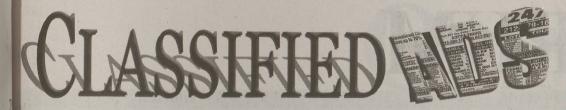
SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Thursday, March 25, 2004

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Classifieds continued from Pg. 2b

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MSC Bookstore is now hiring for spring buyback. Please join us at one of our in-formational meetings: March 29th from 2pm-3pm in MSC 212; March 30th from 3pm-4pm in Koldus 111; or March 31st from 3pm-4pm in Rudder 410. Interviews will be set up at the meeting.

Notes-n-Quotes is accepting applications for outgoing, well-spoken, and self moti-vated store sales people. A&M soph. and juniors preferred. Positions available imnediately as well as for summer and fall. Please come by NNQ at 701 University Dr. for more details and to apply. Now hiring servers, 2-lunch shifts/wk and

night and weekends. Apply in person 2-5pm. Cotton Patch Cafe HW6 at Rock Prairie

Office Assistant, Part-Time, Flexible Schedule. Kristen Dist. Co., distributors of Miller, Coors & other fine adult beverages has 1-position avail. 20-30 hours. Duties include, answer phone, filing, faxing & other various office tasks. Apply in person at 1501 Independence Ave., (979)775-6322

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STUDENT WORKER. Lynntech Industries, Ltd. has a part-time position available for a student worker from the Industrial Distribution department. This position will assist with shipping and receiving, and in-ventory control for a small manufacturing company. Applicants must possess the ability to work well with others and have good communication skills and must successfully complete a pre-employment drug test. The position to be filled is for a min mum of 12hrs/wk, between 8am-5pm Mon.-Fri. Send resume and times available to work to 7607 Eastmark Dr. Ste.102, CS, TX 77840 or email to

NEEDED

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Available whenever. Rock Prairie and Welborn. \$280/mo +1/3elect. furnished, w/d, cable, internet, and TV included. Ping Pong skills a plus! 713-502-2544.

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NCAA Tournament field State vs. Monmouth.

Another lousy report card for

By Jim Litke THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If your kids brought home the same lousy report cards that two-thirds of the 65 teams in the NCAA men's tournament did, they'd be grounded for months. Instead, they're all going to get new sneakers and fistfuls of cash.

Now you know why some of the people who watch college sports are always mad in March. It has nothing to do with basketball and everything to do — stop us if you've heard this before — with money. Those same people figure that if CBS is paying \$6 billion over 11 years to the NCAA, the schools sharing that loot should be graduating most of the kids that play for them.

Talk about a radical idea — if it ever catches. on, many in the current crop of student-athletes would become as extinct as dodos. But pretend, for the moment, anyway, that the watchdogs were keeping score.

First the good news: Stanford would score 100, Lehigh 90, Dayton 82 and Kansas 73. Five other schools, including those perennial bookworms at Duke and Vanderbilt, would register in the 60s.

Now the bad: Four other so-called institutions of higher learning in the field would have a big, fat zero alongside their names. That's even harder to accomplish than it sounds.

But it gets worse.

On the Boston Globe's Web site last week, columnist Derrick Z. Jackson broke down the numbers for African-Americans on scholarship. He found the 37 schools that hid behind the privacy rules to avoid publishing their 2003 graduation rates for blacks averaged just 19.7 percent in the 2002 report. No surprise there, since 13 of the 37 had black graduation rates of zero in 2002.

'When we bring kids to our campuses and fail to educate them in the numbers we're seeing here," said Richard Lapchick, who heads the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida, "all we're doing is using them up."

The search for a scapegoat usually lands on the doorstep of the NCAA, conveniently forgetting the organization simply administers the policies set by member schools. University presidents have been calling those shots for almost 10 years, and as the latest numbers prove, the pace of reform is still at a crawl.

At first, with initiatives like Prop 48, they tried to raise graduation rates by putting the burden squarely on the kids' shoulders. Those moves nudged the rates upward, but not nearly enough. And with new chief Myles Brand feeling the heat from a lengthening list of embarrassments ---everything from conference raids to recruiting



Blanks, freshman forward Marlon Pompey, new head coach Billy Gillispie and sophomore guard/forward Antoine Wright sway to "Saw Varsity's Horns Off" at

From left to right) Texas A&M freshman guard LaKeith Reed Arena during Gillispie's first Aggie War Hymn. Gillispie was named A&M men's basketball head coach Wednesday, taking over for six-year head coach Melvin Watkins, who resigned two weeks ago.

Attention Students! Leasing Agents needed full/ part time positions availab Great pay, fun atmosphere. Must be neat n appearance. Apply in person at Meadows Point Apts. 800 Marion Pugh or fax resume 979-693-0455.

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Babysitter needed. Flexible Hours. Non-smoker. \$5/hr. 779-7872.

Bartenders, barbacks, &waitstaff needed. Experience preferred but will train. Apply tetween 1-5pm. Old Fuddrucker's location next to Target.

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Fun, prestigious public speaking position. \$7/hr., evenings &Saturdays. Must have DL 4+years No criminal records. We rain. 693-3992.

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The Canyon. Now hiring all positions- DJ, bar, waitstaff, floor, &door. Call 979-696-3031 for appointment.

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Wanted: Cowboys & Cowgirls to guide tourists and horses through the Rocky Mountains. Come work for the largest horse operation in North America. Write Sombrero Ranch, 3300 Airport Road, Boulder, CO 80301 or visit our website at www.sombrero.com

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'01 Kawasaki Ninja 500, great condition, \$3000. 680-1613, cell- 832-244-8209.

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Student organizations for fund raising proj ects. Earn money for your cause. Send organization name and contact phone number to gracezim2004@yahoo.com or call 252-916-4300.

The marking period in the NCAA's latest grad-

uation rate report covered scholarship athletes who entered school between 1993-96 and allowed each six years to graduate. With that much time, you'd think at least one phys ed major in one of those places would have stumbled through the degree maze by sheer luck. Then again, maybe there aren't as many of Jim Harrick Jr.'s exams in circulation as we thought.

In any case, those four schools weren't identified in the latest report, because along with a dozen others, they took advantage of a loophole created by new federal privacy rules and avoided publicly reporting any graduation rates at all. No matter. There is enough disgrace to go around.

Another 40 schools that made the tournament field failed to graduate even half their kids, a number that trails the national average by a few percentage points. Ditto for at least four teams in the Sweet 16 (and maybe more, since only 11 of the 16 schools still playing published their graduation rates).

And then there's this: If a 50 percent graduation rate was required for postseason eligibility - something the do-gooders on the Knight Commission proposed in 2001 — exactly three first-round games would have gone off with the lineups on the floor: Gonzaga vs. Valparaiso, North Carolina vs. Air Force, and Mississippi scandals and "Coaches Gone Wild" videos have landed on his desk — a consensus is finally emerging to hold the schools accountable instead.

This latest mess has already convinced the NCAA to force members to report their 2003 graduation rates in full. That voluntary compliance will allow the organization to sidestep federal restrictions and make the information public late this summer.

"Without continued full publication of the graduation rates - especially those at the low end - we will lose the ability to expose those athletics programs which are failing to educate their student-athletes," Brand said.

Even more promising than public pressure, though, is the so-called "incentive-disincentive" proposal that will be put to a vote by the NCAA board in late April. As currently envisioned, the graduation rate for scholarship athletes would have to be within a few percentage points of the general student body or schools would face penalties ranging from a warning, to loss of scholarships, and possibly even a ban on postseason play.

Assuming the measure is approved, another four years likely would pass before the penalties were phased in. It's a long way away, but it's a start. And as any parent would tell you, it's never too early to make kid stick his nose in a book.

Byrne

Continued from page 1B

Watkins never could.

Gillispie is well respected throughout the state, and he also has a coaching pedigree learned under current University of Kansas head coach Bill Self.

Self transformed the University of Tulsa from relative obscurity into a top-10 team and NCAA Tournament regular. Self then took over at the University of Illinois, leading the Fighting Illini to three-straight NCAA Tournament appearances before moving onto Kansas.

Gillispie was with Self for three of those seasons at Tulsa and two at Illinois, learning the game and how to coach it from one of the best in the business.

At UTEP Gillispie showed what he had learned from Self, coaching in much the same style and turning around a mediocre program like UTEP.

Now Gillispie finds himself trying to turn around A&M, a ship that three coaches have attempted to right. All have failed.

But Kermit Davis, Tony Barone and Melvin Watkins all had something in common – an athletic department that frankly didn't care about anything except football.

In Gillispie's case, he has Byrne and A&M President Robert M. Gates, who both want champions in every Aggie sport.

It's evident that Byrne will do everything in his power to allow Gillispie to succeed where the others have failed.

If Gillispie fails as well, then Byrne will always have the legacy of the man who let Aggie basketball sink into college basketball's abyss.

Students

Continued from page 1B

last in every Big 12 team defensive category except rebounding last season.

"I've watched a couple of UTEP games and noticed the strong defensive presence they have on the court," Bishop said. "I think if Gillespie turns around our defense, we just might win a few more games."

Aggie fans will have to wait until the basketball season starts in early November to see Gillispie's new program in action.

"I don't care if Gillispie's playbook has our players running in circles around the other team while singing the Oscar Meyer song," said junior busi-ness major Casey Crisp. "If it gets wins, it gets wins."