

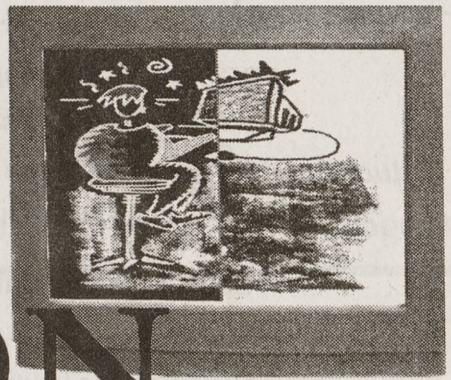
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**UP AGAINST THE BEST**  
**The Lady Aggies face off**  
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# THE BATTALION

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Wednesday • March 27, 1996

## Perot pays visit to A&M

By Misty Hataway  
 THE BATTALION

Representing the newly organized Reform Party, H. Ross Perot visited Rudder Theatre Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Rudder Theatre was packed to capacity with Brazos County citizens, students, professors and even a few out-of-state visitors interested in hearing the billionaire from Dallas.

Kevin King, a junior industrial distribution major who works the Rudder ticket office, said people were being turned away from the box office shortly after noon yesterday.

Refik Sahin, director of programming for Political Forum, anticipated the large crowd.

"We planned to fill the auditorium," Sahin said. "We had extensive advertising and public relations. We passed out fliers, handouts, posters and local newspaper coverage informing about the event."

Before the forum was held, the lobby was filled with petitions and pamphlets available for anyone interested in the Reform Party.

The organization needs more than 44,000 signatures on the petitions for the party to be established on the 1996 Texas presidential ballot. The party is already on ballots in seven states, including California, Utah, North Dakota, South Carolina, Montana, Minnesota and Virginia.

With an arsenal of statistics as evidence, Perot discussed "building a strong moral and ethical base" to solve current and future problems.

Perot used parallels between politics and business, saying that in business you have to deal with reality; in politics you deal with magic.

"Here you see it; here you don't," he said. "In business, if you can't manage money, you go broke. In politics, you just raise money. In business, you promote on performance. In politics, you select on acting ability."

Perot said politicians "tell people what they want to hear," and that "we get carried away by the act."

In exit polls, two-thirds of voters said government is heading the wrong direction and are searching for a new voice in government.



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

H. Ross Perot spoke to a sold-out crowd Tuesday evening in Rudder Theatre. The tickets were sold out by noon on Monday.

Perot said his independent party may offer that voice.

"If you think a new party is a good idea," he said, "we'd love to have you join."

Jeff Livingston, vice president of programs for the College Republicans, said Perot generally addressed the issues that affect most Americans.

Livingston said Perot's solutions for social programs are valid, but remain too close to the methods used by Republi-

cans.

Perot spoke about economic reform and balancing the budget while expanding the tax base.

"We are the world's last superpower," Perot said. "We have to be an economic and industrial superpower."

Perot said the national debt is greater than the amount of currency in print, and that "by raising interest rates 1

See Perot, Page 8

## Alternative lighting options could save University money

By Marissa Alanis  
 THE BATTALION

At the University of North Texas in Denton, a few minutes after the last student leaves a classroom, the lights shut off automatically.

Installed in the ceilings of two-thirds of UNT classrooms are dual motion sensor systems that detect movement through body heat. The lights stay on when people are in the rooms.

The dual sensor system allows UNT to save energy and reduce electricity bills.

UNT is one of many institutions across the country trying to save money by energy conservation.

Don Thompson, a former Texas A&M power plant superintendent, has suggested to the A&M administration several energy conservation measures similar to those used at other institutions.

Thompson said A&M can save money by turning off comfort air conditioning systems in about 25 academic buildings, excluding computer labs and laboratories, between 2 and 5 a.m.

Some institutions, such as Rice University in Houston, Griffith University in Australia and the University of New Mexico, save money by shutting down their comfort air conditioning systems in certain buildings that remain unoccupied for extended periods.

Jim Riley, the operating manager of facilities and engineering at Rice University, said that in the last four years, there has been a 20-percent reduction in utility costs — a savings that can be directed into research and may indirectly reduce tuition.

Riley said he attributes this reduction to restructured and renegotiated utility contracts and implementation of two cogeneration projects since 1989.

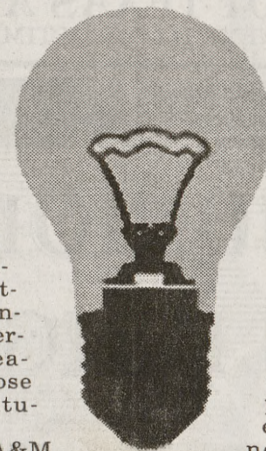
Cogeneration projects use natural gas to generate electricity. This process creates heat that can be reutilized.

A cogeneration project was suggested by Thompson, who said A&M could generate its own electricity and save \$3 million to \$6 million each year.

Riley said that before a cogeneration project is implemented, the completion of a thorough economic analysis is necessary to determine the optimum balance of purchased electrical power versus produced power.

"Cogeneration gives you a lot of flexibility," Riley said. "If you don't have that, you have to run electric-driven chillers and buy much electricity at a given rate."

Jim Pack, building and utilities maintenance manager at UNT, said cogeneration has not been implemented there because it is not economically feasible.



## Stipend stifles recruits

A task force will study the graduate retention rate

By Kendra S. Rasmussen  
 THE BATTALION

Concerns about decreasing enrollment in Texas A&M's graduate and professional programs have prompted University officials to boost funding for graduate student stipends.

The University has also created a special task force to evaluate how A&M compares with peer institutions in terms of graduate student recruitment.

Dr. Dan Robertson, director of graduate studies, said graduate student enrollment at A&M has declined 10 percent in three years. The decline, he said, is symptomatic of A&M's difficulty attracting graduate students.

"One of the reasons why we have difficulty attracting graduate students to

the University is the stipend," he said.

Robertson said that aside from last year's 2- to 3-percent increase, A&M's graduate student stipends have remained fundamentally unchanged for a number of years.

"We have not had a raise in most stipends for several years, so if you then compare us to other universities, what has happened is that A&M has ceased to be competitive with other major graduate universities," he said. "I can cite examples of some stipends that have not changed in 15 years."

Robertson said one-third of A&M's 7,000 graduate students receive teaching or research stipends ranging from \$550 to \$2,000 per month. The average

See Graduate, Page 5

## A&M makes mends daily

Students discuss being real doctors, for animals

By Lisa Johnson  
 THE BATTALION

The one question that grates most on Texas A&M second-year veterinary medicine student Michelle Wilbank's nerves is why she did not go to school to become a "real doctor."

"We are real doctors," she said, "it's just that our typical patients have four legs instead of 2, fur and a tail."

"In fact, in my opinion, becoming a veterinarian is harder than becoming a regular physician because they are only responsible for knowledge of humans. As vet students, if you can name a species, we have to know about it."

Shannon McFall, a third-year veterinary medicine student said that she, too, has faced similar misconceptions.

"Lots of people don't understand that you actually graduate from college before you ever go to vet school," she said.

"They think that it's some kind of two-year trade school, when actually we learn the same things as any other physician."

Veterinary medicine students have access to the same technology as modern physicians. The same machines used to monitor and improve the health of people can and are used on animals in the University's large animal hospital.

"Just because we don't use the technology doesn't mean that we don't have it," McFall said. "If someone wanted us to, we could do a heart transplant on Fluffy, but people just don't have that kind of thing done for their pets."

"There's nothing tried on a person that hasn't been tried on an animal first."

Last weekend, surgery was done on a camel at the hospital, and llamas are frequent visitors. This necessitates operating

See Animals, Page 6



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

## MY, WHAT BIG TEETH YOU HAVE

Melissa Wilcox, a sophomore English major from San Diego, California, is looking into the skull of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* at the Forsyth Center in the MSC.

## Affirmative action case goes to Washington

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas will take the fight over affirmative action in university admissions to the U.S. Supreme Court, state Attorney General Dan Morales said Tuesday.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last week struck down the University of Texas Law School's admissions policy, saying UT failed to justify favoring some racial groups. The decision came in a lawsuit filed by four white law school applicants.

Morales said he expects the Supreme Court to agree to consider Texas' case. If it doesn't, he said, it could be years before a similar case is presented. Nearly two decades have elapsed since the court last issued a formal opinion on affirmative action, he said.

"It has the opportunity in this litigation to speak to, I think, one of the more important issues facing us as a society," Morales said, predicting arguments in the case would be scheduled for the fall.

Morales said he will ask for a stay of the 5th Court's ruling while the case is under appeal. A stay would allow universities to use whatever admissions system they see fit until the case is finally decided, he said.

UT institutions, which had suspended admissions after the 5th Court's ruling, got the go-ahead Tuesday from UT System Chancellor William Cunningham to resume admitting students for summer and fall.