

FORUM

Page 8 • Friday, September 24, 2004

THE BATTALION

MSC Council focusing effort to improve effect on campus



LINDSEY WILSON

At the beginning of every year, MSC Fall Leadership Conference offers one of the most incomparable experiences on campus: A chance for student leaders to have a conversation with Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates, his executive staff and the deans of each college. One piece of advice that Gates shared with this group was the importance of focus for an organization. As a result, the MSC Council has decided to focus on four areas: Integration with academic programs, student development diversity and collaboration with other student organizations.

The first priority, integration with academic programs, combines classroom learning with co-curricular development. There is a perception that knowledge gained inside the classroom and knowledge gained outside the classroom is mutually exclusive. But in fact, the most valuable learning experiences come from combining the knowledge and theories learned in the classroom with the skills developed in extracurricular organizations. MSC committees have historically involved professors in our programs and worked closely with colleges to ensure that their students are aware of these opportunities. In the future, MSC committees will continue to seek professors' advice as well as work with colleges to create and execute programs. The MSC strives to enhance the intellectual climate by providing experiences that involve academic skills and allow students to gain experience in a professional field. Our resource areas and committees help students identify and develop skills in areas that relate to their professional interests.

Constantly striving to integrate what students learn in their academic careers

with the knowledge of the faculty and staff can only enhance the educational experience for all members of the Texas A&M community. As a department of the Division of Student Affairs, the MSC is charged with providing students the opportunity for student development. Ethics, responsibility, dedication, commitment, possessing a character of integrity and developing leadership skills are all part of student development in the MSC. Students have many opportunities to develop themselves: chairing an MSC committee or resource area, organizing and executing programs, raising funds, facilitating the programming accountability process and many more. As the year goes on, we will be working on a way to track student development as well as finding innovative opportunities for students to grow in their journey to be a leader and serve others.

When Aggies embark on the professional world ahead of them, one skill that is paramount is the ability to work well with others. Experiences working on teams and in organizations should be one avenue for that preparation. The MSC strives to create an environment where students can develop their skills for a corporate world and it is crucial that we are providing a place where people can have those valuable experiences. Diversity is a priority to the MSC because we want to ensure that people feel free to share ideas and engage in conversations expressing their own opinions without the fear of being alienated.

The last, but definitely not least, of the priorities is collaborating with other student

organizations. Every year there is an influx of new officers to any organization and often organizations try to reinvent the verbal wheel. Collaborating with other student organizations allows us to learn from each other's successes and failures and combine resources. In the past, we have had many opportunities to work with other

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organizations. Every year there is an influx of new officers to any organization and often organizations try to reinvent the verbal wheel. Collaborating with other student organizations allows us to learn from each other's successes and failures and combine resources. In the past, we have had many opportunities to work with other student organizations and we will continue building relationships with more organizations to increase co-programming and truly see the needs of the Texas A&M community. Throughout this year, the MSC Council will be focusing on these four priorities. The purpose of the programming that occurs in the MSC is to educate and serve the students and community members of Texas A&M. We strive to create programs that will help enlighten, entertain and develop students into successful and aware Aggie Student comments are always welcome to continue providing this valuable service. Every student is invited to provide input and can do so through evaluation forms at any MSC Program or through e-mail. Visit the new MSC Web site (www.msc.tamu.edu) for upcoming programs and opportunities to learn about what is going on in the Memorial Student Center. I encourage any student that has suggestions or concerns to e-mail me personally at president@msc.tamu.edu.

Lindsey Wilson is MSC president and a senior education major.

MAILCALL

Pre-marital sex is not a failure

In response to Joshua Dwyer's Sept. 23 column:

Mr. Dwyer's column is patronizing to every person who has had sex before marriage. To compare the failure of having sex out of wedlock to dropping out of school is positively ludicrous.

Not everyone feels that having premarital sex is a mistake, and, as one of those people, I can tell you that I certainly do not appreciate being condemned because of someone else's arbitrary standards of morality.

I am also appalled at the implications that sex before marriage is purely physical and that those who participate in it are simply seeking physical gratification. Many who participate in premarital sex do so in loving relationships where there is much more involved than the selfish gratification Dwyer writes about. Mr. Dwyer needs to respect that the decision to have sex before marriage is something every person should be able to decide for him or herself without being criticized.

Amanda Kiser
Class of 2008

Rabies cases affect few bats

In response to Cindy McReynolds Sept. 21 column:

As a student of bat biology, my response to Ms. McReynolds' opinion is somewhat incredulous. Mexican free-tailed bats have been part of the Texas A&M scene since the Pavilion was a horse barn, and to my knowledge, no Aggie has been infected with rabies. Yes, bats — as well

as some people — can be a nuisance. Nevertheless, I see no reason to have a mass eradication of either, and I refuse to rely on the Montgomery County Animal Control Department for any statistics regarding the danger of these tailed chiropterans.

Out of the million of free-tailed bats, the frequency of rabies is less than the frequency of people over seven-foot tall.

It is wise for the administration to encourage avoidance of bats on the ground. This is not the bat's natural habitat and to

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Rodney L. Honeycutt
Department of Wildlife
Fisheries Sciences



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Break-the-Fast after sundown following Neilah and Havdalah Services
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Sukkot
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Simhat Torah
On the occasion of the Jewish New Year, The Jewish students of Texas A&M want to congratulate our University's administration and student leaders for their willingness to accommodate the religious needs of all of this university's student body and faculty. Texas A&M has truly become a beacon of tolerance and diversity for the entire nation.
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