

Texas A&M The Battalion

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staff photo by Guy Chandler Hood

Bonfire chain command

Chris Schwalb, left, and Stephen Gray, two senior civilian coordinators for bonfire, tie chains around logs which are to be transported by tractor to the loading

site. This was the first official cutting weekend and Aggies started off by cutting trees, hauling logs and loading trucks for the trip to Duncan field.

Unclaimed checks reach \$250,000

by Karen Wallace
Battalion Reporter

More than a quarter of a million dollars in scholarship and grant money had not been claimed as of last week, Lynn Brown, student financial aid administrator, says. Some of the checks, ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, have been ready since Aug. 8. "I can see where a student might not pick up a \$50 scholarship check because he's not necessarily needy, but a \$1,000 grant check just sitting there for a supposedly needy student makes me wonder," Brown said. When the registrar's office releases

address rosters, Brown said, the 700 students will be written and asked to pick up their checks at the Fiscal Office. After two weeks, she said, the unclaimed checks will be cancelled and re-used. "We can't set a deadline until we get addresses, but tentatively, anything left after Oct. 21 will be cancelled," Brown said. The same thing happened last year, she said, but this semester it's worse. "I thought \$100,000 last year was terrible, but this year it's over \$250,000," she said.

Last year, Brown wrote some students three times and even called some on the phone but they still didn't pick up their checks.

"This year it's gonna be one letter and if it's still there two weeks later, it's cancelled," she said. "Somebody else really needs this money."

Steam tunnel may interfere

BELL tower site not yet OK'd

by Brigid Brockman
Battalion Staff

Former student Ford D. Albritton told the Texas A&M Board of Regents last week that he would like a 130-foot bell tower — his gift to the University — to be built between the YMCA and Coke Buildings, but the building site has not been approved yet by the planning and building committee. Albritton, Class of '43, would like the tower built in the spot where a circular flower bed sits between the two buildings. The tower will be built of brick and limestone, and will match the style and color of the Academic Building. The Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue will be visible through the arch in the base of the structure. Joe Jordan, student body president, said in an interview that he appreciated Albritton's gift, but he feels there may be some problems. "The physical constraints seem to be the main problem," he said.

Some of the physical constraints include underground water and electrical lines and a steam tunnel that runs parallel to Coke Street. The steam tunnel is an 8-foot wide pipe that carries water to and from the University power plant. The steam tunnel is a vital part of the system that heats and cools all of the rooms on campus. Joe J. Estill, director of the physical plant department, said all of the obstacles could be overcome. "I don't think the utilities should dictate where they build the tower," he said. Estill said there is a possibility that the tower could be built to straddle the steam tunnel. The steam tunnel also could be moved, he said, but that would be expensive. Dr. Charles E. McCandless, associate provost for academic affairs, said some alternative sites may be considered. "I do think there are other sites," he said. "The plaza on the west side of

campus could be a good focal point, or the grassy area between the O&M (Oceanography and Meteorology) and Langford Buildings." McCandless said he had heard there was a steam tunnel at the proposed building site. Before, plans had not been made to erect a building in that area, he said. "It had always been a street — military walk — before it was turned into a mall," he said. Kelli Kiesling, president of the Residence Hall Association, said she is opposed to the idea of putting the tower in front of the Academic Building. "I'm not in favor of putting anything there which will block that view," she said. "It's a nice idea, but more research needs to be done before they pick a site." Gen. Wesley E. Peel, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said there has been no change in the status of the bell tower since it was first announced to the regents on Monday. "It's premature to say what is going on at this time," he said. "We will contact Mr. Albritton early this week and we will work with him on construction and location."

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Who's who deadline

Applications will be taken for Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities until October 21. Applications should be taken to Dr. John Koldus' office in the YMCA building.

inside

Around town	10
Classified	16
Local	3
National	10
Opinions	2
Sports	13
State	7
What's up	8



forecast

Partly cloudy and warm — highs in the upper 80's.

Bicyclists ignoring laws despite police ticketing

by Cathy Smith
Battalion Reporter

What has two arms, two legs, two wheels and doesn't stop for anything? Any campus policeman will tell you it's a bicyclist. On Sept. 1 University Police began ticketing bicyclists who violated traffic safety laws.

The most frequent violations are running stop signs and failing to stop for people in crosswalks. Director of Security and Traffic Robert Wiatt says.

He says these violations are apparent to any pedestrian on campus. Cyclists ignore bike lanes, sideswipe people in crosswalks and pull in front of cars without warning, he says. Pedestrians shouldn't have to be dodging bicyclists, Wiatt says. That's the reason the department began ticketing delinquent bicyclists, he says.

So far the cyclists have reacted favorably, Wiatt says. Most students are cooperative and will stop when asked, he says. They will admit they rode through a stop sign, but they

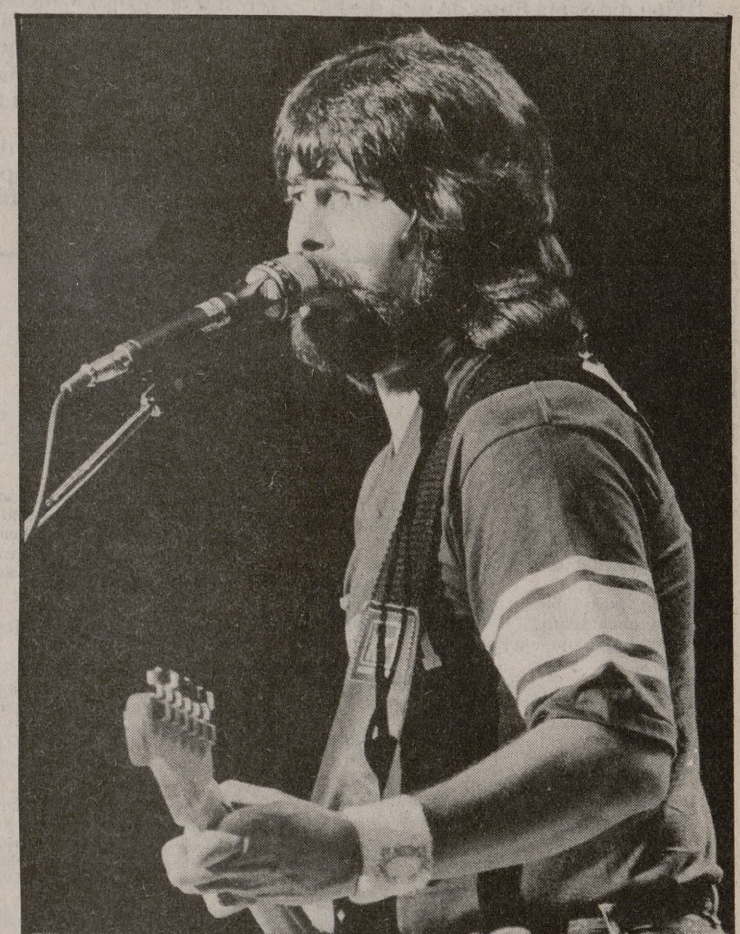
always have a reason for the violation, he says. However, there have been incidents in which a few of Texas A&M's demons on wheels did not cooperate. A woman officer stopped a male cyclist for running a stop sign. She had intended only to issue a warning but he became unruly. She took out her ticket book to fine him the standard \$4 and he slapped the book from her hand. He was handcuffed, charged with assault and fined \$162. Other cyclists have ignored police officers and ridden away. As one rider put it: "It was great. A cop tried to stop me and I just rode off down the sidewalk." The department is trying to educate the cyclists, Wiatt says. People should be riding their bikes like they drive their cars. University traffic rules apply to motorists and bicyclists. The dangers of driving are the same for bicycling, he says. Careless cyclists could hurt others or themselves.

But bicyclists aren't the only ones to blame for the problem. John Hallett, an aerospace engineering major

from Houston, cycles to campus every day. He says he tries to watch for pedestrians and cars but they aren't always watching for him. Some people just don't pay attention and it's hard to stop on a dime when someone steps out in front of you. And then someone gets hurt. The hurting has been a true-to-life experience for pedestrians, drivers and cyclists. Some have limped around for a few days with bumps and bruises, some have had their bikes or bodies mangled in collisions, and some have had their cars rear-ended or scratched.

An A.P. Beutel Health Center staff nurse says that bicycle-related accidents are frequent. Barbara Reilly says they treat at least 10 people a week, and probably more than that.

Because its ticketing campaign began only a month ago, the police department has no statistics on the effectiveness of \$4 fines for taming the wild cyclists of Aggieland. But cyclists who stop for nothing beware: the police will continue to ticket the reckless.



staff photo by Mike Davis

Alabama in Aggieland

The lead singer for Alabama, Randy Owen, wears a Texas A&M jersey while whipping up some Aggie spirit Friday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. See review on page 4.