' drive and determination that got these things done," Garrett said.

Jeff Schiefelbein, a senior mar-

should step up and say, 'this is what's going to happen, this part's speculative, this part's for sure, this is my e-mail address, this is my home phone number, call me, I'm your senator,'" Schiefelbein said. "If we get your voice in there early enough, there's a good possibility of influence. Dr. Southerland does listen to students, he really does have an open door policy. But students have to know that the people they've chosen to represent them really do — and do it in a

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Batt Radio

- Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details about "Common Ground," a new campus radio show. Batt Online
- Check out The Battalion online at battalion.tamu.edu

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Sunday, March 26, 2000 at 10:00

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Neo Swing

Dance Marathon

Saturday, March 25th

3rd Floor Cantina

8:00 pm - 8:00 am

8:00 Performance

8:30 Beg. Swing Lesson

9:15 Hip-Hop Swing Lesson

11:00 Beg. Lindy Hop Lesson

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Neo-Swing is a performance

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