

THE BATTALION



A&M volleyball's 3-0 win over Texas State has family ties

Volume 111 • Issue 9 • 12 pages

A Texas A&M Tradition Since 1893

www.thebatt.com

DESIGN BY: ELIZABETH N. WEBB

Hildebrand defends statement on Greek block

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

Student Body President Jack Hildebrand released a statement Monday in which he said he did not renege on any promises to the Greek system when he turned down a proposal that would institute block seating at home football games for nearly 3,000 members of campus Greek organizations.



HILDEBRAND

Interfraternity Council president Greg King said Hildebrand was originally in favor of the idea.

"When we met with (Hildebrand) at the end of the semester, he pledged his support," King said. "He said he needed to confirm the decision, but

we thought we had a shoe in the door because he was such a proponent of the proposal. We didn't hear from him and then, come to find out, he didn't sign it."

Hildebrand said students are receiving one-sided accounts of the Greek block controversy and that he did not retract any agreements with the Interfraternity Council.

"I am an advocate for Greek life and their issues," Hildebrand said in his statement. "However, from the beginning, I never promised to have a Greek block, nor do I choose to support the notion today. I have been consistent in my position since the campaign."

Hildebrand said he issued the statement to give an accurate account of what happened.

"(The statement) wasn't an emotional letter," Hildebrand said, "rather a detailed account of what happened."

According to Hildebrand's statement, the consensus among the Athletic Department and campus student leaders is "the block would only strengthen few at the cost of many."

"It's a small number that are angry," Hildebrand said. "For every negative, there's still 10 positives."

The only group on campus that currently has block seating is the Corps of Cadets. Athletic Department ticket office employee Nicole McCollough said the first 30 rows of sections 138-140 are set aside for the Corps.

"The (Greek) community is seeking campus recognition and I can't blame them for that," King said. "I support the body as a whole wanting to be recognized as a whole body."

Hildebrand added that he is still in support of a pre-game tailgate row for Greek life.

"As another student leader I can't discredit him for

making decisions he feels are necessary," King said. "I look forward to witnessing the further integration of Greeks in the student government as well as working with his support and creating a Greek tailgate."

Freshman biology major Amber James said she doesn't have a problem with the proposal, but that it might take away her chances of pulling good tickets for games.

"If they want to sit with their friends, I have no problem with that," Smith said. "But as a freshman, they're taking away our good seats."

Junior elementary education major Miranda Looney said she is against the Greek block.

"If the Greeks get their own block, every student group will want theirs, too," Looney said. "I don't have a problem with the Greeks personally but I think it would set a bad precedent."

Bring the funk



Sharon Aeschbach • THE BATTALION

Junior microbiology major Shellie Olaveson plays the mellophone with the Hullahaloo Band maroon section Tuesday night during the Texas A&M volleyball game at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The new Hullahaloo Band, which was organized

to play at volleyball and basketball games, plays various tunes — from traditional Aggie music to pop music and movie soundtracks.

ID changeover garners mixed student reactions

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

Due to the conversion from SSNs to Universal Identification Numbers (UIN), the Aggie Bucks and Aggie Card Office has begun issuing new Aggie cards to students, faculty and staff.

While some students are grateful for the increased security offered by the new cards, many are frustrated with the process.

Aggie Card Office Manager Bob Mask said changing cards is in students' best interest.

"We needed to make the card more secure," Mask said. "To do this we needed to change the look of the card."

The new Aggie cards include a larger picture, a randomized number (neither the SSN nor the UIN) encoded in the magnetic stripe and a bigger font.

In the spring of 2004, students were able to cast their votes and choose a card design that they liked best, but sophomore international studies major Hallie Pendleton said she isn't happy about the new look.

"The old Aggie card had character and vibrancy, and the new one is just plain," Pendleton said. "It seems that Aggieland traditions (lately), including the ID card, are being toned down to be like everyone else."

Mask disagrees with Pendle-

Student Recarding Schedule

Students will need to go by the Aggie Card Office in room 114 of the Pavilion.



- Aug. 30 to Sept. 24: Vet seniors and seniors not graduating in December
- Sept. 27 to Oct. 22: Juniors
- Oct. 25 to Nov. 19: Sophomores
- Oct. 25 to Nov. 19: Graduate students and freshmen not yet recarded

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: THE AGGIE CARD OFFICE

ton. He said the Aggie card still holds tradition.

"What are you calling a tradition?" he asked. "The block ATM is the symbol, if that's not making tradition I'm not sure what else is."

The Aggie Card Office prepared a schedule for students to come in and receive their new Aggie card. From Aug. 30 to

See Cards on page 2

Aggies urged to recycle plastic bottles at Kyle Field through Earthpak competition

By Emily Guevara
THE BATTALION

The home football season will start this weekend, and with that comes trash. This season, win or lose, the stands will be cleaner.

The Earthpak Corporation will place 150 to 200 cardboard recycling bins around Kyle Field beginning Saturday in an effort to use the approximately 30,000 Dasani water bottles consumed and trashed per game.

The Texas A&M Athletic Department, Texas Environmen-

tal Action Coalition (TEAC) and the Student Government Association (SGA) will sponsor this project with Earthpak.

"My organization has been working on how to make recycling possible in Kyle Field for a year," said TEAC Vice President and senior marketing major Brian Keaveny.

Keaveny talked to several University departments this past year, but could not find a way that did not involve cleaning and drying each bottle, he said.

Recycling Meets Kyle Field



Texas A&M and UT are currently competing against each other in a bottle recycling contest which ends at the end of September.

- Crews will place 150-200 cardboard recycling bins around Kyle Field starting Saturday.
- Plastic bottles and cups must be placed in the bins or they will not be recycled.
- Plastic bottles can be taken to Traditions Bookstores in exchange for up to 12 percent off Earthpak backpacks.

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: SCOTT FIGUEROA
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF EARTHPAK

See Recycle on page 10

Residence hall hits all-time low residency

By Luke Jackson
THE BATTALION

Spence Hall, a Southside women's residence hall located on the quad, is filled to a six-year low of 50 percent resident capacity this semester. According to Matt Thomas, assistant director of Student Housing only 97 out of 197 rooms occupied this semester. Thomas said privacy issues played a role in this recent decrease in occupancies.

"I believe the students prefer private or semi-private bathrooms and showers over the communal ones that are in the Spence

dorms," Thomas said. "Our female residents (more so than men) do not like facilities with communal showers and bathrooms. Also, Spence is a corridor-style residence hall and (corridors) are the least requested of the dorm types here at Texas A&M."

Maggie Aguas, a sophomore psychology major who lived in Spence last year said noise was a reason that Spence wasn't right for her.

"I don't have anything against the Corps, but it's really loud around here," Aguas said. "It took me a week or two when I first moved in to get used to the yells and

the gunshots they sometimes set off."

Carmen Miranda, a sophomore psychology major and current resident of Spence, said the lack of privacy is also a problem.

"I really feel like there is a lack of privacy in Spence," she said. "The walls are paper thin, and we can hear almost everything going on outside our rooms and vice-versa."

However, Miranda said Spence does have positive factors that make it a favorable residence hall. She said the low cost of living in Spence compared with the other

See Hall on page 10

Wohlgemuth and Edwards debate issues

By Jibrán Najmi
THE BATTALION

Congressman Chet Edwards denounced tuition deregulation and attacked the record of opponent State Rep Arlene Wohlgemuth Thursday in a speech to Texas A&M students at the Earl Rudder Statue on campus.

"I am here today to oppose the unfair tax that has been placed on college students, Texas families and property taxpayers because of three policies supported by Rep. Wohlgemuth (which include) under funding of public schools, under-investment in higher education and tuition deregulation," Edwards said.

Edwards referred to tuition deregulation as a "backdoor tax upon college students and their families," and said he strongly opposed deregulation in the past and will continue to do so until the caps on tuition are restored.

"When the federal government created the land-grant college system, its goal was to make higher education affordable to students from working families," said Edwards, Class of 1974. "The Legislature has retreated from that policy and has reduced the state's share of an A&M student's cost to 27 cents per dollar."

Wohlgemuth held a campaign rally later that night to garner Republican support and watch President Bush accept the Republican nomination for the presidency.

"We had inherited during this last legislative session a \$10-billion budget shortfall from the Democrats, who had been in the majority in the Texas House since Reconstruction," Wohlgemuth said. "I believe we did a very responsible job of balancing the needs of this state."

Edwards also mentioned that he was able to attend A&M as a result of an athletic/academic scholarship and received his Masters in business administration from Harvard as a result of a student loan.

"I want present and future students at A&M, Blinn and other schools across our state and the nation to have the same opportunities I did to pursue their dreams," Edwards said.

Edwards said he has spoken to students who have taken extreme measures to pay for their education and put their dreams on hold.

"The dramatic hike in tuition has caused some students to set aside

See Edwards on page 2