



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Sophomore general studies major **Chris Sawyer**, left, and other A&M students hold signs that read, "Thank your parents for being heterosexual; heterosexuals supporting life on Earth" in front of the Academic Building Tuesday afternoon.

## A&M groups clash over sexuality issue

By **Sonia Moghe**  
THE BATTALION

A group of students gathered outside of the Academic Building Tuesday equipped with signs promoting heterosexuality, along with another group of students who protested the "heterosexual pride" rally.

"We're just out here supporting what we believe in," said **Ellis Menchaca**, a junior agricultural life sciences major. "We're just very passionate about our way of life."

The group of students that held signs emblazoned with phrases such as, "Thank your parents for being straight," "It's Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" and "Straight as an arrow," is not part of a student organization, but every year through word-of-mouth and flyers, they manage to organize a congregation of students and signs, Menchaca said.

In response to the rally, another group of students held signs promoting diversity while verbally demoting the rally itself. This group was also made up of various students not under the umbrella of a particular student organization.

"Unfortunately, the implication of (the demonstration's) actions was the promotion of

the supremacy of heterosexuality," said **Ilya Y. Rostovtsev**, a junior applied mathematics major. "(The demonstrators) have no cause — they have their rights, none of their civil liberties are being denied."

The students promoting heterosexuality were not bashing homosexuals, said **Bill Sebring**, a sophomore general studies major.

"(Homosexuals) support their rights — we support ours," Sebring said. "All we think is since they get to promote their side, we should get to promote ours also."

**"(Homosexuals) support their rights — we support ours. All we think is since they get to promote their side, we should get to promote ours also."**

— **Ilya Y. Rostovtsev**  
junior applied mathematics major

The group, which had attained a permit through Texas A&M to legally carry out its demonstration, will be demonstrating again Wednesday in the vicinity of the Academic Building. Students interested in holding demonstrations should check with University rules pertaining to on-campus demonstrations and permit issuing.

Rostovtsev said he was concerned about what people visiting campus would think about the student body based on the actions of the few

demonstrators. "The students on campus will have their minds made up," Rostovtsev said. "But visiting students and parents will look at the demonstrators and wonder how friendly this campus really is."

## Severe weather class moving in

By **Joaquin Salcedo**  
THE BATTALION

Students wanting to learn more about severe storms and understand the differences between a storm watch and warning should attend a severe weather spotting class Wednesday, said **Travis Herzog**, president of the Texas A&M Chapter of the American Meteorological Society.

Herzog said the A&M Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (TAMSCAMS) holds a severe

weather class every year to properly train its storm chasers and that he invites anyone else wanting to learn about severe weather to attend the class.

The National Weather Service is holding the class at A&M and the College Station Convention Center, and it will be co-hosted by the TAMSCAMS and the A&M Ham Radio Club.

"We simply invite the NWS out and provide them with an audience," Herzog said.

Herzog said generally there is one seminar in every county that a local

NWS office has jurisdiction over, but this year there are five in Brazos County. One of those is for A&M students.

The class will be instructed by **Gene Hafele**, a Houston NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist. Hafele will teach the classes at A&M and the College Station Convention Center.

**Doug Dornier**, president of Texas A&M Ham Radio Club and a senior

See **Weather** on page 12

## Students question yell leader endorsements

By **Carrie Pierce**  
THE BATTALION

Students questioned whether endorsements of candidates are valid and whether there is a fair representation of organizations at a forum Tuesday in the Memorial Student Center Flag Room.

The recent controversy surrounding the endorsement of a yell leader candidate brought mixed feelings at the forum as all the yell leader candidates met with students the day before elections.

**Ryan Bishop**, a junior business major and current yell leader, said that for someone to say a candidate is endorsed, everyone in the organization must feel that way.

"Although we can't speak for the whole Corps (of Cadets), the current yell leaders endorse (Keaton) Askew, (Patrick) Hebert and (Houston) Haley," he said.

Bishop said members of the Corps are not forced to vote for Corps bloc.

**Taylor Baumgartner**, a junior civil engineering major, said it is hard to say that a big organization endorses a candidate unless everyone in the organization has been spoken for.

See **Yell** on page 2



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Junior yell leader candidates (from left) **Keaton Askew**, **Patrick Hebert** and **Jacob Scher** perform yell practice outside the Memorial

Student Center Tuesday afternoon. Elections will be held Wednesday and Thursday and students can vote online at [vote.tamu.edu](http://vote.tamu.edu).

## Courts grant amnesty period for outstanding warrants

By **Carrie Pierce**  
THE BATTALION

The Bryan and College Station Municipal Courts are granting an amnesty period from April 5 to 16 for citizens with outstanding warrants in Brazos County.

This amnesty period will allow for those with warrants to make their payments without having to pay the \$50 warrant fee, said **Ed Spillane**, presiding College Station Municipal Court judge. "This is done annually because people forget or aren't aware that they need to come in within 10 days to make a plea," Spillane said.

During this county-wide amnesty period, citizens must come to court and take care of their violations,

Spillane said.

"We would like to reduce the number of outstanding warrants and give individual an opportunity to take care of their business," said **Hilda Phariss**, court administrator for the Bryan Municipal Court.

**Lt. Wayland Rawls** of the Bryan Police Department said citizens with warrants have received notification, and that now they can take care of them during this period.

"You are notified of the course of action," Rawls said. "Follow through with your responsibility."

After the amnesty period ends, local law enforcement will start a "warrant roundup," focusing their pursuit on

See **Amnesty** on page 2



ART WRIGHT • THE BATTALION

Students stage a "Boston Tea Party" while wearing Indian make-up Thursday afternoon at Rudder Fountain. The stu-

dents were protesting the fee referendum that will be included in Wednesday and Thursday's student body elections.

## 'Boston Tea Party' Students claim unfair representation

By **Rhiannon Meyers**  
THE BATTALION

Imitating the Boston Tea Party, 10 unnamed students dumped mock tea crates into Rudder Fountain and Fish Pond Tuesday afternoon in protest of the proposed student service fee increase and to promote making the Memorial Student Center president an elected position.

The students disguised themselves as Indians and dropped handmade crates with slogans written on them, including "No fee increases," "Boston Tea Party," "No fees without representation" and "Elect MSC President."

A student who refused to give his name, speaking only under the pseudonym "Dances with Fees," said the protest was done in imitation of the Boston Tea Party because students are not being represented fairly.

"We wanted to let the students know that we are not being represented because first, we don't vote for MSC president, and second, we do not support this fee increase," he said. "We are using the same type of moral principles as the Boston Tea Party."

The 65 cent fee increase and the election of MSC president referendums are on the election ballot Wednesday and Thursday. The Student Senate proposed the election of MSC president referendum at its meeting before spring break.

MSC President **Elizabeth Dacus**

said she did not agree with the purpose of the protest.

"I personally don't feel students are being inappropriately taxed, and as far as the MSC referendum, it is a very complicated system that the MSC runs under, and it is really not feasible to elect a president to the MSC," Dacus said.

**Matt Wilkins**, a senior philosophy major and speaker of the Student Senate, said that although he didn't see the protest, he agrees with the message.

"I can't comment on the protest because I don't know anything about it, but clearly students are angered by deceptive tactics being used to promote this fee increase," Wilkins said. "This fee increase has nothing to do with maintaining traditions unless you consider salary hikes and risk management to be Aggie traditions."

**Matt Maddox**, president of the Young Conservatives of Texas, said that although the YCT has been responsible for many protests against fees and tuition recently, this protest was not a YCT-sponsored event.

"YCT supports students speaking out in opposition of the fee increase, but we had no official involvement in this," Maddox said.

Student Body President **Matt Josefy** said this demonstration is an example of the variety of opinions regarding the fee increase on campus.

"I encourage students to make their views known," Josefy said.

See **Fee** on page 2

**Arrested Development**  
The Bryan and College Station municipal courts are granting an amnesty period beginning April 5 through April 16.

Citizens must come to court to take care of the violations.

After the amnesty period, a "roundup" period will begin focusing on people with class C misdemeanors.

City of Bryan Municipal Court  
979/209-5400  
3030 E 29th Street

City of College Station Municipal Court  
979/764-3683  
300 Krenck Tap Road

GRACIE ARENAS • THE BATTALION