

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Board of regents to focus on Bus Ops

By Emily Peters
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More than \$6 million may go toward the purchase of 24 new shuttle buses, if approved by the A&M System Board of Regents at their meeting today in Canyon at West Texas A&M. The proposal falls in line with A&M's ongoing effort to improve the university's shuttle services. Funds will

come from the student-approved \$50 Transportation Fee, implemented in Fall 2001, which has already been used to purchase new buses, make minor repairs to old ones and eliminate bus passes for off-campus riders. Bus Operations' ultimate goal is to "obtain a fleet consisting of modern transit buses and a small number of over the road charter buses," according to the proposal.

The board will also consider an Academy for Performing and Visual Arts. The academy would support student organizations that focus on music or performing arts, community groups, A&M's art collections and arts academic programs in three A&M colleges. Eventually, the University will need to consider building an on-campus arts center, the proposal states. If approved, a \$250,000 start-up

fund for the academy will be met with funds dedicated by the Sterling C. Evans Library to build an arts library collection. The board will also consider reports from the chancellor on the status of the Union Pacific Railroad relocation proposal and updates on campus construction projects, and two possible research centers. The Center for the Study of First

Americans would be the only one in the world investigating the initial populations of the Americas, at least 12,000 years before Columbus. The Center for Dynamic Systems and Control at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station would be the only in Texas that will bring technology into research methods on all levels of engineering, focusing on complex integrated systems.

Ags support A&M with license plates

By Anna Chaloupka
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M was outscored last November during the Thanksgiving showdown with the University of Texas-Austin, but when it comes to displaying school spirit on their vehicles, Aggies more than double the score. Of the total 16,367 license plates displayed on Texas roadways, Aggie fans have purchased 8,049 of them, said Roger Polson, public information officer in the Vehicle, Titles and Registration Division of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Longhorn supporters had purchased 3,147 license plates, and Texas Tech supporters came in third with 3,035 license plates purchased, Polson said. "Few license plates have been very successful," Polson said. "The Aggies have bought all of the total sold. That is significant." Special collegiate license plates are purchased through TxDOT's Special Plates Division and cost \$30 per year in addition to the regular registration fee.

The state withholds \$5 to administer the program and sends the other \$25 to the respective university for a scholarship fund or low-income students.

"They like the plate, and they like the cause," Polson said. "It's a combination of both." Trey Kopecky, a senior agriculture and life sciences major, said the plates allow him to show his A&M pride, and supporting scholarships is an added benefit. "The scholarship is a good idea," Kopecky said. "It's a small fee to support the University. Why not buy one?"

Arthur Carr, Class of 1988, said he has purchased the plates for eight years, but never knew part of the money went to a scholarship fund.

"I had no idea," Carr said. "I'm amazed that when I pay \$30, \$25 goes to helping someone who needs it. That's excellent."

Special collegiate license plates display both the logo and the name of the university and can be personalized for an extra \$40, Polson said.

Applications for special collegiate license plates are available at all participating institutions, local tax offices or can be downloaded from TxDOT's Website.

Nothing but net



Junior nutrition major Sarah Brannan and other members of the women's lacrosse team take the field during an afternoon practice at Penberthy Intramural Fields on Thursday. The team's season is set to begin this weekend against Baylor University in Waco.

STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Stout to retire as dean of faculties

By Christina Hoffman
THE BATTALION

Dr. Janis P. Stout, Texas A&M's first woman to serve as dean of faculties and associate provost, is retiring next Thursday. Stout joined the faculty at A&M 14 years ago and was appointed dean of faculties in 1998.

Through her position, Stout was recognized for helping A&M diversify its faculty members and curriculum. As dean of faculties and associate provost, Stout wears two hats: one as an advocate for the faculty voice and one as a central administrator. She has also been a proponent

in implementing the University's goals for Vision 2020, a project designed to position the University as a top 10 public institute.

"Diversity is my number one passion," she said.

Stout received her bachelor's degree from Lamar University in 1966 and later received her master's in 1968. In 1973, after teaching at Lamar University, she received a doctorate from Rice University. Before coming to A&M, she taught part time as an associate professor at

Haverford College and lectured at Rice University.

She was recruited to A&M in 1987, serving as associate dean of liberal arts and as an associate professor of English.

After 14 years of being an integral part of A&M, Stout said she will miss some aspects of the A&M community.

"I have always found a huge sense of possibility here, a great optimism and a lot of energy in all sorts of ways, among faculty and students both," she said. "This is really a great university."

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STOUT

Andersen blames Duncan for document shredding

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fired auditor David Duncan was solely responsible for the massive destruction of Enron documents, officials of the energy company's accounting firm told skeptical lawmakers Thursday. Duncan refused to answer questions, invoking the Fifth Amendment.

Lawmakers denounced the rushed paper shredding at Arthur Andersen and the complex business practices at Enron as Congress delved into the biggest bankruptcy in U.S. history. The company's collapse cost investors billions of dollars, wiped out the retirement savings of thousands of employees and raised questions about the company's extensive political connections.

Nancy Temple, a lawyer for Andersen, said she reminded auditors about the firm's policy for retaining documents but didn't order their preservation or destruction after learning of a federal investigation of Enron.

"I was unaware of any shredding activity," she insisted under intense questioning by members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's investigative panel.

Lawmakers demanded to know why it took Temple so long — from the Securities and Exchange Commission's first informal inquiry into Enron on Oct. 17 until the day after the SEC's subpoena to Andersen for documents on Nov. 8 —

to direct auditors to keep the documents. "This guidance never went out when it should have gone out," declared Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., chairman of the full committee.

Tauzin wanted to know why "scores and scores" of Andersen employees worked overtime to destroy records if the firm's policy favored preservation, as its officials said. Preserving the documents would only have taken a few hours of locking them up, he suggested.

Lawmakers disclosed that the Andersen attorneys had hired an outside law firm on Oct. 9, in anticipation of possibly being sued over Enron accounting. That showed Temple and other

Andersen officials had an early indication of trouble and should have ordered all Enron-related documents to be saved, the House members said.

"I knew there was a possibility of litigation but we did not discuss it," Temple testified.

As Congress' sprawling inquiry into Enron's collapse stepped up, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman said he will ask that panel to issue subpoenas for Enron's and Andersen's documents regarding their contacts with the White House and several federal agencies on regulations affecting the

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Food services speaks to Student Senate

By C.E. Walters
THE BATTALION

On Wednesday night, the Student Senate spoke with representatives of food services in their first session of the year.

The Department of Food Services told senators of a proposal to place a coffee house on West Campus. Depending on student preference, the

coffee shop could be at the West Campus Library as a coffee bar similar to the Blocker Espresso Bar or a larger coffee house located in the Medical Sciences Library.

Food services also addressed common student complaints, explaining that the department must generate its own funding. Senators suggested the price of meals be raised so that students can purchase

their meal plans annually, rather than by semester.

The Senate also touched on a number of other issues.

Currently there are 12 vacant senate seats.

Senator Kevin Capps addressed the upcoming local elections, and said senators should put their weight

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<p>INSIDE</p> <p>AggieLife Pg. 3 Take it to the house MSC Open House returns for the spring semester</p> <p>Opinion Pg. 9 Military tribunals are just Circumstances similar to WWII tribunals</p>	<p>WEATHER TODAY</p> <p>HIGH 55° F LOW 35° F</p> <p>Saturday</p> <p>HIGH 60° F LOW 30° F</p> <p>FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermap.com</p>
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