

FORUM

THE BATTALION

Page 4B • Thursday, April 29, 2004

Building trust

New SBP pledges to keep promises

Another semester in Aggieland is on final approach, but the Student Government Association's year of work is preparing for takeoff. As I chart our course for the coming year, I would like to first thank the student body for the confidence it placed in me in this month's elections.



JACK HILDEBRAND

In retrospect, this past year SGA has accomplished much in the way of effectively meeting the needs of the student body. Some specific examples include the delaying of Hotard Hall's closing, as well as deferring large tuition increases for the students. However, as with any organization seeking achievement, SGA must push forward with continuous improvements.

Students can expect great things from SGA this year, and I am proud to report that fulfillment of our campaign platform is already underway. A promise made is a promise kept, and I intend to deliver on each one I have made.

But I won't be alone in keeping these promises. I have assembled a phenomenal team of Aggies who are committed not only to me and my vision, but also to you — students — and this great University. We are not vice presidents, executive directors or committee chairmen, but student advocates who are here solely to work for you. This team is motivated not by titles or glory, but by a desire to preserve and defend the University's tradition of excellence. Your interests are our interests, and we will keep them close to heart.

We as student advocates will walk with you, talk with you and dine with you as we listen to your opinions and heed your concerns. Our offices will be your residence halls, classrooms and meeting places, and our office hours will be any time, anywhere you want to meet. Tell us where to be, and then tell us what's on your mind.

My team is excited about the year ahead, and we are driven more than anything by our desire to serve. I hope you will take the time to

"I will respect, value and communicate all student opinions to the administration, regardless of the issue."

get to know us. There will be plenty of opportunity for that, as we plan to bring student government to you.

My pledge to you is a Student Government Association that truly is of, by and for the students. I will respect, value and communicate all student opinions to the administration, regardless of the issue. I will not rest until I have accomplished that which students seek, and that is a promise you can count on.

A year from now, I will judge my success not only by our tangible accomplishments, but also by your level of trust in student government. We will achieve our goals — of this I have no doubt. But we also will strive to earn your respect and confidence. If we fail in that cause, our year of work will have been without significance.

Our vision is for a better Texas A&M, one that has realized its storied past and chosen to preserve that legacy for the future. The students of Texas A&M and the generations yet to come deserve the best, "the spirit that can never be told."

That's what we will give, through tireless, passionate representation.

Jack Hildebrand is the student body president for the 2004-2005 school year.

Traditions make A&M a special place forever

As time goes by, Aggies are reminded of the greatness and power of the Aggie family — But have we really learned the significance of being an Aggie?

To fully appreciate this family, students must look beyond the exams, class projects and extracurricular activities that consume their collegiate lives.

As a student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences I have learned that, regardless of a department's size, one can still receive special treatment. In studying agricultural economics, I have been frequently challenged to give my best in life.

As the president of the International Student Association, I have been privileged to work closely with University President Robert M. Gates, vice presidents and student leaders. During this time, I have developed a great appreciation for the honorable work done behind the scenes to assure that A&M is a world-renowned university.

Despite the enriching academic environment that surrounds us, one's education is not complete until he experiences the Aggie traditions. A true Aggie knows that birds fly out of the trees after the first shots at Silver Taps. A true Aggie knows the overwhelming emotion of first putting on the Aggie ring. A true



JULIO JANA

Aggie embraces unfamiliar faces during Elephant Walk and Junior E-Walk. And only true Aggies come together to silently honor fallen Aggies from all over the world who are unable to ever join us again for Muster.

As graduation day approaches, a storm of mixed emotions washes throughout someone who has experienced A&M to its fullest. May 15 is rapidly approaching and, while I think I am finally ready to face the "real world," I find myself chained to my roots in Aggieland.

As a Brazilian, I cannot relate to the first phrase of the cliché that says "Texan by birth — Aggie by the Grace of God," but I can certainly identify myself as being an Aggie. Being thousands of miles away from my homeland has made me appreciate even more this sense of belonging.

Being part of an institution that strives to be more diverse and welcoming while maintaining and enhancing our traditions, makes me the proudest fightin' Texas Aggie. As I move on with my life, I am unspeakably thankful to A&M for building the strong Aggie family I will need to be successful in life.

As an ambassador of A&M, I will always wear my Aggie ring in appreciation for what this University has given me. I shall also never forget the friends, the lessons and the true significance of being an Aggie.

Julio Jana is the president of the International Student Association.

MAIL CALL

Archery program should not be cut

The archery program should not be cut to club status. It appears we are the opposite of Robin Hood in that we steal from the poor and give to the rich. The archery program has given A&M some hope for athletics by having a quality program, which includes one of

the best athletes ever to play in her sport. This has given A&M a good name all over the world, and I think it is important that archery be continued.

Byrne must think everything will be OK because the team and incoming freshmen will maintain their scholarships. They came here to compete, and if it moves to a club sport do you really think

the program has much of a future? I guess my bottom line is that I understand this is a business, but this is not professional sports, our athletes do not get paid. Maybe Byrne should consider this, what if his salary was only from private funding?

*Lamar Miller
Class of 2005*

A Cinco de Mayo Celebration!
Entertainment, Dancing, Food, & a Jalapeño eating contest!

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When: Sunday May 2nd
Time: 1:00PM till the mic turns off (7:00PM)
Where: George BUSH Presidential Library and MUSEUM
For more information call 845-1515 or visit
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