

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## A&M claims Bullock's report is misleading

By SARAH OATES  
Staff Writer

State Comptroller Bob Bullock's remarks Monday that Texas colleges and universities have billions in local funds that only they can spend is a "misstatement of fact," Texas A&M University officials said Thursday.

In a speech to the Texas Daily Newspaper Association, Bullock said state colleges "have their noses in a \$3.4 billion bowl of gravy, which is in their bank accounts and which the legislature never sees."

The figures were based on a special financial report prepared by Bullock's office. State universities get local revenues from such sources as library fines, ticket sales to athletic events and dormitory rent, the report said.

Bullock said he no longer supported a college tuition increase after discovering the amount of local funds. But A&M officials said Bullock's report is misleading.

A statement issued Tuesday by the A&M System Comptroller's office to clarify points made in Bul-

lock's report "tells the story pretty well," A&M Chancellor Arthur Hansen said.

"We've studied the report in detail," he said, "and there are a couple of misstatements of fact we've attempted to point out."

"Bullock tried to show something was discovered, which is not true. That money has always been there. The legislators know the story."

Hansen said the local funds, most of which pay for services not provided by the state, cannot be rechanneled into other budgets, such as tuition.

"The implication about tuition is that it could come from local funds, but the local funds are not a slush fund," Hansen said. "We could raise dorm fees, for example, but it would be unfair to penalize students. You just can't do that."

A&M President Frank Vandiver said the local funds are not "new money," but are part of the cost of running the University.

"I think the problem is the comptroller has identified a body of

money that has always been used for the University," he said. "It's part of the cost of running the University and I'm surprised he's only just now found it. What we tried to emphasize is that clearly, there is nothing hidden."

"Local funds are essential because they're flexible. If that money was taken back into the state treasury, we'd just have to get it back out again because it's already earmarked and budgeted for long down the road."

Bullock's report stated no Permanent or Available University Funds are included in the local funds.

A&M System Comptroller William A. Wasson said over \$111 million or 45 percent of the \$247 million in local funds is AUF money given to A&M by the Legislature. Additionally, \$38 million of PUF bond revenues go to local funds for System administration.

The report also said colleges can raise their fees at will and that most fee money is put into local funds

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Death March

Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Sigma Alpha Epsilon member Mark Rudolph pays his last respects to Paddy Murphy, alias Steve Stonecipher, in Thursday's

bogus funeral promoting a SAE party. Murphy was an SAE bootlegger killed by Al Capone's gang during Prohibition.

## A&M computer sales worry local vendors

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M's new microcomputer acquisition program, designed to provide students, faculty and staff with significant discounts on microcomputers, has angered some local computer vendors and raised the possibility that some of them may be driven out of business.

"I think it really stinks," says David Lethe, vice president for Digital Computing Systems. "The University should not compete in the business market. If they're going to do that why don't they just start selling cars or anything else. Why computers? Why pick on that field? There's no logic behind it. The next thing they can do is put up a university store, a grocery store or compete in automobiles. They shouldn't be in that business."

Associate Vice Chancellor William Wasson says the University does not intend to compete with local businesses in any other areas.

"We have no intention of selling things like cars," Wasson says. "We're selling computers because they are important to our curriculum. They are absolutely essential." If some retailers go out of business, Wasson says, he does not believe it will be because of the University's actions.

A&M's program gives discounts between 25 percent and 44 percent on certain Apple, AT&T, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Zenith microcomputers. The University is able to sell the terminals at a discount by purchasing the equipment in large volumes. Those savings are then passed on to the buyer. Smaller businesses that don't place large orders usually can't offer the same discounts, and local businessmen say their sales have suffered.

Judy Wright, president of Yes Computers, says she expects the University to "drastically change the retail environment of Bryan-College Station."

"It's hard to determine what the

### Microcomputer center to open Monday in MSC

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD  
Staff Writer

The new microcomputer acquisition center will open Monday in the recently renovated section of the student textbook store in the Memorial Student Center basement.

And the plan to locate the new computer store in the area now occupied by Rumours appears to be on hold.

When Texas A&M began its

microcomputer acquisition program, part of the proposal included finding a permanent site for a computer store. A&M System administrators wanted to locate the store in Rumours, but heavy opposition to the plan from various MSC committees has forced the new center to locate in temporary quarters.

The renovated section in the basement will house the center

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exact impact will be," Wright says. "We haven't sold one Macintosh (computer) since the program started. The reason I can't match the Macintosh price is because Apple

Computer is selling it to the University for less than I can buy it. Actually, they are selling it to the students for less than I can buy it." Wright says she expects some computer ven-

dors to be driven out of business. Although Yes Computers does not sell the Macintosh through the University, they do sell the Apple IIc and the Apple IIe through the program. Other vendors who don't use the program worry about competing with the University.

Bert Frenz, Computerland owner, says the market for computers is strong enough to support small vendors, but not in competition with the University. He maintains local dealers will be in trouble from the competition.

"We are disturbed by the microcomputer acquisition program," Frenz says. "We are in conference with the University in examining the long-range effect this program has."

Computerland recently began offering 38 percent discounts on IBM, AT&T and Compaq systems. Frenz would not comment on how his store can offer discounts larger than the University's.

Some vendors worry not only about competition from the University in hardware, but also about competition in selling the actual computer programs. According to Wasson, when the University began planning for the microcomputer program, it agreed not to sell large amounts of computer software. But, some software is available through the University program, and that has at least one vendor worried.

"Software (competition) would hurt the most," Lethe says, "because there is going to be a lot of pirating. The situation is ripe for that type of environment. We've even seen it on campus."

If the University starts offering more software, Lethe says, some retailers would be reduced to providing maintenance and support services.

"There's little money in that," Lethe says. "Support is answering questions and fixing little problems and things like that."

## Candidates discuss role of A&M students

By TAMARA BELL  
Staff Writer

The role of students and Student Government in the Texas A&M administration's policy-making process was discussed by candidates for student body president Thursday night.

The five candidates at the debate agreed Student Government should act as an intermediary between the student body and the administration in order to accomplish policy-making goals. A sixth candidate, Jeff Danzinger, was unable to attend because of a death in the family.

Speaking to a crowd of about 40 people, the candidates said Student Government needs to work to get students involved in campus activities.

Responses differed, however, when the candidates were asked what programs they would emphasize within Student Government.

Bob Stephan, a senior mechanical engineering major, said he would make changes within the individual branches of government.

"There should be committees within the executive branch that deal with the concerns of the minorities," he said.

Brett Shine, a junior finance major, said the current Student Government constitution is restrictive. Shine said he would reconstruct the three branch system by getting rid of the judicial board.

"In an ideal situation, I would consolidate the executive and legislative branches to create a system



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Presidential candidates are (from left): Madelon Yanta, Bob Stephan, Mike Cook, Sean

Royall and Brett Shine. Jeff Danzinger was absent because of a death in the family.

that stresses working together," Shine said.

Mike Cook, a junior economics major, said he would put less emphasis on government committees

that subscribe to bureaucratic "mumbo jumbo."

Madelon Yanta, a junior finance major, said she would increase external communication by emphasizing

Muster, the Big Event, and other campus-wide activities.

Sean Royall, a junior economics

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## Reagan wants super summit, MX funds

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, renewing an offer to meet with newly installed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said Thursday night it is "high time" for a super-summit and that there is a good chance it will take place.

Reagan, speaking at his third televised news conference in as many months, appealed to the Democrat-controlled House of Representative to approve funds for the MX missile

in a pair of votes next week. He said there is little prospect of success at arms control talks with the Soviets in Geneva without congressional approval for 21 additional missiles.

"No request by an American president for a major strategic system deemed vital to the national security has ever been denied by an American Congress," said Reagan.

On other domestic matters, the president said that when he meets Senate Republican leaders today, he

will be prepared to discuss changes in his unpopular fiscal year 1986 budget. But he seemed to rule out canceling next year's Social Security cost-of-living increase, as some senators want. And he said further cuts in his defense budget "run the risk of lowering our capability at preserving national security."

Reagan also described the police shootings of black demonstrators in South Africa as "tragic," but said the racial troubles in that nation result in

part from those who want "violence in the streets."

In addition to his desire to engage in a superpower dialogue, the president said the United States is willing to meet with a joint Palestinian and Jordanian delegation to promote peace in the Middle East, so long as the Palestinian Liberation Organization is excluded. But he ruled out direct American involvement in peace talks.

Even as he appealed for biparti-

san support for his MX missile, Reagan set up a fresh confrontation with Congress when he said he would oppose an extension of federal unemployment benefits for those whose state payments have run out.

The president also said the closure of 71 state-insured savings and loans institutions in Ohio had no national implications. "This is not a major threat to banking systems, and not a problem anywhere else," he said.

## Seat belt bill gets tentative approval

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Senate on Thursday tentatively approved a bill that would require persons riding in the front seat of automobiles and most pickup trucks to strap on a seat belt.

Sponsor Ted Lyon, D-Mesquite, predicted the bill would save "tons of dollars" and 1,000 lives in Texas next year.

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## Correction

In Thursday's Battalion the story about Sully's Symposium incorrectly reported a statement from student body president candidate Sean Royall.

The story incorrectly said that Royall said knowledge of issues is not what is important, but rather knowing who to talk to.

However, what Royall said was that knowledge of the issues is only half of the issue for the student body president. He said the other half of the issue is being able to work with the policy makers because they are the ones who can make a difference.

The Battalion regrets the error.