

The Battalion

Vol. 92 No. 174 (6 pages)

1893 - A Century of Service to Texas A&M - 1993

Thursday, July 15, 1993

Texas A&I alumni battle regents over name change

By STEPHANIE PATTILLO

The Battalion
Five Texas A&I University alumni and one student fighting to keep the school's name from changing to Texas A&M University-Kingsville filed a lawsuit Tuesday alleging the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents violated the Texas Open Meetings Act when they voted to rename several of the system's institutions in March.

School supporters file lawsuit charging A&M System violated Open Meetings Act

of the lawsuit, but it has not been filed with the System. She declined to comment on the suit because the System's attorneys are just now reviewing documents.

Effective Sept. 1, Texas A&M University will be Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Corpus Christi will be Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Laredo State will be Texas A&M International University. The name changes were made to reflect a strong association with the Texas A&M System.

But Doug Vannoy, executive director of the Texas A&I Alumni Association from 1980-1991, disagrees with the regents' name change decision.

Vannoy is a member of the political action committee called the Allied Alumni of Texas A&I University that formed in May to restore the

"appropriate and official" name to Texas A&I University.

He said he'd like to see the regents reverse their decision on changing Texas A&I's name, but Regent Bill Clayton said this won't happen.

"The Board won't go back and address this issue at all," he said.

Vannoy said, "We're angry and we won't get over it until they do the right thing."

He said he was only given three days notice of the Board meeting that determined the name changes.

"If that's what the System is about then when don't need it," he said. "They made specific promises, and if they are unwilling to do that then the bottom line is that we don't want to be in the system."

Dr. Bob Kirby, Texas A&I provost, said he had no knowledge

of the A&I alumni's threat to secede from the Texas A&M System.

"We know this is an emotional issue, but it was the Board of Regents' decision to change the name of the institutions," he said.

Although some of Texas A&I's alumni are against the name change, the school's administration agrees with the regent's decision.

"We're prepared to support the name change Sept. 1," Kirby said. "Every institution would like to have their alumni's support, but we don't know how this will play out."

Clayton said although he understands this is an emotional issue with the Texas A&I alumni, it is not possible for the group to investigate the move of Texas A&I from the A&M System.

"The alumni is not running the institution," he said. "The decision

to change the name was for the betterment of the students."

But Texas A&I alumni and committee member Ken Perkins said, "I don't think it does anybody any good."

"There is one A&M and one Texas A&I," he said. "We have a lot of tradition. We have 25,000 alumni, and we don't want to become a new university with a new name."

Vannoy said his group is not an anti-A&M organization.

"We are not ashamed to be part of the A&M System, but we have great pride and satisfaction in the name Texas A&I and what it means to people," he said.

Vannoy said about 1,500 Texas A&I supporters have contacted regents to express their opposition to the change or have donated

money to the committee.

"We have enough money to make our effort last as long as the regents cause it to last," he said. "This attempt to make sure the regents understand that they've caused more problems than they have solved."

Kirby said he didn't know how large the Allied Alumni is, but he didn't believe it encompassed all the school's former students.

Vannoy said four years ago it was promised to the public that no name changes would be made without study and discussion.

"At the time the merger into the A&M System happened, we were assured that the name change would not be part of the practice."

But Clayton said although individuals may have made promises, the Board as a whole never promised anything about the name changes.

Mobley: no separate grad student gov't

By J.FRANK HERNANDEZ

The Battalion
Texas A&M President William H. Mobley decided Tuesday to keep Student Government the only representative body for all full-time and part-time students amidst disagreement from Graduate Student Council leaders.

Mobley approved all recommendations for 1993-94 Texas A&M University Regulations from the June 14 Faculty Senate meeting except proposed sections 76 and 77 which establish a Graduate Student Government separate from the existing undergraduate Student Government.

Student body president Brian Walker said he was satisfied with Mobley's decision and is prepared to bring the two bodies together.

"I think he recognizes the body should stay together as one," Walker said Wednesday.

But Bonita McMullen, executive coordinator of the National Association of Graduate Students and past council president, said she was disappointed but not discouraged by Mobley's decision.

"I don't see it as a set back for the Graduate Student Council," McMullen said. "I see it as a set back for the University."

The University's strategic goals include improving graduate education and increasing graduate enrollment, she said.

A Graduate Student Government makes that possible by giving the graduate students recognition and showing that graduate students are important, she said.

Walker met with Mobley to discuss the recommendations Friday, after presenting a proposal to the Graduate Student Council July 6.

Walker's proposal includes graduate senator seats elected by the Graduate Student Council. The council would also recommend graduate students for all University committees, an action currently handled by Student Government.

Eric Laine, Graduate Student Council president, said the council has never been a subset of Student Government and should remain separate.

They have remained separate because of Student Government's inability to attract graduate students, he said.

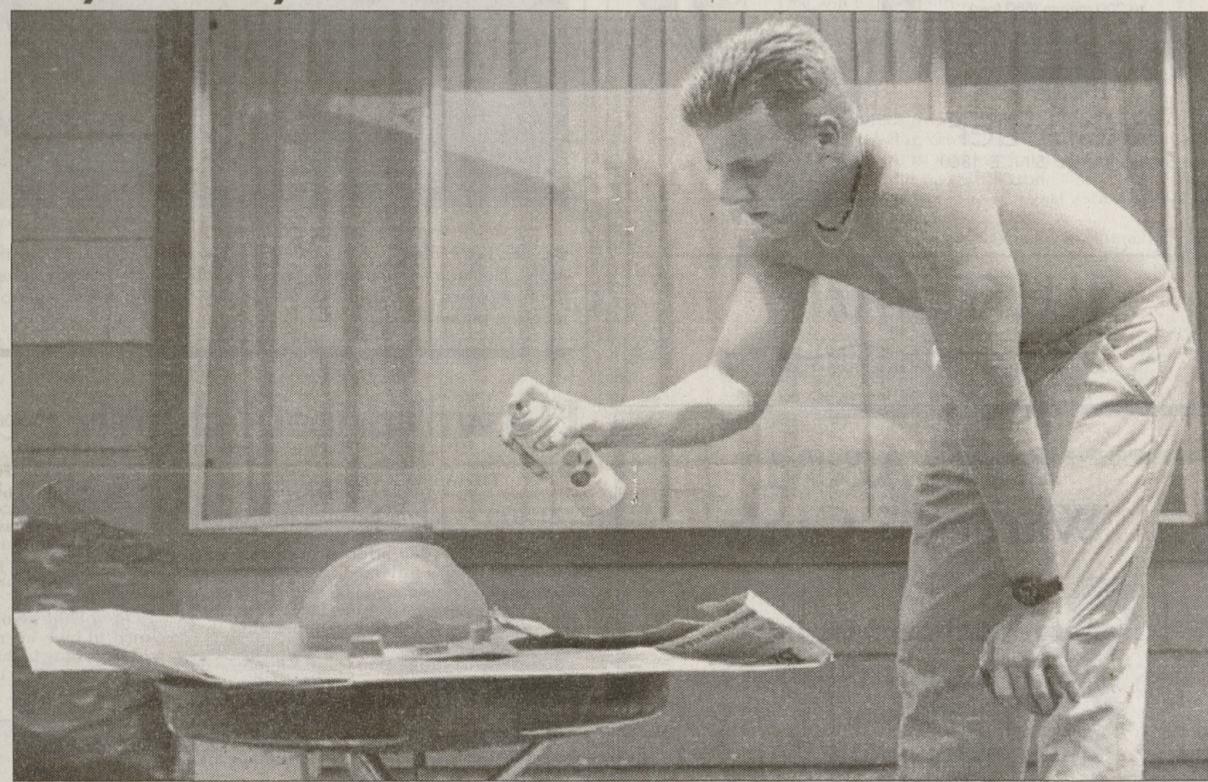
"Student Government has had years to figure out a way to deal with graduate students," Laine said. "They have failed."

Laine said graduate students differ from undergraduates in many ways including curriculum, independent research and teaching. He doesn't think Walker's proposal is necessary.

"The membership of the two groups are different," Laine said. "They have different views and objectives."

Walker said, "We need to unite and come together to work as one."

Only 132 days 'till Bonfire



Redpot John Barr, a junior accounting major from Fairfax, Va., puts the first layer of paint on a redpot hard hat for David Zuehlke. Barr

says he will be painting for the rest of the week because each pot takes about three cans of paint.

Puppy research paves way to save infants' lives

By LISA ELLIOTT

The Battalion
Medical researchers at Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine and at Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine in Houston have found a way to treat a heart defect found in puppies and hope to use that knowledge in the future when treating humans.

Many puppies are born with a potentially fatal heart defect called patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) that is also common in human infants. The defect occurs when an infant is born with an extra blood vessel near the heart. The blood vessel is common in developing fetuses of both humans and canines and allows circulating blood to bypass the lungs, yet the vessel is supposed to close by itself before birth.

In the case of PDA it does not close and the lungs become filled with blood. The results

can be crippling or, in some cases, fatal.

The new device, a pea-sized nylon sac, is threaded through a blood vessel in the puppy's legs to the PDA site near the heart. The surgeon then feeds a very thin spring-like wire into the sac which coils up and expands the sac and blocks the blood vessel. Tissue will eventually form around the sac and will block the PDA indefinitely.

Dr. Matt Miller, cardiologist and assistant professor in the department of veterinary medicine and small animal care, said the new device is still in its preliminary stages right now and may not be available for human infants in the very near future.

Miller said the procedure has been done very successfully on one dog so far.

"He (the dog) is doing well now and is living happily with his adopted owners," he said.

Miller said they hope to continue testing and eventually extend the tests to human infants.

He said the defect is the most common defect found in dogs and one of the most common in humans.

"Less than a tenth of a percent of dogs are born with it, and 60 percent of those die within the first year if they are not treated," he said.

The occurrence is less common in human infants but potentially as fatal, Miller said.

According to a press release, the disorder is currently being treated surgically but the procedure is painful, can have complications and requires a longer hospital stay.

Miller said they are not teaching students about the new device yet.

"It's not readily available and we have too much to teach them already," he said.

Miller said the device is also very expensive at this time and will take a while before it becomes a main stream practice.

See Research/Page 6

Inside

SPORTS

- A&M's racewalker finishes eighth at World Univ. games
- Preview: Summer Seven rugby tournament

Page 3

Aggielife

- Barney: Local parents, children enjoy purple wonder
- Review: A&M employee releases fantasy novel

Page 4

WEATHER

- Thursday: partly cloudy, clearing by afternoon, high of 93.

- Forecast for Friday: morning cloudiness, highs near 100. Hot!!

TEXAS LOTTO

- Wednesday's winning lottery numbers: 1, 4, 7, 10, 47, 50

Clinton surveys flood damage

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DES MOINES, Iowa - President Clinton brought encouraging words, a symbolic hand with sandbags and the promise of at least \$2.48 billion in disaster relief to the flooded Midwest on Wednesday. "Hang in there," he told residents lining up for drinking water.

Clinton viewed the flood damage from the presidential helicopter, offered support at a long water line, answered questions about help on a radio call-in program and even filled a few sandbags.

Clinton said, "I have seen whole towns flooded, I have seen massive amounts of farmland flooded, but I've never seen anything on this scale before."

The president chose Des Moines for his second Midwest inspection tour in 10 days because the area has been particularly hard hit.

A quarter of a million people were still without safe drinking water after flood waters overwhelmed the city's water purification facilities.

Clinton announced that he had forwarded to Congress on Wednesday a request for \$2.48 billion in emergency spending in the current

See Clinton/Page 6

Special cessation clinic helps smokers comply with ban

By LISA ELLIOTT

The Battalion
Smokers at Texas A&M have a chance to kick the habit thanks to a special smoking cessation clinic conducted by the human resources department which started last week.

The clinic is a direct result of University President Dr. William Mobley's order banning smoking in all buildings on campus.

The order, which took effect June 1, forbids smoking in all University facilities and vehicles and also extends to outdoor arenas such as Kyle Field and Olsen Field.

Enforcement of the policy was left up to the building proctors and individual supervisors.

Bonnie Corbett, program coordinator for the health promotion center, said the clinic has been well-received by the participants.

Out of the 25 available seats, 15 are filled, she said.

"At one time we had a full schedule but when it came down to actually attending we had a lot drop out," she said. "They realized they just weren't ready to quit."

Corbett said the clinics consist of seven sessions, and so far two have been held. She said the response to the clinic has been good during the first two sessions.

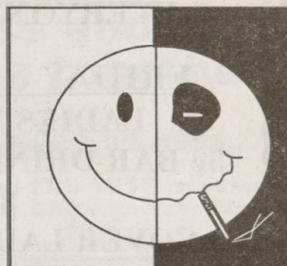
According to the Texas A&M Health Promotion Program, the clinic consists of two parts, "quitting" and "staying quit."

Quitting uses a group support approach and focuses on the benefits of controlling one's life through behavior management techniques, positive affirmations and encouragement. Staying quit focuses on lifestyle changes for the participants. It involves stress management, nutrition, weight control and exercise education.

Robert Smith, vice president of finance and administration, said they have heard nothing but positive comments since the smoking ban has been endorsed.

"I haven't heard of any complaints," he said. "We feel the University has assumed the right position and most people understand why we did it."

Smith said strict enforcement of the rule hasn't been necessary, so no one has been appointed as an official enforcer.



ANGEL KAN/The Battalion