

THE BATTALION

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Inside Wednesday

Paul Arnett's last column, p. 14.
Minors can buy alcohol, p. 5.
Heyday for Gay Day, p. 2.



Kurten, Texas . . .

...in a small town that's big in oil. An oil field worker carries a bag of chemicals to the rig. Chemicals must be mixed with the soil to keep it a

certain consistency so the oil can be pumped from the ground. See related story, page 12.

Battalion photo by Ann Richmond

Evaluation results due in June

Architecture department reviewed

By GREG PROPPS

The Department of Landscape Architecture was visited last week by an evaluation team of the Board of Landscape Architecture Accreditation. It was more than a social call.

The three-member team took an intense two-and-a-half day look at the undergraduate program offered by the department. Their findings will determine whether or not the department will be accredited by the board for another five year period.

Don Austin, head of the department of landscape architecture, said the results of the evaluation will not be given to the university until mid-June. Between now and then, the information gathered will be

studied in Washington by the HEW, studied by the accreditation board, and then re-evaluated by the examining team.

Austin said there is no national criteria by which a program is judged, that each one is looked at differently to allow for variations in regional background and program emphasis. At present, there are 38 programs in landscape architecture that are recognized by the board. Texas A&M and Texas Tech are the only universities in Texas where the programs are recognized.

Accreditation means several things to a university. The prestige factor is obvious. Not so obvious is that many state's examining boards require that a person taking a licensing exam be from an accredited university. Loss of a university's accreditation

could also mean a loss of incoming students in the landscape architecture program.

The evaluation itself consisted of studies of student work, in-depth talks with students and faculty, evaluation of the financial status of the department, and a hard look at the courses offered. For this particular visit from the board, the department prepared a display of what might be expected of a student over four years.

Beginning with freshman design courses, the display followed through to the senior level, illustrating the main emphasis of the four year program.

That display is located in the main gallery of the Langford Architecture Building, and will be open to the public for sev-

eral weeks. Austin said it would be a worthwhile exhibit for someone thinking of majoring in landscape architecture.

Austin said that the preliminary outcome of the team's visit looked positive, and that an early write-up of the evaluation said "that the overall quality of the program was excellent."

Several members of a senior design lab didn't agree. A spokesman for the lab, who asked that he not be named, said that "probably 50 percent of the senior landscape architecture students would have a serious gripe about the program." He added that there is an extreme amount of negativism among the students towards the department.

A main complaint of the class, which was expressed to the accreditation team, was that they didn't feel they were prepared to step out into a working environment. Another complaint was one of the intense overload.

Austin said that he knew about the senior's gripes, and that he had encouraged them to "call a spade a spade" when the team began asking questions. He also said that the complaint of overload is a common one among landscape architecture students, that he had the same gripes when he was in school.

Austin said that this particular design lab was unhappy because they had been caught in the middle of a program change. The department had been trying to tie the construction courses in with the design courses and these seniors got caught in the middle of the change.

Both sides have now had their say in the matter, and it is now up to the accreditation board to make the final decision.



'Where's the fire?'

Battalion photo by J. Wagner Lyons

College Station firemen examine the charred engine of a Volkswagen belonging to Paul Waddell, a Texas A&M University junior. The car caught on fire as Waddell was waiting at the traf-

fic light at the intersection of West Main and Wellborn Road. No one was injured. Waddell did not notice the fire until a car honking behind him caught his attention.

Judicial Board to let election results stand

By ANDY WILLIAMS

The student senate's judicial board Tuesday night unanimously rejected an attempt to have last week's campus elections voided and new elections held.

The board will meet tomorrow to determine whether "three or four" individual races would be run, said Chris Farmer, chairman of the board. He named

the senatorial races in the Veterinary and Medical schools and in the College of Science as contests which will be examined.

Farmer said in delivering the decision that the plaintiffs had failed to demonstrate that all races were biased by irregularities in the election.

However, Farmer said, "We do not feel that the election was run competently."

Four students had filed a complaint,

charging that the Texas A&M election commission was guilty of "serious violations of the electoral process."

The four, Scott Gregson, Joe Beall, Laura Brockman, and Austin Sterling, specified 13 points of contention in the presentation of their case.

Objections included charges that a member of the election commission had been a candidate during the election and had campaigned actively for another candidate, that polling places were without supervisors for "a majority of the time," and that the extension of the elections for an extra day violated election commission regulations.

Other contentions were that the commission had failed to post sample ballots or voting instructions at polling places, that the commission had failed to supply the student senate with polling places for run-off elections, that instructions on making write-in or "no-confidence" votes were not available at most polls, and that elections were held over three days while the maximum allowed was two.

Stan Stanfield, counsel for the defense of the election commission, said that if new elections were to be held, they would probably be scheduled for dead week. Stanfield argued that this would merely have compounded the problem of gathering workers for the polling places.

Stanfield said that the commission had done its best to staff the polls, but had only been able to keep five open throughout most of the elections.

Mike Gerst, member of the election commission, testified that more than 700 ballots had been tabulated which had no "demographic information" on them. Demographic information refers to answers to questions concerning on or off campus residence and membership in the Corps of Cadets.

Gerst tabulated the results with a computer in San Marcos. He stated that he felt it was more important to allow a large number of students to vote than to invalidate their ballots because of a lack of information.

Gerst said that many people might have voted in both the Residence Hall Association and the Off Campus Student Association presidential races due to the deletion of demographic information.

However, Farmer noted that all candidates were subject to the same disadvantages in the elections.

Anonymous \$500 gift 'useless' to candidate

By GARY WELCH

A \$500 campaign contribution received last Thursday by county attorney candidate Ed Elmore may be useless to him because the contributor chose to remain anonymous.

Under state law, a candidate for public office must list his contributors if he wants to use their money to finance his campaign. Because Elmore does not know the contributor's identity, he cannot list him and therefore cannot use the money.

"Since Thursday I have attempted to locate the contributor, to no avail," Elmore said Tuesday morning in a news conference at the Brazos County Courthouse.

Last Thursday an unidentified man left the money with an employee of an Elmore campaign supporter, then left immediately.

"The campaign supporter's employee who received the folded envelope had never seen the man before," Elmore said. The money, all in cash, was in a used envelope addressed to a Dallas insurance company. The address had been scratched out and the name of the campaign supporter written on the envelope.

The envelope also bore the return address of the same insurance company.

"I have tried to trace the envelope," Elmore said. But the insurance company is not listed in the Dallas telephone book, he said.

Inside the envelope were the money and a note that read: "For Mr. Elmore, candidate for Co. Atty. Use to best advantage. No name, please."

Elmore contacted the secretary of