

THE BATTALION

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PAGE DESIGN BY EMILY HENDRICKSON

Athletic Department to form new band

By Michael Player
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M basketball and volleyball fans will hear the beat of a new band next fall.

Athletic director Bill Byrne said the new band, whose membership is open to all A&M students, not just members of the Aggie Band, will be formed by next volleyball season.

"Most schools in the Big 12 have bands at all of their games," Byrne said.

Byrne said he decided to form the new band after many frequent game attendees said they enjoyed the games more when a band was present.

Alan Cannon, assistant athletic director of media relations, said visiting teams to Reed Arena and their fans note the difference in the atmosphere when the band performs.

"We really want the excitement that the band gives the players and the crowd," he said.

The Aggie Band, the University marching unit within the Corp of Cadets, performs at many, but not all, of the men's and women's home basketball games. Just this year, the band performed at the volleyball games.

Members of the Aggie Band said between school and other activities, it was hard to find time to commit to perform at all the games.

"It's just too much to ask (the band) to perform

at all of the 50-plus home games," said Jonathan Dunbar, head drum major.

The band that does perform at the games is made up of approximately 100 volunteers from the Aggie Band. Those 100 are then divided into two smaller bands comprised of 50 members each who rotate the games to meet their schedules; Byrne said.

Byrne said the new band will not be under the direction of Maj. Timothy Rhea; instead, the University will hire a new band leader specifically for the basketball game band.

Associate Athletic Director for Game Operations Mike Caruso will meet with Rhea Friday to discuss more details about the new band.

New Aggie Band

- Will provide live music at basketball and volleyball games
- Will be formed by next volleyball season
- Membership open to all TAMU students
- Won't be under direction of Maj. Tim Rhea

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE • TAMU ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

A balancing act



SHARON ALSCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Sophomore marketing major **Seth Hansen** balances on a slack line tied between two trees outside the Academic Building Wednesday afternoon. Hansen and his friends practice new tricks between classes.

Staff members concerned about new TS parking plan

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

When Phil Brand first came to work at Texas A&M, he was frustrated that he had to park in general parking lots.

Brand, a research instrumentation specialist for the biology department, was often parked illegally because the lots were full. When he finally got a reserved numbered space, he said he was relieved.

But now, Transportation Services (TS) has proposed a plan to eliminate or drastically reduce reserved numbered spaces for faculty and staff members.

"I'm so ticked off about it I might quit," Brand said. "If we have to start going through this hassle of parking again, I'm not going to bother coming back to work."

Brand's reaction to the proposed plan echoes the sentiment expressed by many faculty and staff members on campus.

Some have claimed the plan is just a scheme to increase revenue.

"If you look at (TS Director Rodney) Weis' PowerPoint presentation," said Karl Aufderheide, associate professor of biology. "Part of that is to pay off the very large debt for the West Campus garage."

Weis said that is a misconception.

"I don't really understand where that comes from," he said. "I think part of that is a lot of mistrust from the past toward parking, and a lot of the misunderstanding about what our mission is."

Weis said TS does not make a profit, but it pays for the facilities they build, including the garages.

"Certainly, there's no bonus or anything involved when we make more money," he said. "All we're trying to do is operate more efficiently, and what we're really trying to do ultimately is to avoid building another garage until we absolutely have to."

Some faculty members have expressed concerns that they would not be able to get a parking spot and would be late for the classes they teach.

"Part of that is because of the misconception that we just sell permits until nobody wants anymore in a given area, when in reality the number of permits sold are very, very closely controlled and monitored," Weis said.

Weis said a lot of the faculty and staff members have said that they do not want reserved spaces eliminated.

"I think we'll have to (offer reserved numbered spaces at a higher price), ultimately, because really, this is all about trying to do what the customers want."

Weis said no decisions have been made about prices.

"Some may go up, some may go down, but certainly the goal is not to see how high we can raise anything," he said.

Lynne Hambrick, reference librarian at Sterling C. Evans Library, has a reserved space close to her work, on the opposite side of the History building from the library. She said she would be disappointed if she lost it. Hambrick said she would like to keep a reserved space, if that option was available, but it would ultimately depend upon the cost.

Weis said he has observed mixed reactions from faculty and staff members, from loving the plan to hating it.

Students able to nominate VP of student affairs

By Erin Price
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M officials are giving students, faculty and staff the opportunity to nominate candidates for the office of vice president for student affairs.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 1, and officials expect to appoint the new vice president by June.

The position has been vacant since May 2003, when Dr. J. Malon Southerland retired after serving as vice president for student affairs for nine years and at A&M for 36 years.

Dr. William Kibler, interim vice president for

student affairs, said this is a very important position to A&M and its students.

"(The vice president for student affairs) leads and directs most of the student programs on campus," Kibler said. "They set the tone for the quality of student life, and we want all of that to continue and improve over time."

The student affairs division oversees 12 departments including the Memorial Student Center, the Corps of Cadets, Recreational Sports and Multicultural Services.

Dr. Robert Strawser, chair of the vice president for Student Affairs Search Advisory Committee and accounting professor, said that the search is going well.

"In my opinion, this is one of the most impor-

tant jobs at Texas A&M, since this individual will deal with our primary focus, our students," Strawser said. "We need to attract the very best person to fill this position."

The job qualifications include a doctoral degree or extraordinary experience in student affairs administration, the ability to evaluate the needs of the student body, to make recommendations to the president and have strong personal and professional integrity, Strawser said.

"The new vice president must understand and appreciate the unique role of students in governing Texas A&M," Strawser said. "They have to also value our unique tradition-rich campus while being able to promote change within that context."

Student Body President Matt Josefy, who serves as a student representative on the search committee, said this position is important for the future at A&M.

"I encourage people to let us know what the qualities they feel are important for the new vice president to have," he said.

Josefy said the vice president plays an intricate role in guiding and supporting student leaders across campus.

Dr. David Prior, executive vice president and provost, said the new vice president does not have to be an Aggie, but he or she must have a good understanding of the Aggie culture and

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Student leadership conference topic

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

Sixteen years ago, collegians at Texas A&M needed a forum in which African American students in the southwest could address problems affecting the black community. In order to do so, the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference (SBSLC) was formed.

Since then, the SBSLC has been dedicated to empowering black scholars to be productive leaders of tomorrow.

Under the theme "Developing Collegiate Leaders: The Catalyst for a Productive Tomorrow," students from across the nation will gather at A&M today through Sunday for the 16th annual SBSLC.

Anverly Black, marketing director for the conference, said this is the largest student-run conference that unites schools across the nation and is not limited to black students.

"This conference is open to all races and nationalities," she said.

Anverly said the conference will feature workshops that focus on developing strong leadership skills as well as stress management and how to be a better student.

The SBSLC encourages participants to look to the future, Black said.

"We want them to be leaders in the community," she said.

Shawna Smith, chair for the SBSLC, said the conference has been utilized for corporate networking and for the development of leadership skills.

"We, as the executive staff, have worked diligently to provide thought-provoking speakers, a career fair presenting some of the biggest companies and informative workshops," she said.

This year's keynote speakers will be Bryonn Bain, Nikki Giovanni and Lee Jones.

Giovanni is a world-renowned poet and has published more than 14 volumes of poems. Her speech Saturday is open to the public, but a ticket is required to attend, according to the SBSLC Web site.

Bain is a Harvard Law School graduate, and Jones is the associate dean of academics at Florida State University.

Black said she expects 700 participants to attend the conference, which coincides with the "Campus with a

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Bus oops



MICHAEL PLAYER • THE BATTALION

A Chevy Cavalier driven by an A&M freshman was struck by a Transportation Services bus on Ross Street in front of the Harvey Bum Bright Building Wednesday afternoon. The Cavalier tried to pass the bus just as the bus was leaving a stop. No injuries were reported.