

# FORUM

THE BATTALION

Page 4B • Friday, September 5, 2003

## A&M must strive for change

Never before at Texas A&M has there been a time in which students have had as much opportunity to make a lasting impact on its future as right now.

There have been a number of marked changes throughout A&M's history, including a name change and the admission of women and minority students. There have been years that produced new traditions, and we fondly recall those classic Aggie stories, stories of the 12th Man and, more recently, Maroon Out. There have been University presidents, including Lawrence Sullivan Ross and General Earl Rudder, whose contributions will never be forgotten.

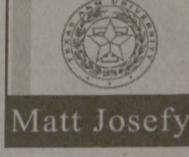
But the first few years of the 21st century will make an indelible impact on the future of our University, and we're right in the middle of it. University President Robert M. Gates is fin-

ished with his rookie season and has his running shoes laced up and ready to go. While a university is perpetually in a state of flux, the attitude of change permeates all facets from academia to student services and from student involvement to athletics, which is most visible with several new head coaches and a new athletics director.

In the midst of change, students must seize an open window to speak up. Students will sit on at least four major search committees, from deans in geosciences, libraries and A&M at Qatar to the vice president of student affairs. Students will have the opportunity to work with the vice president and associate provost for diversity in shaping the initiatives and success of this newly established position.

Students should seek ways to play an integral role in the hiring of more than 400 new faculty before the Class of 2007 graduates.

### Student Leader Views



Matt Josefy



Others will give input on how to improve aspects of Transportation Services, including a potential overhaul of the parking plan. The Campus Master Plan will provide a roadmap for additional construction that students should give close attention. Furthermore, we must carefully evaluate and

information presented as possible tuition increases or fees are proposed.

With these opportunities comes a tremendous amount of responsibility. If we fail to come together, we will have failed not only ourselves but those who will follow us. All of us have a unique viewpoint and response to every situation. Therefore, being educated on all of these issues is critical. Go to the Student Government Association Web site ([sga.tamu.edu](http://sga.tamu.edu)) and read about some of the issues at hand. Communication must be an

underlying theme for all students and student leaders. Fill out suggestion and comment cards around campus. E-mail an appropriate student leader or administrator if you have ideas on how to improve a situation.

Any student can complain or be frustrated. It is essential that this year's students channel their concerns through the right avenues. If we do our homework, which is not a reference to the problems assigned in class, we will be able to convey our views in a way that results in action and influence.

While it is normal to focus on our own small circles of influence and get bogged down in individual tasks and responsibilities, we have an obligation to think about the global issues on our campus. Our mark on campus can be much deeper than a name carved on a desktop, so let's get started.

Student Body President Matt Josefy is a senior accounting major.

### MAIL CALL

#### Bus Ops forced to change service

In response to Sept. 3 mail call:

I am a former employee of "Bus Ops," now called Transit Services, and I find the Sept. 3 mail call uncalled for. To set things correct, it is not Transit Services that is implementing the bike racks, it is Transportation Services. These bike racks are well needed and long overdue. Secondly, with a University-wide mandatory budget cut, Transit Services had no say in its reduction of operating expenses. Like any other business or department, Transit had to reduce its expenditures to comply with the budget cut. Weekend services were not cost effective and were actually costing Transit Services money, and in the long run they were costing students. Transit is doing its best to help students and is always more than willing to hear every student's opinion.

Cooper Lumsden  
Class of 2002

#### Designated driver stereotype offensive

In response to the Sept. 4 Dunn Boyz comic strip:

The Battalion is normally filled with inspiring and praiseworthy articles, but on Thursday my viewpoint of the entire paper was tarnished by the ideas expressed in one comic strip. Will Lloyd's "Dunn Boyz" made a mockery of the moralistic act of designated driving. His attempt to give advice for "partying on your first Thursday night at college" took a stab at a group of people whom this community is in desperate need of. The cartoon's third tip was to find "nerds, geeks, and guys who got suckered into staying with their high school girlfriends." To stereotype this giving group of individuals in this manner is uncalled for. Without designated drivers, this town would have even more drunks on the roads than it already does. Designated drivers should be commended, not ridiculed.

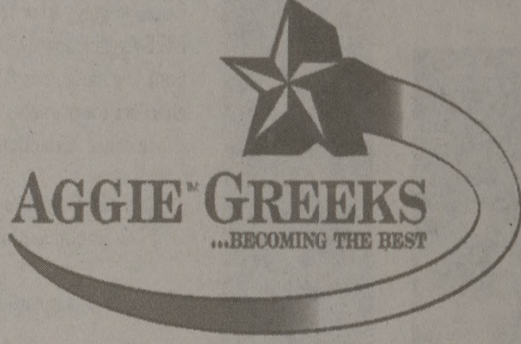
Gerod Rush  
Class of 2005

#### Wasting students' time and money

I am currently a Spanish 101 student. We were informed that every student who has had any Spanish class in high school must pay \$25 and take a placement test to see if we should be moved to the second level of Spanish classes. Why would we pay approximately \$300 to take Spanish 101 if we didn't need it? I contacted the head of the department of Modern and Classical Languages to find out. His response was that some students took Spanish in high school and are only in Spanish 101 to get an A.

I had Spanish six years ago and I don't remember more than how to say hello and goodbye, and many of us don't have an extra hour just lying around and an extra two hours to spend staring at a book that we have no idea how to read. And most of the tests are offered at only one time. Why should I waste my time and money? The department will rethink this ridiculous policy.

Loren D.  
Class of 2002



## FEEDING 5000 AND SHAMROCK

Fall Fraternity Recruitment Concert

Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.

Rudder Fountain

- FIND OUT ABOUT THE FRATERNITIES OF AGGIELAND
- CONSISTENTLY HIGHER GPA THAN ALL MEN'S AVERAGE
- INCREDIBLE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS
- ALL BUT TWO US PRESIDENTS SINCE 1900 WERE GREEK
- 85% OF FORTUNE 500 EXECUTIVES ARE GREEK
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PRODUCED BY ADAM SANDLER & JACK GIARRAPUTO WRITTEN BY FRED WOLF & DAVID SPADE DIRECTED BY SAM WEISMAN

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**IN THEATRES SEPT. 5**

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