

Aggie credit union
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Upset city in Kentucky
Villanova shocks nation, Georgetown

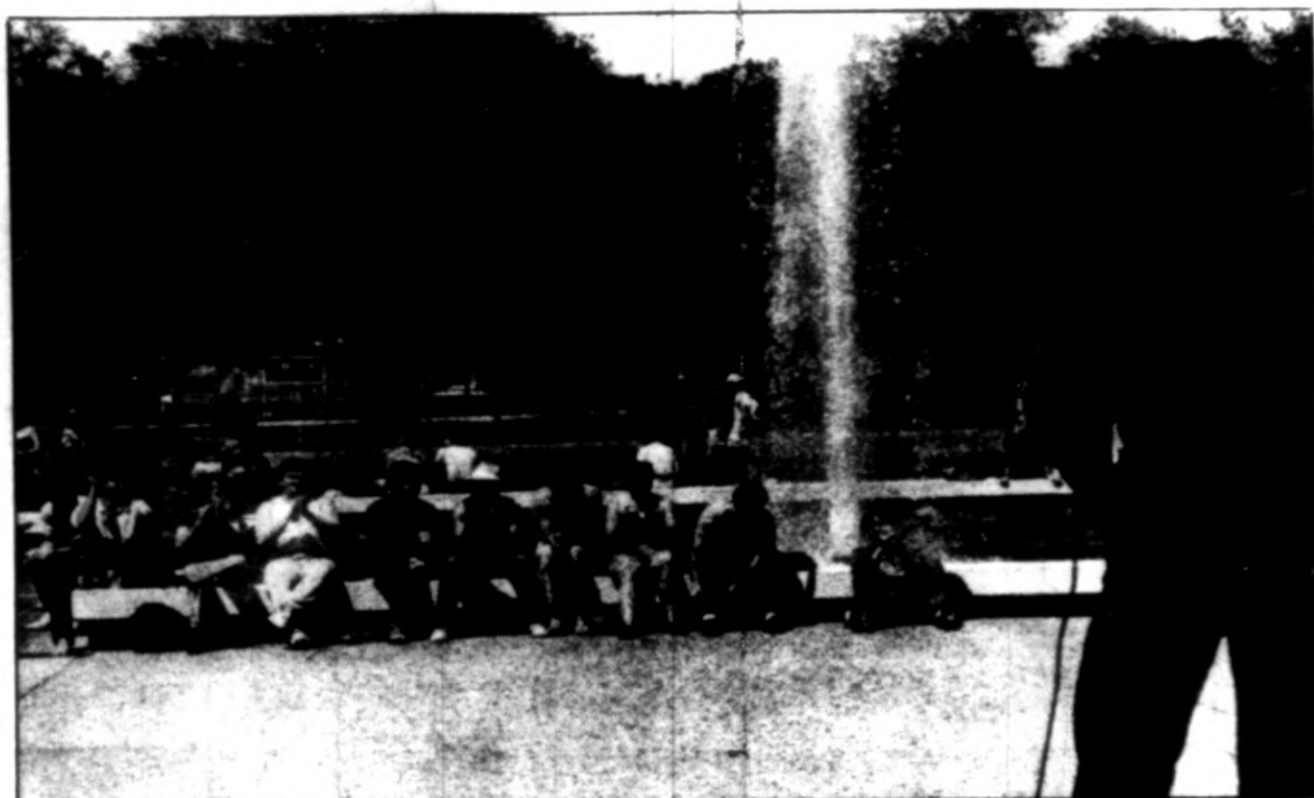
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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photos by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Forum

Marco Roberts, president of Gay Student Services, (above) announces the U.S. Supreme Court decision to let stand a lower court ruling in the Texas A&M-GSS case. The audience of about 35 people at Rudder fountain responded to Roberts announcement with applause during a forum on civil rights of homosexuals which was sponsored by Political Forum and Great Issues. Debbie Brown, vice president of GSS, also spoke and later (right) answered questions from people who attended the forum.



U.S. Supreme Court lets GSS ruling stand

By KARI FLUEGEL
Assistant City Editor

Gay Student Services won what would appear to be the last round in the battle for recognition Monday when the U.S. Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling stating that Texas A&M must recognize the group.

But Ted Hajoovsky, system general counsel, said the University will pursue any alternate legal avenues available.

Monday morning the University received word that the U.S. Supreme Court would not hear its case against GSS. The court cited a lack of jurisdiction in the matter.

By doing so, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' August ruling, which states the University must recognize the group, stands.

As of Monday afternoon, the system had not yet received a copy of the ruling, Hajoovsky said.

As soon as a copy of the ruling is available, system representatives will meet with their lawyers to discuss alternate legal action.

"There aren't many (alternatives), but some that we want to explore," Hajoovsky said. "If all processes of appeals have been extinguished, we will comply."

"A&M has a history as being good soldiers and as a good soldier, we will comply."

Hajoovsky said that the system was "naturally disappointed" about the decision and that he was concerned about what the outcome implies. He said the ruling opens up questions regarding how far an administration

can go in regulating student conduct.

Hajoovsky said this case was unique because it was based on sexual preference as a legitimate concern.

"This took a different twist," Hajoovsky said, "that basically it was a social, not a First Amendment case."

Hajoovsky said the Supreme Court's decision not to hear the case is not unusual, considering the number of cases submitted to the court each year.

While system officials were disappointed, Marco Roberts, president of GSS, said members of the group felt "elated and happy."

"We're nervous, but very excited," he said. Roberts added he hoped the

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Amount of tuition hike unresolved

Delco says fight not over

By JERRY OSLIN
Staff Writer

The chairman of the House Higher Education Committee said Monday, "The tuition fight is not over; it has just begun."

State Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, told about 100 people in Rudder Forum that she will oppose a plan by Lt. Governor Bill Hobby that would raise tuition for resident students even higher than a bill recently passed by the Texas House.

"I can't tell you that we are going to win this concern," she said. "But win, lose or draw, I can assure you that they'll know that they've been in a whole of a fight."

According to Delco, Hobby's plan would raise resident tuition from the current \$4 per semester hour to \$12

for the 1985-86 school year. Hobby's plan would then increase tuition to \$16 for the 1986-87 year and to \$24 per year for 1987-88. After that, in-state students would pay tuition equal to 20 percent of their education costs.

The cost of a student's education would be defined by the state college and university coordinating board.

Currently, resident students pay 2 percent to 3 percent of their education costs through tuition.

Delco said she opposes any plan that indexes tuition to the cost of a student's education.

With indexing, the coordinating board redefines the cost of education every year. A student will not know how much he is going to have to pay for tuition, Delco said.

"It's important to me that we give students an idea of what tuition is going to cost," she said.

"It makes me nervous when you have somebody in a state agency defining costs."

The bill passed by the House was sponsored by Delco and would raise resident tuition to \$8 for 1985-86 and to \$14 for 1986-87. Tuition would then increase \$2 per hour every year until it reached \$20 per semester hour.

The House's bill would set aside 25 percent of all tuition for student financial aid. The bill still faces Senate approval.

Hobby's plan calls for 9 percent of

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Crash victim's family looks for witnesses

By ANN CERVENKA
Staff Writer

Six months after two Texas A&M students were killed in train collisions on Hollerman Drive near Wellborn Road, one of the victim's family is looking for witnesses of the accident.

Lynn Cash McDonald was killed when a Missouri Pacific Railroad train collided with his car on Sept. 21.

The previous night in a separate but similar accident, Katherine Hossley was killed when the car she was riding in collided with a Missouri Pacific train.

Doug Robinett, a friend of Mc-

Donald, said the family is looking for witnesses to find out how the accident happened.

"The family hasn't really heard anything about it," Robinett said. "It isn't revenge, it's a way to get things out in the open."

The McDonalds have filed a lawsuit against Missouri Pacific. John Benbow, attorney for the McDonald family, said the suit is for \$2 million.

"That's a ball park figure that we use to start with," Benbow said. He said the lawsuit against Missouri Pacific is for "mental anguish, pain and suffering" that the family and Lynn endured.

"However, they are more interested in seeing that this never happens to anyone again."

College Station has changed the intersection since the accidents by making the tracks more visible, but cannot add cross-bars or signals which are under jurisdiction of the railroad.

Robinett said the accident has been all but forgotten. He said the lawsuit could bring attention to the problem so that the intersection could be changed or closed.

"The reason the suit exists is because the crossing is so dangerous,"

he said. "We want action. This is a possible way of getting it."

Robinett said he thinks witnesses will respond to the plea. "I'm very optimistic," he said.

Because the accident occurred on a Friday night at a well-traveled intersection near several apartment complexes and restaurants, Robinett thinks someone may have seen or heard the collision.

Benbow said that four witnesses have already been found.

"We have four witnesses that are outstanding," he said. "Two were

standing right there when it happened."

The witnesses' statements indicate that the car was not stalled on the tracks, the train was traveling fast and a whistle was not sounded until impact, Benbow said.

Robinett said witnesses would not be forced to testify, but any information would be welcomed by the family.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information is encouraged to call Doug Robinett at 696-0553 or Rhonda Wilburn at 696-9153 at any time.

Election finalists to square off

By JEFF L. BRADY
Staff Writer

Finalists in the election for student body president will lock horns for the last time on Wednesday as student voters select a leader for the coming year.

Run-off elections will also be held for the Resident Hall Association treasurer, the Class of '86 president and historian, Class of '88 treasurer and two senate positions.

Election Commission Representative Jim Collins said Monday night that polling locations on campus would be the same for the runoff as



Sean Royall



Mike Cook

for the first election: the Memorial Student Center Main Lounge, downstairs in the Pavilion and the A-1 lounge.

Collins also said he expects voter turnout Wednesday to be "significantly less" than that of last week.

Finalists in the election for stu-

dent body president are Mike Cook and Sean Royall.

Lynne Radcliffe and Laura Walstead are running for RHA treasurer.

Running for Class of '86 president are Pre Ball and Mark Faegins and either Traci Ryan or John Bond will be the new Class of '88 treasurer.

Committee favors fee-hike package

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Stymied in attempts to limit spending, the House Appropriations Committee turned its attention Monday to collecting more money to spend.

The panel voted tentative approval to a \$200 million fee-hike package that would dip into the pockets of drivers, wrestlers, would-be embalmers, people who like their license plates to say clever things, and other Texans.

Even with legislative approval of fee and college tuition hikes, the House committee is about \$50 million short of a balanced budget, according to Chairman Jim Rudd and Speaker Gib Lewis.

"That's short of being in balance," said Lewis. "I'd like to go in with

about a \$30 million to \$50 million cushion."

Lewis assembled the appropriations committee for a 7 a.m. meeting in the members' lounge. He said it was nothing more than a pep rally.

"It's pretty discouraging when you're running up against a wall every time you look around. When you're \$200 million or \$300 million short you need a little pep-ping up," the speaker said.

The early morning meeting was not posted as required by House rules, but Dick Merkel, Lewis' press aide, said he notified reporters of the meeting on Friday.

Committee members overwhelmingly voted down a proposal to take more money out of their own political pockets by rejecting a \$5 fee for filing campaign finance reports.

Some students may need to find education alternatives

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Education Secretary William J. Bennett denied Sunday that proposed federal budget cuts for student aid will result in "fewer people going to college," but said some may have to find alternative education.

Some college students may be forced to move to less expensive institutions, he said. "Don't assume that public institutions... are less good than private institutions," Bennett said.

The newly appointed secretary was among officials discussing a broad variety of education topics on the ABC-TV program "This Week With David Brinkley."

The others were Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas, whose state just tested its teachers for competency; Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of the National Education Association; and Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers.

On another topic, Clinton said no results were available yet from his state's competency test.

Futrell portrayed the teacher tests as "morally unjust."

Evaluating teachers after they are certified is "changing the rules in the middle of the game," she said.

Shanker, who is championing the cause of higher teachers' wages, said, "Mr. Bennett seems to think if we just give speeches about morality and tough standards, that will do it."