



SBP turns down Greek block

Proposal would have reserved 3,000 Kyle seats

By Chelsea Sledge
THE BATTALION

A proposal to organize Greek block seating at football games was recently turned down by Student Body President Jack Hildebrand, who originally pledged his support for the proposal at the end of spring semester, said Greg King, president of the Interfraternity Council.

"The football games are not about groups or what organization you're in. Once we enter Kyle Field, we are all a part of the 12th man there to support our football team," Hildebrand said. "This is not a decision I made by myself. I contacted student leaders, and this is the resonating opinion. I offer my support to Greek life just as I do to the other 41,000 students. I am not turning my back on (Greeks). I support their endeavors."

The proposal, written by Grant Soderberg, former vice president of Campus and

Community Relations for the Interfraternity Council last spring, designated 3,000 seats on the first deck of Kyle Field as reserved block seating for members of the A&M Greek community as well as an area for Greek tailgating prior to football games.

The plan was designed to promote interaction among the four components of the Greek Life body on campus: the Interfraternity Council, Collegiate Panhellenic Council representing sororities, National Pan-Hellenic Council, the governing body of African American sororities and fraternities and Multicultural Greek Council representing other fraternities and sororities, said Erich L. Sowell, vice president of Campus and Community Relations for IFC.

"One of our biggest problems in the Greek community is that we don't do enough cross programming," King said. "(This proposal) would be something

physical to show Greek unity."

The Greek system is the second-largest student organization on campus, almost doubling the membership of the Corps of Cadets. The A&M Greek community boasts almost 3,000 active members, accounting for approximately 10 percent of the entire student population, according to the Greek Life Web site.

Despite large numbers, membership among sororities and fraternities has dropped in recent years. The A&M sorority chapter average was down from 199 members only three years ago to 167 members in the spring of 2004. Fraternity membership had a 40 percent decline in the past three years, King said.

"Membership has dropped, but more importantly, I feel like we have all lost touch with each other," said Erin Weigle, social chairman for Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

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J-majors advised to take initiative

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

Dean of Liberal Arts Charles Johnson met with journalism majors Tuesday night to discuss their options for graduating with a degree in journalism, despite the closure of the department last spring.

"We are not walking away from journalism," Johnson said. "Indeed, we will have some new exciting options for you. We are here to support you as a journalism major, and we are offering you advice."

Don Curtis, liberal arts assistant dean, provided the students with a list of journalism courses that will still be offered in the fall and spring semester.

"For those of you who still need a lot of journalism classes, we encourage you to knock these out in the next two semesters," Curtis said. "We're not trying to make this difficult for you guys."

Curtis urged journalism students to reexamine their fall schedules and to take more journalism classes if they can.

Johnson encouraged students to go to class, saying that the new journalism classes will be quality classes.

"They will make your journalism degree from Texas A&M just as strong as a degree from any other University," Johnson said.

Curtis also said all journalism majors will be blocked from spring registration until they meet with an adviser from undergraduate student services in the College of Liberal Arts.

"It is vital for you guys to come in and talk to us," Curtis said.

"We want to make sure you are taking the classes you need."

Randall Sumpter, associate professor of journalism, said an interdisciplinary journalism minor is planned but pending Faculty Senate approval. The minor would include core journalism classes and professional development classes. The minor would also require an internship in the journalism field and

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"We're not trying to make this difficult for you guys."

— Don Curtis
liberal arts assistant dean

Student charged in felony case of fire mischief

By Emily Guevera
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M student was charged with criminal mischief, a state jail felony, on Aug. 18 after a PDA (palm pilot), microwave and computer were destroyed.

The trial for Jason Lee Coleman is still pending as the district attorney's office continues to collect case reports and interviews surrounding the case, said a representative of the district attorney's office, who would not reveal her name.

Maj. Bert Kretzschmar of the University Police Department said the incident occurred on Aug. 10 at 11:33 p.m. and resulted in a fire in Room 203 of Hughes Hall in the FHK complex.

"There were several individuals, including Coleman, who were in a disagreement. Coleman supposedly put what they call a PDA inside a microwave, and it caught on fire," Kretzschmar said.

Kretzschmar said Coleman also damaged a computer by pouring a soft drink on it.

Sophomore Chase Jackson, a Hughes Hall resident, said he smelled burning plastic and the dorm's fire alarm went off, causing an evacuation of the dorm.

Jackson said he did not hear an explosion before the evacuation.

"I thought that it was a regular drill, and my friend was like, 'it's real,'" Jackson said.

"It was very hectic and happened very quickly," said FHK Hall Director Maggie Ferguson. "Police were alerted by phone and the fire alarm."

Coleman later confessed that he was responsible for the incident, Kretzschmar said.

"(Coleman) came to us almost right away, the 11th or 12th (of August)," Kretzschmar said.

Coleman was not arrested until officers completed the investigation, discussed the incident with the district attorney's office and obtained a warrant, Kretzschmar said.

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Eye on the sack



DAVE MORRIS • THE BATTALION

Junior business major **Derrick Oliver**, left, kicks a Hacky Sack to sophomore molecular and cell biology major **Jacob Gage**, outside Harrington Tower Tuesday. **Oliver** and **Gage** frequently play Hacky Sack between classes.

Aggie soldiers' bodies found after 30 years

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

The bodies of two Aggies who fought in Vietnam were recently discovered more than 30 years after they gave their lives for their country. The bodies of Capt. Carl Long, Class of 1966, and 2nd Lt. Donald Matocha, Class of 1967, are returning to the country after being discovered in Vietnam.

According to a Department of Defense report, Long, a casualty of a CV-10 crash in the Vung Tar Republic in December of 1969, was recovered by the Department of Defense and identified by the name inscribed inside his Aggie ring.

Long will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Sept. 16. Matocha, a former member of company A-2, died in action in April of 1968 when the Viet Cong ambushed his reconnaissance company.

According to an account by eyewitness Hospital Corpsman Stan Sellers, Matocha was shot and killed instantly in a firefight on Dong Ma Mountain. Due to heavy enemy fire, his body was not available for immediate recovery.

The People's Army of Vietnam later buried Matocha's body in a bomb crater. One of the men who helped bury him, farmer Nguyen Van Loc, reported the burial to the army's POW/MIA office in Hanoi in 1996.

Matocha will be buried in his hometown of Smithville, Texas Sept. 18 after meeting a Marine honor guard in Austin on Sept. 16.

Classmate and former member of Squadron 11 Mickey Batsell used to attend mass with Matocha and said that Matocha had the spirit of a true Aggie.

"We used to go to mass almost every morning during Lent when we were fish," Batsell said. "One, because we needed all the spiritual guidance we could get, and also because it was a way to get out of morning formation."

"He was kind of quiet, but he was the model Aggie. He did what he was supposed to do when he was supposed to do it. He was the nicest guy you could ever hope to meet. Someone you'd want, as we say in the military, to 'cover your six.'"

The sacrifices of Long, Matocha and the more than 100 Aggies who died in Vietnam are not forgotten by current cadets in the Corps.

"We as cadets hold a great deal of respect for our fellow Ags who passed away in our country's past wars," said Corps public relations officer Charles Glover. "John 15:13 says 'Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his country (friends),' and we hope we can all live by their example."

Aggie Soldiers



Two former students who were killed in action during the Vietnam War are now being returned to the United States for burial.

Capt. Carl Long, Class of 1966

Will be buried at the Arlington National Cemetery on Sept. 16

2nd Lt. Donald Matocha, Class of 1967

Will be buried in his hometown of Smithville, Texas on Sept. 18

ANDREW BURLISON • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: CHARLES GLOVER, CORPS PR OFFICER

First lady hails husband's fight against terrorism

By David Espo
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Republican National Convention co-stars Laura Bush and Arnold Schwarzenegger commended President Bush to the country for four more years Tuesday night, hailing him as a man of strength leavened by compassion. "You can count on him, especially in a crisis," said the first lady.

"He's a man of perseverance. He's a man of inner strength. He is a leader who doesn't flinch, doesn't waver, does not back down," added the Austrian-born California governor in a speech that also promised recent immigrants they are welcome in the GOP.

"We Republicans admire your ambition. We encourage your dreams. We believe in your future," said the actor-turned-politician in one of several speeches crafted to show the softer side of a party known for its conservatism.

The effort to flesh out an image of the president as something more than a resolute commander in chief resulted in something akin to a prime-time Bush family hour, with twins Jenna and Barbara teasing their father gently in a brief, joint appearance at the podium. "We are so proud to be here tonight to introduce someone who read us bedtime stories, picked up carpool, made our favorite peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches and cheered for us when we made a goal, even when it was for the wrong team," Jenna said.

Schwarzenegger and the first lady took their turns at the Madison Square Garden podium as 2,508 delegates formally bestowed their nomination on the president for a second term in office. "Four more years," they chanted in unison — then and many times more throughout the night.



CHARLIE RIEDEL • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Sen. **Bob Dole**, left, talks with former President **George Bush** during the second day of the Republican National Convention, Tuesday in New York.

Republicans met inside their heavily fortified convention hall as police made more than 560 arrests in the surrounding streets on a day heavy with non-violent protest. By evening, authorities wrapped an entire midtown Manhattan block in orange netting, working to

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