



Week targets 'slim hopes' at A&M

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION



Jenni Schaefer, Class of 1998, said she has a problem with her body image since she was 16 years old, but it wasn't until she came to Texas A&M that her eating disorder really began. "When I went to A&M, it was the complete freedom my eating disorder needed to take control," Schaefer said. "There was no set times to eat and nobody ever had to know if I ever ate. There were no rules as far as food went." Schaefer said she struggled with anorexia and bulimia throughout all four years of college, but that she did not realize she had a problem until her senior year. "My senior year, I was in the bathroom of an apartment making myself throw up, and it's when I realized I had a problem."

Schaefer said. "I had it all of college, but when I made myself throw up for the first time, I knew that wasn't right, and it was something that could hurt me." Gena Staggs, a counselor at Student Counseling Services, said that cases such as Schaefer's are common at A&M. Staggs said SCS counselors speak with several students searching for help with their eating disorders throughout the year, and that is one of the reasons why SCS, Student Health Services and Aggie REACH are hosting Eating Disorders Week on campus this week. Ashley Walker, health educator for Student

Health Services, said that this week's events, which correspond with National Eating Disorders Week, will include a video, a panel discussion, a lecture and an informational table. "I think a lot of people understand that this is a problem, and because we are a large college campus, the problem is larger than people think it is," Walker said. Staggs said the week kicks off at 8 p.m. Monday in the Memorial Student Center with a video titled "Slim Hopes," which will discuss how the media contributes to body image. "We think the media has a big impact on bad body image," Staggs said. "We want people to think about ways they can proactively improve their own body image." Schaefer, who wrote a book about her eating

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EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK 2004

MONDAY	8 p.m. to 9 p.m. MSC 292B Video: "Slim Hopes"
TUESDAY	7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. MSC 292B Eating Disorder Discussion Panel
WEDNESDAY	5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Rec Center Healthy Living Lecture: "Shattering Body Image"
THURSDAY	11 a.m. to 2 p.m. MSC and Commons Lobby Dismiss Distorted Images Informational Table

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Hangin' tough



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Chemistry major Kelly DeCock hangs upside down after hoisting herself up a tree in a search for a new tree to climb Friday afternoon. DeCock is a part of the Texas A&M Student Society of Arboriculture, which supports

Arboricultural Sciences and Urban Forestry by educating its members in tools and techniques of the arboriculture and urban forestry industries. The club also meets regularly to practice safe methods of climbing trees.

TS offers new parking, ticket payment options

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Transportation Services is offering new payment methods for parking citations and for visitor parking in the Northside Parking Garage.

TS began offering online citation payment from its Web site Feb. 13. Credit cards and checks are accepted online, said TS Director Rodney Weis.

"It's easier for the customer because you don't have to come to the office," Weis said. "You don't have to wait in line."

Katie Nieder, a senior journalism major, said if she gets another parking ticket before she graduates that she will pay it online to avoid a special trip to the TS office.

Nieder said she got a ticket in the fall and checked the TS Web site to see what her payment options were.

"I remember thinking that it would be nice to pay online," she said. "I would have done it, because I like to do everything online."

Andre Williams, a senior electrical engineering major, said that although he gets a lot of parking tickets, he doesn't care about payment methods even if they are online, because he doesn't pay them.

He said that eventually, the money he owes for tickets is transferred to his fee statement.

He said when his financial aid money is applied to his fee statement, that the money he owes for tickets is deducted automatically.

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Supporters of gay marriage rally at county courthouse

By Jason Hanselka
THE BATTALION

John Scroggs, a graduate student in science and technology journalism at Texas A&M, said he and his partner have 40 pages of legal documents made so that if one of them is injured, the other can be allowed to make medical decisions for him just like legal married couples can do.

Scroggs and about 50 supporters gathered Friday on the lawn of the Brazos County Courthouse for the "first comes love, then comes marriage" rally to fight for the legalization of same-sex marriages.

Melanie Edwards, organizer of the rally and a graduate student in soil and crop sciences, said she hopes there will be a lot more support in the future.

"Our community is coming together to stand up for civil rights," she said. "We are joining our voices to say that this community believes in equal right for all of our citizens."

Randall Ellis, executive director of the Lesbian, Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, said the state must change its legislation.

"Gays and lesbians are, in fact, considered second-class citizens in our own state," he said.

"What we want is marriage — no ifs, ands or buts about it."

Nick Stransky, a doctoral student in sociology, said homosexuals are not asking for special rights.

"We're presented with the question not of marriage, but of human rights," he said. "We are here to celebrate the love of human beings."



JOSHUA L. HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Blinn College sophomores Lauren Carpenter (left) and Sabrina Jennings embrace one another at the "first comes love, then comes marriage" rally in front of the Brazos County Courthouse Friday afternoon.

On Feb. 4, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples have the same rights as heterosexual couples regarding marriage. As a result, the mayor of San Francisco has allowed the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The rally went off without any incidents, except for one man in the crowd expressing his displeasure.

Ellis said that along with the right to make medical decisions for same-sex couples, the

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WIT helps women in info-tech field

By Elizabeth Knapp
THE BATTALION

Sara Roden hopes to make a big splash in the information technology and information systems field after she graduates, despite the challenge of being a woman.

Roden, a senior information and technology major, said she wants to make contacts in the field and new connections to put her ahead of everyone else.

Roden had the opportunity to make those connections at the Women In Technology (WIT)

Conference last week.

The conference was one of the programs designed to appeal to women who are majoring in information technology and information systems.

WIT was the idea of Evan Anderson, chairman of the Department of Information and Operations Management in the Mays Business School. The organization was geared to represent women going into these fields and keep them involved.

Roden said she was able to talk to several

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Students statewide compete for \$7,000 at step show

By Lacey Barlen
THE BATTALION

Approximately 4,500 people packed Reed Arena Saturday night to watch the sold-out Greek Olympiad Step Show Competition, hosted by the Nu Alpha chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi. "The show has grown so much over the last 15 years and has become the largest step show in Texas," said Ronnie Robinett, president of Kappa Alpha Psi. Sororities and fraternities

from around Texas competed for \$7,000 in prizes by performing a routine of combined step and dance moves.

The proceeds will assist MD Anderson in increasing global awareness of prostate cancer and fund several scholarships that are given to high-achieving black students at Texas A&M.

Kappa Alpha Psi is helping the University accomplish Vision 2020 by recruiting minority students to the campus, Robinett said.

The honors program invited 70 high school seniors to tour the campus and attend the step show, Robinett said.

"Ninety-five percent of the students that come to the Greek Olympiad end up enrolling at Texas A&M for the fall semester," Robinett said.

Rebecca Guillory, a member of the Omicron Omega chapter of Delta Sigma Theta attended the step show as a senior in high school and now competes on her sorority's step team at A&M.

"I think it's good to bring minority students to campus because they get here and see that they will be comfortable," Guillory said.

A free after-party was held following the competition at Reed Arena. Last year's after-party ended early when fights broke out.

University Police Department Director Bob Wiatt said that last year's party was an "unruly

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THE BATTALION Online Weekly Poll

Most Week's Results:
Given the choice, would you pay a fee to use the Rec Center?

45% Yes, working out is important to me
35% No, I would rather play sports outdoors
20% Going to class is enough of a workout!

This Week's Poll:
Do you think gay marriages should be legal?

Take this poll at: www.thebatt.com

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