



OPINION:
For peace and
posterity?
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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage is beginning its month-long celebration.

- Sept. 16: Mr. Lionel Sosa
"The Power of High Expectations"
MSC 201 - 7 p.m.
- Sept. 22: Ms. Anaka D. Rivera
"The Politics of Hispanic Education"
MSC 201 - 7 p.m.
- Sept. 29: Dr. Rogelio Saenz
"Educational Patterns of Latinos"
MSC 201 - 7 p.m.
- Oct. 6: Ms. Cortney Warren
"Eating Disorders in Hispanic Women"
MSC 201 - 7 p.m.
- Oct. 13: Dr. Edward Murguía
"On Fully Becoming an American, an
Aggie, and Latino/Hispanic"
MSC 201 - 7 p.m.

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: EMY HERNANDEZ

A&M celebrates Hispanic heritage

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

The Hispanic Presidents' Council (HPC) and Professional Hispanic Network (PHN) are hosting Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins Wednesday and ends Oct. 15.

Vice President for Hispanic Presidents' Council Elsa Rivera is ready for Hispanic Heritage Month.

"We are very excited because this year is the first year that we have been able to help in planning what will be going on over the month," Rivera said.

Sarah Peña, president of HPC said this is the first time an event of this magnitude has been put together.

"I strongly agree with President Gates and the faculty and staff," Peña said. "We need to diversify Texas A&M — all students need to be edu-

cated about different cultures."

HPC was founded in 1991 under the Department of Multicultural Services. It is a student-run organization that provides a network for Hispanic students and organizations to express their opinions and offer their services at A&M, serving as an umbrella support group for 14 Hispanic organizations. One of HPC's goals is to unite the Hispanic voice.

"One way we are going to do this is through Hispanic Heritage Month," Rivera said.

Peña said it's important that people come to the events to learn more about what being Hispanic truly means.

"When (Hispanics) have to fill out surveys we put 'Hispanic,' but that covers over 20 countries," Peña said. "We cover a large range of the world under one title. People need to know that."

Each week of Hispanic Heritage Month has a different theme, such as politics, education, health

and culture. On Oct. 15, H.O.W.D.Y (Hispanic Orientation Working on Developing Young A&M) will be closing Hispanic Heritage Month.

Emy Hernández, director of programs for HPC and member of the Hispanic heritage planning committee, has been planning Hispanic Heritage Month since the summer.

"We have different programs and events planned for each week as well as great speakers," Hernández said.

Events include two movies from different Hispanic countries each week and guest speakers, such as the media consultant for the 2004 Bush campaign, Lionel Sosa.

"This year is going to be bigger and better than last year," Rivera said. "We have everything people are looking for."

"Our goal is for everyone to participate, not only Hispanics, and come out and have a wonderful time," Hernández said.

A&M-Galveston

student shot in mouth

By Elizabeth Knapp
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M-Galveston student Rob Carson was shot in the mouth in the parking lot of his apartment complex Friday morning after he attended Midnight Yell on the Galveston campus to support the Aggie football team. A woman who was accompanying him was unharmed.

"I had a friend drop me off at my apartment around 2:45 a.m., and a guy came up to the door with a gun in his hand and asked for all of our money," Carson, a senior maritime administration major, said. "We complied, and I gave him my \$40."

Carson said the light of his cell phone in his hand was enough to panic the robber, causing him to shoot.

"I turned my head at the right moment and the bullet went through my upper left lip and through my right cheek just grazing my gum line," Carson said.

Carson said he fell down, stood up bleeding and started to run away with his friend while the robber tried to start the standard transmission vehicle with difficulty.

"The girl, who wishes to remain anonymous, was pretty shaken up because after I was shot, the gun was pointed at her," Carson said.

In an e-mail sent to A&M-Galveston students on Friday, Anthony Martinez, chief of police for the Galveston campus, urged students to use caution when out at night and to report suspicious activity to the police department or the campus police.

Galveston students are still surprised at the recent events.

"Rob and I are really good friends, so I was the first to know," said Chris Pinkston, a junior maritime administration major. "Since I was the first to hear, I got it in detail, and didn't just hear 'Rob was shot.' The things that went through my head were, 'What caliber could it have been to not do great damage?'"

Mary Allen, a senior marine biology major, said the shooting made students really think about their surroundings.

"I've never been in a town where so much crime happens," Allen said. "It is a scary place to live in, and you

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Question-and-answer



DAVE MORRIS • THE BATTALION

Graduate student Damian Medina talks to seniors Lindsay Anderson and Rosie Gonzales about voter registration during the Women's Open House at the Memorial Student Center

Tuesday afternoon. Anderson and Gonzales were also quizzing students on trivia about women in college and were giving prizes for correct answers.

Custodial staff honored for work

By Chelsea Sledge
THE BATTALION

Mary Richardson, a custodian at Texas A&M, doesn't make plans in life. Although she and her husband travel frequently, they have never planned a trip before leaving.

"We just get up and do it," Richardson said. "A lot of times when you make a plan, something else comes up."

Richardson received the surprise yesterday of being named A&M Custodial Employee of the Year at a ceremony held in Rudder Theater.

"Ms. Richardson is a shy, serious and kind person," said Doris Woods, custodial supervisor for Crew P. "I nominated her (for this award) for her professionalism and fairness. She is a good worker and gets to work 30 minutes early every day."

Richardson has been employed at the A&M Physical Plant Department as a custodial worker since February 1992. She was chosen from four other candidates in different custodial crews all nominated by their supervisors.

To receive the award, the employee must be working full-time for at least 12 months. Recipients are then chosen by their supervisor based on a point system in which they are

CUSTODIAL EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

The 2004 Custodial Employees of the Year were announced Tuesday morning. The ceremony was a part of International Housekeepers' Week.

Custodian of the Year
Mary Richardson

15 other custodians were recognized as the best among their work crews:

- Linda Schulz
- Juana Noyola
- Lucinda Sibrian
- Elida Ledezma
- Mary Morrow
- Janice Austin
- Louis C. Hartmann Jr.
- Irene Gonzales
- Heraclio Lopez
- Maria G. Duque
- Silveria De-Valadez
- Magarita Carreno
- Alejandra Lopez
- Venancia Calvo
- Maria D. Alvarado

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SOURCE: GINGER MELTON

awarded for qualities such as cooperation, adaptability, care of equipment, appearance of area and self-motivation.

Richardson began cleaning the John B. Connally Building in 1992 and now oversees the cleaning of 30 buildings on campus.

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Experimental hormone helps Aggie grow

By Luke Jackson
THE BATTALION

Stephen Thompson, a senior speech communication major at Texas A&M, grew from 5 feet 1 inch to 5 feet 9 nine inches tall from his junior year of high school to his junior year of college by using Human Growth Hormone (HGH), a synthetic growth hormone that causes muscles and bones to grow and is almost identical to the natural hormone produced by the pituitary gland in the brain.

"I would've never grown to a normal height if I hadn't used (HGH)," Thompson said.

Standing at 5 feet 1 when he was 17 did not sit well with Thompson who, despite having several friends in high school, wanted to feel more normal.

"It wasn't about vanity for me. I just wanted to grow to my potential height," said Thompson, who suffered from stunted growth.

Dr. Dana Hardin, an endocrinology researcher at Southwest Medical Center in Dallas, was recommended to Thompson during high school, and she has been experimenting with possible uses of HGH for more than a decade. Hardin's studies of HGH have been published since 1991.

HGH and its potential medical uses are still under debate. Possible short-term side effects include increased blood pressure,

fluid retention, carpal tunnel syndrome and joint pain. HGH is legally available by a prescription. Regular treatments can cost up to \$20,000 a year, Thompson said.

"There are several different disorders that HGH has shown progress at fighting," Hardin said. "For example, HGH is showing results when we treat patients with cystic fibrosis and diabetes. It's very exciting."

Ethical concerns regarding abuse of the drug have been raised as well.

"Some (people) say that HGH might be misused by people who simply want to be bigger or taller; That it might get out of hand. I'm totally against using HGH just to be more athletic," Thompson said.

Senior agricultural development major Garret Brenner attended high school with Thompson when he began using HGH.

"I was concerned at first about (Thompson) taking HGH because to me, HGH was in that 'gray area,'" Brenner said. "It was just a risk he felt he had to take."

Brenner said he doesn't blame Thompson for using HGH because his height was affecting his daily life.

"After he got his driver license, Stephen would get pulled over by police because they thought he was an underage driver," Brenner said. "At restaurants, he would sometimes get the

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Wohlgemuth vows to follow Bush

By Jibrán Najmi
THE BATTALION

State Rep. Arlene Wohlgemuth campaigned on campus Tuesday against her opponent, Chet Edwards, a 13-year veteran of the House of Representatives. Wohlgemuth touted her endorsements by various pro-life groups as well as the National Rifle Association (NRA). She also attacked Edwards' record as being liberal and "consistently in opposition to President Bush's policies."

"I don't try to hide my vote. I don't try to vote one way in Washington and

then come home and try to explain it to my district another way," Wohlgemuth said. "I will stand by my votes because my votes are a demonstration of the philosophy that I hold."

Wohlgemuth said Edwards was the wrong choice for Texas A&M and Brazos County because he disagreed with the president on numerous occasions. Gina Hollenbeck, the communications director for the Wohlgemuth campaign, said Wohlgemuth would adhere to the president's policies and platforms.

"Sixty-five percent of the citizens in this district support the president and

will vote for him," Hollenbeck said. "In being a good representative, Wohlgemuth will vote with the president and support (his) policies, as the president shares the values and views of the people ... who elected him into office."

Wohlgemuth said tuition deregulation was a painful vote for her. She said she supported tuition deregulation in order for universities to receive necessary resources.

"The alternative (to tuition deregulation) would have been to not allow the

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