

• Kosse Rodeo begins

Rodeo offers bare-back riding, steer wrestling and barrel racing



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• Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on Major League Baseball draft picks from A&M.

• Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu.



Weather: Sunny with a high of 88 and a low of 68.

THE BATTALION

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

In the bunker



ANDY HANCOCK/The Battalion

Bryan Gatlin, a member of the Tyler Junior College golf team, chips out of the sand Tuesday afternoon at the Texas A&M golf course. This was the first day of the NJCAA golf playoffs at the course.

Schools falsify top 10 percent

KIM TRIFILIO
The Battalion

Several Texas high schools have been accused of exaggerating the top 10 percent of their graduating classes to allow more students an opportunity to attend the public Texas college or university of their choice.

Schools like Westlake High School in Austin, one of the high schools accused of overreporting students in their top 10 percent, have caused problems for universities such as Texas A&M and the University of Texas (UT) by creating an excessive number of admission applications. UT is no longer accepting applications for admission because of the large number of students who have already applied.

Bruce Walker, associate vice president of student affairs and director of admissions at UT, said Texas high schools must follow a specific set of rules that have been listed in House Bill 588 stating the eligibility requirements for automatic admission to public Texas colleges and universities.

The requirements listed in House Bill 588 state that students must graduate in the top 10 percent of their class at a public or private high school in Texas, apply to a public Texas college or university before the application deadline and enroll in a public college or university in Texas no more than two years after graduating from high school to guarantee admission.

Walker said there are several different ranking methods that Texas high schools use to calculate their top 10 percent and some of these methods are flawed.

"There are some rank methods that put more students in the top 10 percent. One way is when schools have tied ranks. They will have two No. 1 students and then a No. 2. The No. 2 should really be counted as No. 3," Walker said.

Walker said another ranking method some schools use to determine the top 10 percent is to calculate a target grade point average (GPA), the method used at Westlake to calculate its top 10 percent.

"In the case of Westlake High they would determine the GPA of the top ten percent for the last three years and then

set a standard. For example, if the average GPA was 3.6, then students would have to have a 3.6 to be in the top ten percent of their class," Walker said. "Westlake High has since changed their policy to follow Bill 588."

Ed Fuller, research and policy specialist for the Charles A. Dana Center, an organized college research unit at the University of Texas, said House Bill 588 is an effective law that has helped keep the process fair.

"This is a great way to reward kids," Fuller said. "However, there is still a small set in some high schools where students in the top 10 percent are not prepared to go to UT or Texas A&M or any other elite school. Schools like UT and Texas A&M need to make sure these students that are in the top 10 percent are prepared to attend their university."

David Gardner, assistant commissioner for planning and information resources for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board said the coordinating board will meet with administrative directors of the board and schools will be reminded of the rules, stated in House Bill 588, that every high school should be following.

"It is very simple, schools just can't have more than 10 percent in their top 10," Gardner said. "I have spoken with some admissions directors and they feel like the top 10 percent rule is a good thing."

Walker said there are several ways to overcome high schools exaggerating their

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— Bruce Walker
director of admissions at UT

See related column on Pg.5

top 10 percent.

"The [Texas Higher Education Board] could write a letter to remind high schools of the policy, or they might write the same kind of letter to the principals to have them certify that their ranking policy follows [House Bill] 588."

Fuller said high schools will follow the policies now that this issue is exposed.

"I think when people are aware universities know what is going on, they will be ready to follow the rules," Fuller said.

Scholarship named for Stepan

ANNA BISHOP
The Battalion

In an effort to preserve the spirit and memory of Diana Stepan, a fallen Aggie and aspiring petroleum engineer, her family and friends have established a scholarship in her name.

The Diana Stepan Memorial Scholarship fund, which was established in 1997 following her March 1995 death, will become a source of financial support for future petroleum engineering undergraduates at Texas A&M.

The endowment will be part of the Nelson

Scholars Program at A&M, intended to aid scholastically gifted students possessing high leadership potential and financial need.

According to Dr. James E. Russell, petroleum engineering department head at the time of Stepan's death, the Stepan memorial, will be available to qualifying undergraduate students in the petroleum engineering department.

The Diana S. Stepan Memorial Scholarship at this time is not active, but it is about half-way to reaching its goal of \$60,000, said Dr. Larry Piper, petroleum engineering senior lecturer.

Piper said the memorial will offer students \$3000 over a period of four years, with a goal of 50 endowed scholarships.

Stepan's fatal car accident occurred two months before she was to receive her bachelor's degree in

petroleum engineering. Sue Stepan, Diana's mother, was later presented with her daughter's degree.

"Diana's heart was in petroleum engineering. I hope the recipients of these scholarships will passionately put their hearts into something they love as much as she did, too," Sue Stepan said.

"Stepan was an overachiever and a very diligent student," Russell said.

Russell also added that she was very active in the petroleum engineering department.

Stepan was an active member in Pi Epsilon Tau, the petroleum engineering honor society.

She also served as treasurer of the Texas A&M Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE).

According to Sue Stepan, Diana actively recruited and organized activities and meetings, which resulted in the A&M SPE chapter being named the 1994-95 Outstanding SPE Student Chapter in the nation.



Diana Stepan

Five bodies found, S&M enthusiast suspected

HARRISONVILLE, Mo. (AP) — The bodies of five women have been found in barrels in a storage locker and a field belonging to a man who met women over the Internet for sadomasochistic sex, authorities said Tuesday.

The first two bodies were found Saturday on his property in La Cygne, Kan. Three more bodies in 55-gallon drums were discovered Monday at a storage locker rented by the man about 30 miles away in Raymore, Mo.

John Edward Robinson, 56 — considered a suspect in all five deaths — appeared in court in Kansas on Monday on charges he sexually assaulted two women at hotels. His \$250,000 bail was raised to \$5 million.

The two women told authorities they objected to him photographing them and said he brutalized them in a way that went beyond what they intended. One of the women had traveled from Texas to have a sexual encounter with Robinson in April.

The five victims are believed related

to Robinson's alleged Internet relationships with women interested in sadomasochism. He was known to use the screen name "slavemaster" in his computer correspondence and sometimes called himself James Turner in person, said Paul Morrison, the district attorney in Johnson County, Kan.

An autopsy on one victim showed blunt trauma to the head, and autopsies on the others are expected to show similar injuries, said Chris Koster, prosecutor for Cass County, Mo.

Saturday's discovery followed a three-month missing persons investigation. Robinson had rented the locker for at least five years, Morrison said.

"I can say one thing: The bodies (in the field) appear to have been in those barrels for some time," Morrison said. "The bodies in Raymore have probably been there longer."

In Kansas, about 20 investigators — including some from the FBI — continued to search Robinson's property. Crews planned to drain a pond on the land.

Two new golf courses compete for patronage, set to open this fall

ANNA BISHOP
The Battalion

Traditions Golf and Country Club and Miramont Development Corporation will be competing with each other for more than 120,000 residents when they debut next fall, according to City of Bryan planner, Joey Dunn.

Dave Elmendorf, managing director for Miramont, said they will begin the first phase of construction after meeting with course designer, Robert Trent Jones, Jr. and taking construction bids next week.

The first phase will consist of a 22-hole golf course, a club house equipped with tennis courts and a swimming pool, in addition to 314 future residential lots.

Don Adams, owner of the Miramont property, said that it will be an exclusive golf course. "Mr. Adams' vision is to create a world-class community," Elmendorf said. "Membership at the upscale private club will be limited to ensure tee time availability and exceptional personal service."

Dunn said Traditions is a city-sponsored project, in a partnership with Texas A&M, and will appeal primarily, but not exclusively, to University former students.

The Traditions Golf and Country Club will feature a 27-hole signature designed course by Jack Nicklaus and his son, Jack Nicklaus II, and, like Miramont, will be a "members-only" community.

Both the Traditions and Miramont golf courses

in the surrounding area to move in and support both projects.

"We have concentrated our efforts on design and construction," Elmendorf said.

"Since the unveiling of Miramont in April, we have had many inquiries about membership and lot pricing. This information will be available very soon and it will be a great value."

Elmendorf said signs are starting to go up on property.

According to Tom Coyle, Communications Officer for the City of Bryan, Traditions is recruiting former University students and golf fans in the Brazos Valley to join as founding members.

"The importance of a city to attract outside tourism money is critical for smaller cities like Bryan and College Station. We hope to see continual growth and development throughout the project's completion," Coyle said.

The two new golf and country clubs will be located in Bryan, but on opposite ends of the city. Traditions will be located in west Bryan, just west of 2818. Miramont will be located in east Bryan, bordered by Briarcrest Drive and Boonville Road.

