

THE BATTALION

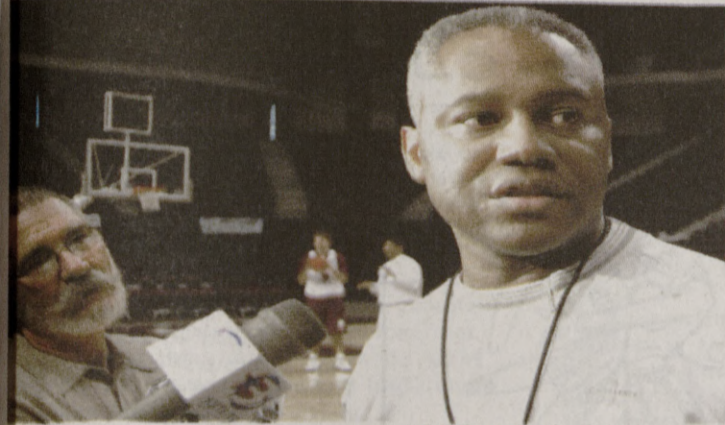
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Texas A&M University

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Tuesday, January 21, 2003

A&M basketball player arrested for possession



Texas A&M men's basketball coach, **Melvin Watkins**, comments on Andy Slocum's drug charges after Monday's practice.

By **Dallas Shipp**
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M basketball player was released from the Brazos County Jail Monday after being arrested for possession of a controlled substance early Sunday morning.

Senior center Andy Slocum was charged with two counts of possessing a controlled substance and spent Sunday night in jail. He posted a \$30,000 bail.

A&M head men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins said that Slocum would be suspended from the team until the details can be worked out and all the

information can be gathered.

"I'm still waiting to get some more details and until then I don't want to rush into any type of decision or make any comments because I just don't have all the information yet," Watkins said. "(Andy's) going to step away from the team until we get all the information."

College Station Police received a phone call that someone was selling ecstasy outside a house on Turkey Creek Road.

Officer Henderson of the College Station Police Department said he responded to the phone call. As he approached, he observed a group of four men in front of the

house and saw two individuals talking with each other, who he later identified as Slocum and Jared Morris, a junior linebacker for the A&M football team.

Following their discussion, Slocum got into his Chevrolet Tahoe and closed the door, while apparently searching for something on the floorboard of his vehicle. Seconds later, he reappeared from his vehicle and the other three men, including Morris, huddled around the driver's door.

The police report said Morris then handed what appeared to be cash over to Slocum and then cupped his hands as Slocum dropped an unidentified object

into Morris' hands, which Henderson said is a typical narcotics transaction.

After witnessing these actions by Slocum and Morris, Henderson identified himself as a police officer. Henderson said in his report that Slocum and Morris both appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and that Slocum was incoherent in his responses.

Henderson then looked inside the window of the Tahoe and saw a large Ziploc bag containing syringes, brown glass bottles and prescription medicine bottles on top of the center

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Dialogue begins about 'ghetto party'

By **Janet McLaren**
THE BATTALION

Student leaders and administration are beginning a dialogue and responding to questions surrounding an off-campus ghetto-themed party that at least one student considered racially offensive after it made national news this past week.

Texas A&M Student Body President Zac Coventry paraphrased a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., calling for students to "stand together and speak up about things that matter."

Memorial Student Center (MSC) Council President Barry Hammond said the party was offensive to him as a minority student.

"It is obviously making fun of a prominent African-American leader and is disrespectful of the whole culture," he said.

Hammond, a senior finance major, said an event of this type was never OK.

"Any time anyone dresses up in blackface it is not appropriate," he said.

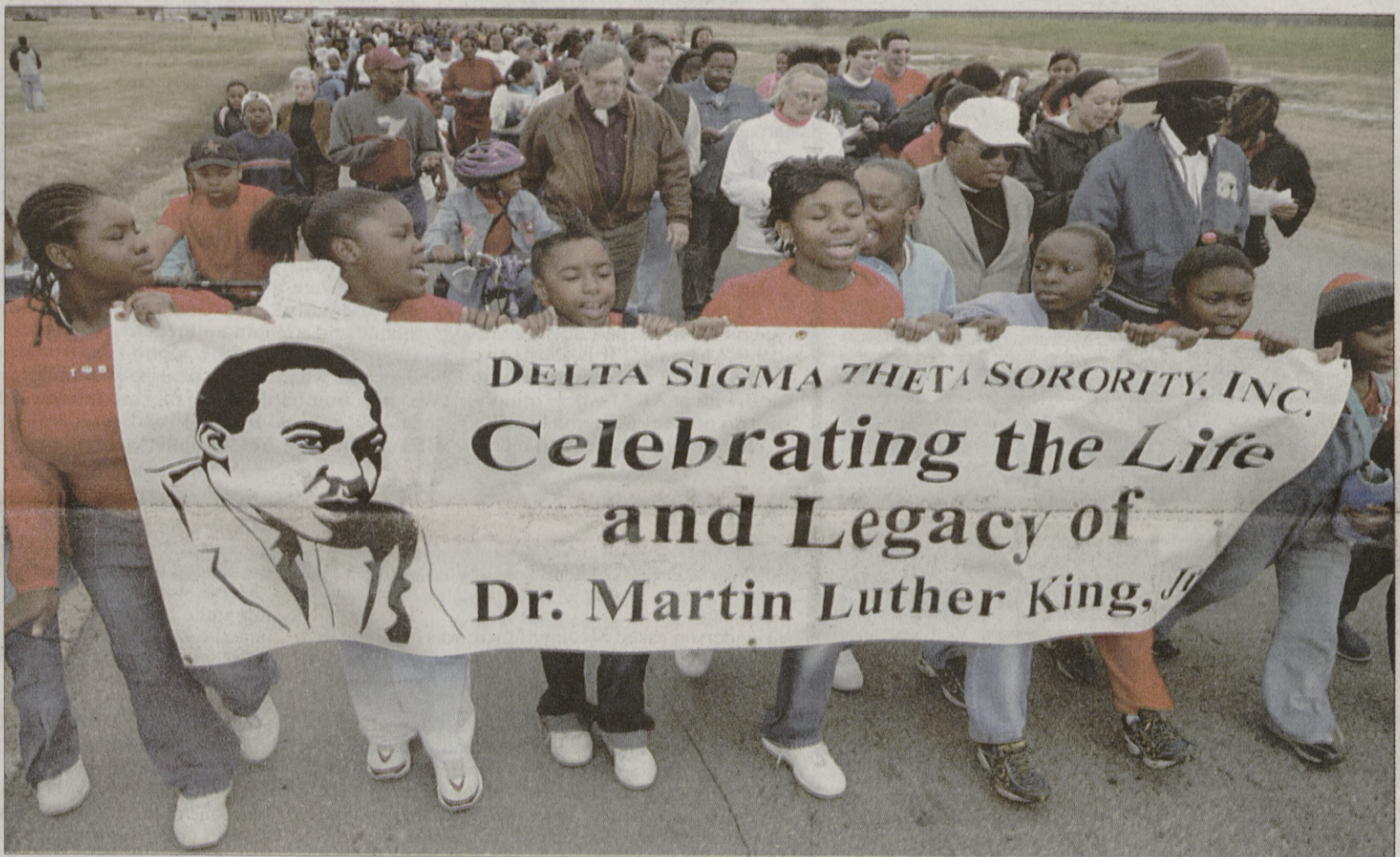
The party was a yearly event that usually fell around the birthday of King, one of the few national holidays that A&M observes with a day off for students and faculty.

University officials learned of the event from a fax signed "Sorry, but I cannot give my name." The memo accused Walton residents and staff of participating in a "ML King party" where partygoers dress in "blackface or other negative stereotypes of African Americans."

It indicated that members of the Walton staff were "the moving force behind organizing the

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Freedom walk



RANDALL FORD • THE BATTALION

Children from the Brazos County lead the seventh annual Freedom March down Martin Luther King Blvd on Monday morning. The event, which was sponsored by the Delta Sigma Theta sorority,

began at Thomas Sadie Park and ended 2.4 miles down MLK Blvd at Kemp Elementary School. The march included prayer and song in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Gates creates new decision structure

By **Brad Bennett**
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M faculty and students now have an official path to Texas A&M President Dr. Robert M. Gates, through Gates' new decision-making structure which took effect Jan. 1.

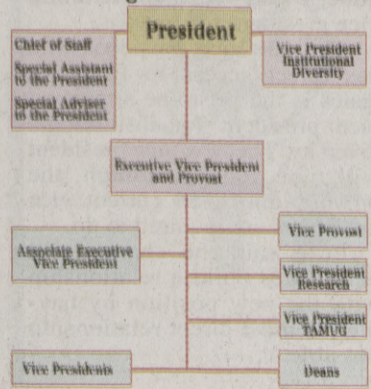
To factor in faculty and students' voices, Gates has expanded the Academic Program Council (APC), which reports directly to the executive vice president and provost and then the president. The APC now includes members from the Faculty Senate, Student Government, the Council of Principle Investigators and Distinguished Professors.

"This (the APC) is a group broadly representative of the entire (A&M) community and is where the real discussion of decisions will take place," said Dr. David Pryor, interim executive vice president and provost.

Four advisory councils, which report to the APC, have been created to bring together the various viewpoints of the campus to aid in the decision-making process.

"It (the new structure) is definitely increasing communica-

Gates Reorganizes Administration



Under the new structure, Chief of Staff, Vice President Diversity, Executive Vice President and Provost are the administrators with a direct link to President Gates.

SOURCE: PRESIDENT GATES' DEC. 17 2002 MEMO TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

tion with President Gates," said J. Thomas Regan, dean of the college of architecture.

The only access faculty previously had with the president was through the Faculty Senate, where now faculty can express their views to a representative on each of the four councils, Regan said.

"There is a lot of talent here and the president thinks this is

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NAACP president to speak at A&M

By **Nicole M. Jones**
THE BATTALION

Kweisi Mfume, the president and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), will address current events in civil rights, and speak about the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy, tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Rudder Theater.

Mfume will speak as part of "Campus with a Dream" Week to commemorate the birthday of King.

Mfume will talk about King's dream as foreseen on the campus of Texas A&M, said Bob Abraham, the adviser for the Black Awareness Committee and the A&M chapter of the NAACP.

Dr. King had a dream of schools such as A&M achieving diversity and overall equality, Abraham said.

"Maybe [Mfume] can give us some pointers on how to get there," Abraham said.

Dr. Larry J. Oliver, associate dean for the College of Liberal Arts, said that many speakers



MFUME

come to A&M, but having Mfume at the University is an excellent opportunity for all students.

"The NAACP was created as a tool for pursuing civil rights and social justice," Oliver said.

Oliver said civil rights and social justice are central values to the College of Liberal Arts and to the University as a whole.

Kweisi Mfume, whose West African name means "conquering son of kings," was born and raised in Baltimore, Md. He

graduated magna cum laude from Morgan State University, and later earned a master's degree in liberal arts from Johns Hopkins University.

Mfume represented Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the House of Representatives in the U.S. Congress from 1986 until he was unanimously elected to the presidency of the NAACP in 1996.

Mfume's career also includes 13 years in the radio industry, and nine years as host of the award-winning television show

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Bypassing the lines for online book buys

By **Melissa Fowler**
THE BATTALION

Unlike thousands of his peers who will wait in long lines and pay top dollar for textbooks this semester, Brandon Trochta can order his books in minutes without ever leaving his home.

Trochta, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, is joining the growing number of college students nationwide who are choosing to bypass bookstores and buy textbooks online from Web sites such as amazon.com, half.com and textbook-trader.com.

"I purchase books online to save money," Trochta said.

The average retail price of a new text-

Abebooks.com marketing and communications manager Marci Crossan. "You can shop from home, at night, from school, whenever and wherever."

Abebooks.com is a marketplace for rare and used books that allows users to post items they want to sell for browsing by potential buyers.

The average amount a college student will spend on books is \$370 to \$390, according to the National Association of College Stores 2001 Industry Financial Report. Finding the lowest prices online may offer students a chance to lessen those costs.

"I purchase books online to save money," Trochta said.

book is \$68, while an average used textbook sells for \$17.34 on half.com, according to a

See **Books** on page 9

Textbook Online Alternatives

- Amazon.com
- Abebooks.com
- Half.com (eBay owned)
- Textbook-trader.com (A&M based)

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