

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Tuesday, January 21, 2003

## They're not in Kansas anymore

### Out-of-state students find home away from home at Texas A&M

By Erica York  
THE BATTALION

Erin Schwertner had visited many universities before she decided to step outside Iowa's state line. An Iowa native, Schwertner found her match when she attended Texas A&M's three-day honors program.

"I had been to a lot of other schools but as soon as I stepped foot on the A&M campus I knew this was a special place," Schwertner said. "The one thing that really made A&M stand out was the program about traditions, especially Muster."

For many out-of-state students, a sense of adventure fuels the final decision to attend A&M. For Schwertner, that sense came from being the only person from her graduating class to attend A&M.

"The good thing about going somewhere where you don't know anyone is that you can be completely on your own," Schwertner said. "You can be exactly what you want to be."

Schwertner, a recipient of an honors scholarship, said another reason she chose A&M was because Texas is one of the few states that will waive out-of-state tuition if a student receives a scholarship of at least \$1,000 per year.

"This school was my first choice, and it ended up being cheaper than or as cheap as going to school in Iowa," she said.

Friendly students, especially compared to the other campuses she visited, convinced Schwertner she was in the right place.

"You always hear that A&M is the friendliest campus, but I didn't grow up bleeding maroon and hearing about all of the Aggie traditions," Schwertner said. "I really was overwhelmed with the friendliness and people saying 'howdy.' Everyone made me feel so welcome."

For Jong Lee, a sophomore construction science major, the weather played a major role in his decision to attend school in Texas instead of his other choice, Purdue University.

"I did want to be an engineer and I was accepted to Purdue and A&M," Lee said. "I didn't like cold weather so I thought Texas would be a better choice."

Lee, who moved to North Carolina from Korea when he was 14, said he thinks he made the right decision in coming to A&M.

"A&M definitely turned out to be the better choice," Lee said. "I really like it here."

While many students instantly find a home away from home at A&M, others need more convincing. Joey Wood, a junior economics major from South Carolina, was not expecting a change of culture when he moved to Texas to attend A&M.

"I was caught off guard at first," Wood said. "Texas culture was strange at first, but now I like it."

Although some out-of-state students are instantly enticed by hot weather and a friendly campus, others discover A&M's appeal after experiencing college life at another university. Billy Huckaby, a junior agronomy major from Arkansas, was attracted to A&M after attending a semester at the University of Central Arkansas.

"I wasn't happy (at the University of Arkansas)," Huckaby said. "I had a lot of friends down here. I had visited and enjoyed myself, so that's why I moved."

Huckaby said A&M's size and atmosphere was a major drive behind his transfer.

"It seemed like high school at UCA. A&M is big, but at the same time, most everybody here is friendly," Huckaby said. "There's no chance of any rumors being spread about you."



LEIGH RICHARDSON • THE BATTALION

#### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

#### Bryant's wife gives birth to daughter early Sunday

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant, the superstar guard for the Los Angeles Lakers, missed practice over the weekend for the best of reasons: His wife was in labor with their first child.

Natalia Diamante Bryant was born early Sunday. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 19 1/2 inches long, said team spokesman John Black.

Lakers trainer Gary Vitti said Bryant called him and told him he would miss practice to be with wife Vanessa. Teammate Shaquille O'Neal, already a father with another child on the way, offered some advice to 24-year-old Bryant.



BRYANT

"With kids you've got to hold them, rub their heads, stand there through all their pain," O'Neal said. "But Kobe's a tough guy, he'll be fine."

#### Ex-heavyweight champion turns himself into police

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Former heavyweight champion Trevor Berbick turned himself in to police and was arrested for breaking into a neighbor's home and stealing several items.

Berbick, charged with breaking and entering and theft, surrendered in eastern Port Antonio on Saturday, officer Glenford Miller said Sunday.

Police issued an arrest warrant for Berbick last week, after a search of his home turned up items that were reported stolen by a neighbor — including an electric drill, a pickax and some clothes.

Berbick, who won the WBC heavy-

weight title in 1985 and lost it to Mike Tyson a year later, was scheduled to appear before a judge Tuesday.

Berbick was deported from the United States to his native Jamaica in December after the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service determined he illegally re-entered the country after being deported to Canada in 1997.

Berbick, 48, was deported after breaking the conditions of his 1994 parole and serving 15 months of a four-year sentence for rape, theft and misdemeanor assault in Florida.

Berbick, who beat Muhammad Ali in 1981 and won the heavyweight crown in 1985 on a decision over Pinklon Thomas, was convicted of assault in 1991 for holding a gun to his former business manager's head and accusing her of stealing \$40,000.

A year later, he was convicted of raping a family baby sitter.

The same year, he was convicted of second-degree grand theft for forging his ex-wife's signature to get a \$95,000 mortgage on a house in Miramar, Fla.

#### Lee: 'Barbershop' gives negative impression of civil rights movement

LAUDERHILL, Fla. (AP) — Filmmaker Spike Lee says he's concerned that young moviegoers will form their first impressions of civil rights icons Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. from a bitter character in last year's comedy "Barbershop."

The keynote speaker at two events Saturday honoring King's birthday,

Lee told hundreds of teenagers at the Lauderdale Boys & Girls Club that he didn't laugh when he heard a character played by Cedric the Entertainer belittle Parks' refusal to move to the back of the bus.

Lee, the maker of films such as "Malcolm X," "Do the Right Thing" and the recently released "25th Hour," also didn't find it funny when the character accused King of being sexually promiscuous.

But Lee said too many adults do laugh at those scenes. Instead, he said they should be teaching young children about the accomplishments, challenges and sacrifices of the leaders of the civil rights movement.

"To me, some things aren't funny," said Lee, 46, a native of Atlanta who grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. "If our young children grow up thinking this, and that's all they know about (Parks and King), then we're in trouble."



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