

Highlights:

- Krayzelburg fends off Welsh for gold in men's 100-meter back — new Olympic record.
- Megan Quann wins gold in 100-meter breaststroke — new American record.
- Women's softball loses to Japan (2-1), breaking 112-game winning streak.
- Men's gymnastics finishes fifth in team competition.

Tonight's scheduled events:

- Swimming, equestrian, rowing, women's final gymnastics, volleyball, softball, soccer, tennis, archery, boxing, cycling and sailing

Medal count:

The United States and Australia are tied with 13 medals each.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Council against supporting bonfire

Former Bonfire crew chiefs against student involvement with KTFB

By MARIANO CASTILLO & BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Traditions Maintenance Council (TMC), a group of former Bonfire crew chiefs and chairs, denounced student support of Keep The Fire Burning (KTFB) Monday in a statement issued as a letter to the student body.

TMC urged students to "stay home when KTFB has their first cut."
"Spend that time hanging out, getting to know your dorm buddies, and ensuring that our student body stays as close without Bonfire as it was with it," the letter encouraged.

TMC, a group that claims it knows as much about Bonfire as anyone, took an official position concerning the off-campus bonfire Monday. Members of TMC met with KTFB board members informally two weeks ago and have taken time since then to determine their

position, said Aaron Rigamonti, president of TMC and a senior speech communication major.

"We ... cannot support the efforts of Keep The Fire Burning," the letter stated. "We do not feel that KTFB has enough expertise, manpower, or the proper goals to carry on the tradition of Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire."

Joe Dyson, a KTFB board member and a junior, would not offer a comment on behalf of KTFB. In response to the letter written by TMC, Dyson said he would "take it with a grain of salt."

KTFB board members say TMC never met with them.

Rigamonti said the informal meeting took place at a dead pot's — a former Bonfire leader — house on Sept. 6. Will Clark, a board member of KTFB, who Rigamonti said was there, said he does not recall the meeting.

"I guarantee we've never met with TMC," Clark said. "I have never spoken to TMC and never met with them. Any information they have must be second-hand. TMC does not have a lot of credibility with me."

Members of TMC said they realize that Bonfire as they knew it will never exist again.

"There is no amount of debating that will bring back our Bonfire or, more importantly, our friends," the letter stated. "Aggie Bonfire has always been a symbol of bringing all Aggies together to work toward a single unified goal. We do not want to see this tradition become something to tear us apart as a University."

Rigamonti said TMC was told that previous Bonfire leadership was involved in helping KTFB.
"In the meeting that we had with

[KTFB], we didn't get that feeling from them that they had enough of that leadership, and we didn't want to be associated with what they are doing," Rigamonti said. "We are not associated with KTFB; we do not want to be associated with them, and we don't intend to be."

Clark questioned the existence of TMC, saying that such an organization cannot exist because A&M no longer recognizes previous Bonfire leaders.

"[TMC] is not recognized by student affairs as an official group," said Forrest Lane, student body president and a senior political science major.

Melissa Lloyd, public relations officer for TMC and a senior agricultural journalism major, said that, no matter what KTFB builds and calls a bonfire, it will never be Aggie Bonfire.

See TMC on Page 3B.

MPO to hold forums

Invites input on railroad relocation

By CYRA GATLING
The Battalion

The Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is holding three forums for residents and students to provide input and receive information on the progress of relocating the railroad tracks located along the Wellborn Road.

"We want to ask the public to provide input, and we want to offer insight to the alignment of the tracks," said MPO director Michael Parks. "We encourage anyone with input and we desire as many people as possible. We hope to have maps for the public to draw their own lines."

The MPO's goal is to recommend a viable solution that will accommodate projected increases in population, auto and pedestrian traffic, and railroad freight throughout the next 20 years. Additionally, it plans to improve safety within the rail corridor and to reduce conflict and "wait time" that autos and pedestrians experience at the crossings, Parks said.

All of the forums will provide the same information and will be held at different times in the community. Residents and students who go to the forum may sign up to receive a newsletter with updates and future forum times and locations.

Past forums on June 27-29 had nightly attendance ranging from 60 to 120 residents and students. Parks discussed the area under study, project tasks and issues, and a public involvement plan.

"Safety is a concern," Parks said. "We don't like seeing students crossing the tracks for class."

Parks said the MPO is also taking into account cost, economics, and social and environmental effects. The tracks may not move if there will be a great negative impact.

See MPO on Page 3B.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Forums will be held for Bryan-College Station residents and students to provide input and receive information on the progress of the relocation of the railroad tracks.

- There will be three forums:
- Tuesday at the First Church of God Fellowship Hall at 2002 Highway 21 East from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday at the Mary Branch Elementary School Cafeteria at 2040 West Villa Maria from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
 - Thursday at the College Station Conference Center at 1300 George Bush Drive from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information on study reports and meetings and to ask questions, visit www.bcsmo.org

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

7-member panel discusses voting with students

By STEPHEN METCALF
The Battalion

The power of voting and participating in the political process should not be taken lightly, according to a seven-member panel that conversed in an open forum with a modest but animated group of Texas A&M students Monday night.

Alpha Phi Fraternity Incorporated, a service fraternity, sponsored the event in an effort to combat apathy among young voters and to address issues important to African-Americans.

"Voting is an opportunity to communicate, an opportunity to be heard," said city of Bryan Youth Services Coordinator and panelist Ronnie Jackson. "If you don't say anything about how you vote, people don't take you seriously."

Fellow panelist and A&M history professor

Dr. Albert Broussard echoed Jackson's sentiment and said that, in addition to giving persons credibility, voting binds individuals to their community and injects an element of responsibility and accountability into society.

The panelists also included Lincoln Center Supervisor Lance Jackson, Managing Editor of The Bryan-College Station Eagle Joe Michael Feist, Concerned Black Men of Brazos Valley President Michael Cornelius, College Station Councilman Dennis Maloney and Assistant Director of KAMU-TV Dr. Sharon Colson.

Panelists steered clear of partisan arguments but talked candidly about a number of local, national and global issues.

Although the meeting's dialogue was amicable and even produced laughter from the audience at times, students expressed serious

concerns about issues such as racial profiling and the future of affirmative action.

Jackson said that many African-Americans support affirmative action and other government initiatives because the private sector has failed African-Americans in the past. He also said that minorities can hasten the demise of

"Voting is an opportunity to communicate, an opportunity to be heard."

— Ronnie Jackson
Bryan Youth Services Coordinator

racial profiling by cooperating with police.

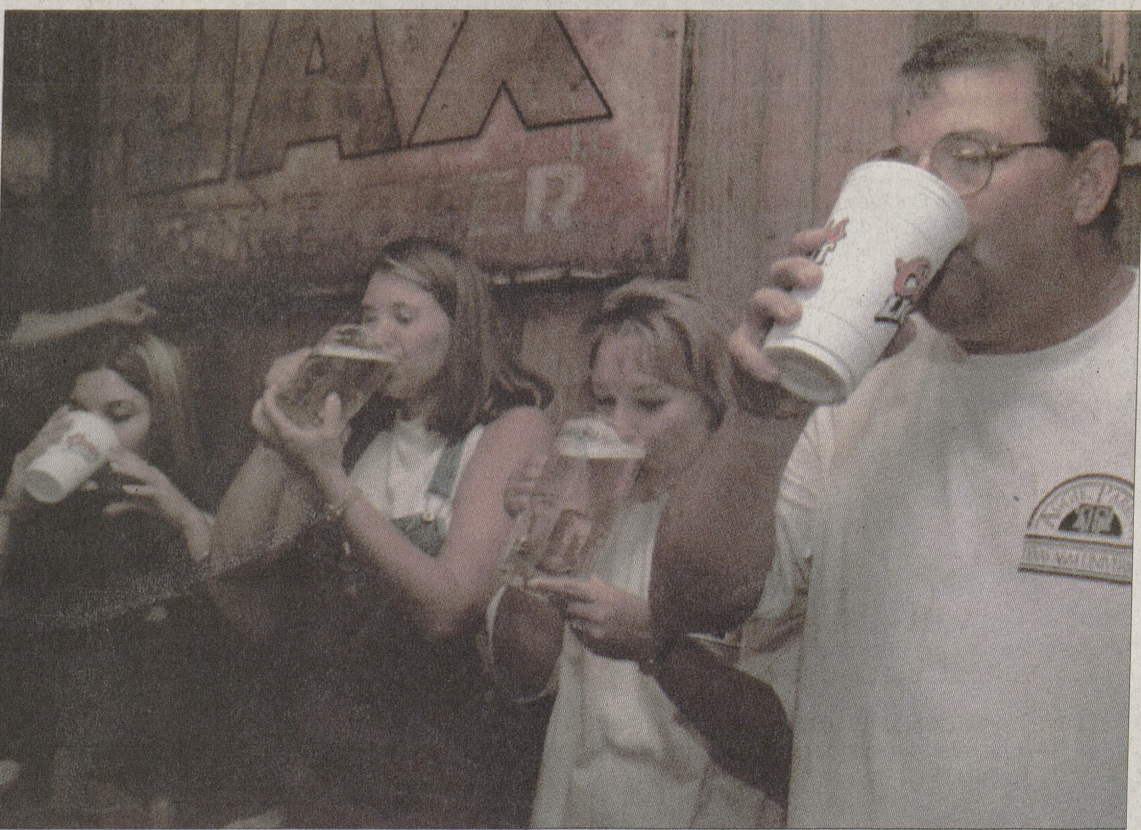
"Minorities have to decriminalize communities and start turning people in," Jackson said. Panelists reminded audience members that many of the true issues are overlooked.

"We have ignored the AIDS epidemic in Africa but give Israel money," Cornelius said. "Illegal drugs have not been discussed by either of the presidential candidates. We need to think about the world as a whole instead of focusing on individual needs."

Steve Yancy, a member of Alpha Phi and a senior manufacturing engineering technology major, said the event was held to benefit all students, not just African-Americans.

"People need to be aware of the election," Yancy said. "We want to get the issues out there and have students voice their opinions."

Ring dunkin'



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Loreie Dornak, a senior accounting major, and Kelly Tays, a senior English major, dunk their Aggie rings with Dornak parents, John and Paula Dornak. There was no ring dunking tradition when Dornak's parents graduated in 1976 and 1977.

Use of biotech corn suspected in tacos

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is investigating whether taco shells sold in stores under the Taco Bell name contain a variety of biotech corn that is not approved for human consumption due to questions about whether it could cause allergic reactions.

The crop, which is genetically engineered to kill an insect, is grown on less than 1 percent of the total U.S. corn acreage and approved for use only in animal feed. But tests commissioned by an anti-biotech environmental group found traces of the corn in taco shells that had been purchased in suburban Washington.

Officials with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said they were looking into the finding and that the FDA may have its own tests done. Kraft Foods Co., which made the taco shells, said it would consider a recall if further testing confirmed the initial results.

"Our concern, of course, is whether or not this product, which is registered for animal feed, is somehow illegally

finding its way into food that people eat," said David Cohen, an EPA spokesman.

If the test results are correct, FDA officials said, they would consider action to get it out of the food supply.

The corn at issue, which is produced by Aventis Corp. and goes under the trade name StarLink, is the only biotech crop that is not approved for human consumption. It is one of several varieties of biotech corn that contains a bacterium gene that makes the plant toxic to the European corn borer.

A scientific panel that advises EPA was unable to decide this summer whether the protein in the corn, Cry9C, should be allowed in food. The protein has shown resistance to digestive juices and heat, signs that it might cause allergic reactions.

Aventis is required to have agreements with farmers to make sure that the corn is kept separate from grain that is approved for food use. The company could lose its license to market the crop if it violated EPA's restrictions.

Bowen appoints new VP of administration

By KRISTIN ROSTRAN
The Battalion

Prior military experience and Pentagon work may not seem likely qualifications for a Texas A&M administrative position, but Charles A. Sippial has worked his way from the military, through the administration of two universities, to the position of Texas A&M vice president for administration.

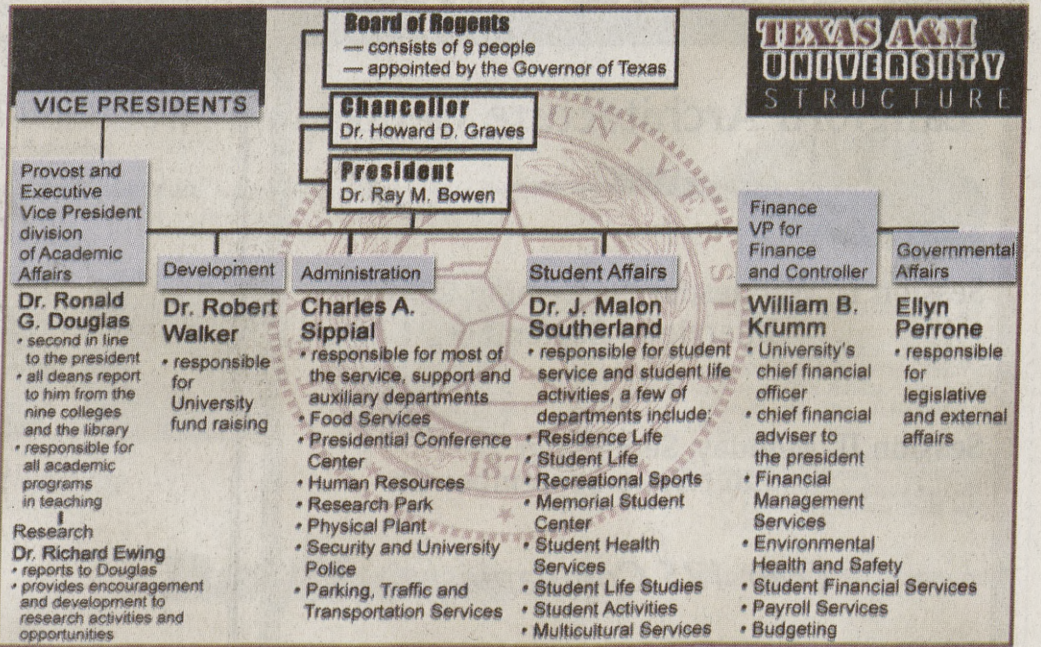
Sippial was named to the position after serving as interim vice president since October 1999. A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen appointed Sippial to the position June 13.

"He has experience in the job, and, throughout our search, he kept coming up as the most qualified," Bowen said.

Sippial served as the assistant vice president for the A&M Physical Plant for four years before being appointed to his new position. As vice president for administration, Sippial leads approximately 2,500 employees in 13 departments, including Physical Plant, Parking Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) and Food Services.

"Food Services is one of our most competitive departments, because we are competing against everybody in the Bryan-College Station area who owns a restaurant or food establishment," Sippial said. "It is not mandatory for people to eat at our dining facilities, so it is

See SIPPIAL on Page 3B.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION