

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Panel to advise financial office

by Robin Black  
Battalion Staff

Laft Benson, director of student financial aid, is working with Student Government to increase the level of communication between students and the financial aid department. Benson and Student Body President Joe Jordan are forming an advisory committee to advise Student Government and the financial aid department on matters concerning student financial aid. The group will be composed of six students who have at one time received financial aid. Benson said he is looking for feedback from students about the efficiency of student financial aid at the University and ways the program can be improved. "I see the committee as a way of opening up new lines of communication between students and the depart-

ment," Benson said. "Right now the department is working in a sort of one-sided manner, because we just see how our end of the program works. We really don't have any way of knowing how students are affected."

The establishment of the committee shows that the financial aid department is serious about using students' ideas, Benson said.

The student board will be used in many ways, he said. The department not only will receive ideas from the committee, but will be able to determine if the financial aid programs are well known. The department also can get feedback from the panel about department programs before they are implemented.

"I feel that the best ideas for this department are with the students

right now," he said. "This committee can be a positive vehicle to help me and the financial aid department."

Benson said he is optimistic about the committee's potential, because he has always been impressed with the quality of student leadership that exists at the University.

"I have left the organization of the committee primarily to Joe's discretion," he said. "He is the one who will review the applicants and ultimately choose the committee members."

Applications for the committee will be accepted through next Friday in 219 Pavilion.

Committee members will work with both the Student Government and the financial aid department. The group should be organized by the end of October, Jordan said.

## Dean says college needs recognition

by Robin Black  
Battalion Staff

Dr. Robert H. Page, dean of the College of Engineering, said Thursday that he hoped his new position in the Forsyth Chair would bring more national recognition for the Texas A&M's College of Engineering.

Dr. Page was named to fill the Forsyth Chair of Mechanical Engineering in 1981.

The chair, which had been established but unfilled since 1979, was created as part of the estate of James "Cop" Forsyth, Class of '12, to provide scholarly leadership in mechanical engineering and develop and maintain liaison with state and federal agencies, private foundations, consulting firms and other national and international research and educational institutions.

Page was on the east coast meeting commitments to speak at national engineering conferences when he was

named to the chair, but was notified of the decision by phone.

"I was excited when I found out," Page said. "I met Forsyth when the chair was established in 1979, and I was very impressed. He was a great Aggie."

Page, who said being named to the chair was a tremendous honor, thought it was sad that the chair couldn't be filled before Forsyth's death in 1981.

"Forsyth had great faith in the University, however, and was confident that the chair would be filled by a qualified individual," he said.

Ironically, the nation-wide search ended when the University's own dean of engineering was chosen to fill the first of six chairs in the engineering college.

Page, an expert in fluid mechanics, said the increased research that will result from the chair should bring national recognition to the University

and help its image in many ways. It also will make the engineering college internationally competitive.

The new position will reduce Page's teaching load somewhat, but he will have more contact with students because the involvement with research, which will involve students, will replace the administrative work he now is performing as dean.

Page said he is looking forward to the increased interaction he will have with students now that he no longer will have the responsibilities of an administrator.

"The prime advantage of the chair is to the students, because more opportunities to study and research engineering on the newest frontiers of technology will be available, and I think that is very inspiring," he said.

Page said he hopes the potential technological contributions that the chair's research will provide will be a great benefit to mankind.

## Centerpole for bonfire goes up 5 feet shorter

by Ed Alanis  
Battalion Reporter

Bonfire '83's centerpole went up Thursday at the traditional time of 4:03 p.m., keeping on schedule for the Nov. 25 lighting.

The centerpole towers 54 feet into the air — five feet fewer than last year.

"This year's centerpole is five feet shorter than last year's," senior bonfire coordinator Bill Guilt says. Complaints from residents along Jersey Street have had more influence on regulating height than has the new University Press building, which is next to the bonfire site, Guilt said.

The height of the bonfire is regulated by a city ordinance, as well as by surrounding buildings and residences.

The flag of Cobra C, Corps of Cadets outfit C-1, waves from the top of the pole. C-1 is responsible for the centerpole. Traditionally, the men of C-1 assemble the centerpole and station it upright in the ground.

The centerpole arrived on campus Wednesday. Members of C-1 worked full time to prepare it for Thursday's raising, Randy Bretches, a senior in C-1, says. Bretches is in charge of centerpole construction this year.

The centerpole does not come from the cutting site, but is donated by the International Paper and Supply Co. of Navasota.

The centerpole is made from two logs spliced together. C-1's job is to cut the logs, splice them together, wrap cable around the splice for support and dig a hole deep enough to support the entire pole. A crane is used to lift the centerpole. The men from C-1 guide it into the 10 foot hole and tamp it with rocks and dirt.

Surveying instruments are used to assure that the centerpole is straight before it is permanently set.

With the centerpole raised, this year's bonfire will take shape quickly. Before the lighting, which is just a month away, bonfire coordinators estimate that more than 7,000 students will have worked at either the cutting site or the bonfire site itself.

On-campus students who wish to become involved with the building of bonfire should contact work



staff photo by John Makely

The centerpole goes up at 4:03 p.m. Thursday.

crews from their dorms. Off-Campus Aggies also has organized work groups for interested students. Push Week officially begins midnight Sunday, Nov. 13. Push week is when bonfire builders work around the clock to complete the stack. Bonfire will be burned Friday, Nov. 25 at dark-thirty.

## Quick cash machines will be ready soon

by Julie Ennis  
Battalion Reporter

The automated teller machines located under the stairway between the Memorial Student Center and Rudder Tower will be operational within the next few weeks, a spokesman for the fiscal department says.

The 24-hour cash machines will be available for anyone who has an MPACT or PULSE cash card.

An MPACT or PULSE card is easy to obtain and convenient to use, said Robert Smith, controller and associate vice president for fiscal affairs.

"All the major banks have some sort of 24-hour cash access cards, and if they don't they will very soon," Smith said.

The teller service will help decrease the growing check cashing lines at the MSC main desk and at the Coke Building, he said.

Texas A&M is one of a few universities offering check cashing services, he said.

Two MPACT machines have been installed and will be working sometime next week, Smith said. The delay is due to the lack of parts for the machines. The PULSE machines are expected to operate in two weeks.

Smith said the banks are doing Texas A&M a favor by installing the teller service.

"All we had to do was provide the space and they paid for the installation of the machines, he said."

## Corporate grant pays for equipment

# TI, A&M share computer cost

by Shawn Behlen  
Battalion Reporter

Eighty-eight computers now are being installed across campus, thanks to a \$608,407 grant given to Texas A&M in September by Texas Instruments.

The grant is a cost-sharing venture in which TI pays for two-thirds of the cost of the computers and the University pays for the remaining one-third.

The computers, including printers and a wide range of software also from TI, will be used by several departments, including industrial engineering, computing science, mathematics, mechanical engineering, anthropology, archaeology and English. Several also will be placed in the Public Policy Center and the learning

resources division of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

Dr. Ellen McDaniel, director of the writing specialization program, said the grant was awarded because of a willingness by both parties to install TI equipment at the University.

McDaniel said she learned of TI's interest in such a project through Dr. Eugene Helms, vice president of TI's data systems group. Helms is a former Texas A&M student.

McDaniel, Robert Young, professor of industrial engineering, and Norman Naugle, professor of mathematics, sent TI a proposal for the grant in August.

"It was really a matter of knowing somebody, who knows somebody, etc.," she said.

McDaniel said it is unique for a liberal arts department such as English to receive a business-supported grant.

"Industry is usually interested in engineering or business, but a computer is a very useful tool for what we do also," she said.

The English department plans to use the computers for word processing, evaluating language theory, researching computer-human communication, computer-aided instruction, studying the effects of writing on a terminal instead of paper, studying speech synthesis and technical productions, she said.

"I'm sure that further uses will be discovered in the future," she said. "I think this will benefit the department greatly."

McDaniel said another benefit of the grant has been the speed at which the computers are being received.

"Usually, equipment such as this is bought as the University has the money," she said. "That takes a long time. Depending on the circumstances, it might take nearly two years."

McDaniel said she thinks the grant also will help TI.

"I think it was a smart thing for them to do," she said. "Lots of students will be trained on TI equipment and will want the same later on."

McDaniel said that with the computer business so competitive, she hopes this will open the door for more grants of this type.

"I think it's an excellent deal for everyone concerned," she said.

## Texas nuclear waste sites considered

United Press International

AUSTIN — Unless someone steps forward with another land offer within the next 30 days, the state will choose between two sites in South and West Texas for a low-level nuclear waste disposal facility, officials said Thursday.

The two prime candidates are a privately-owned 456-acre tract in Dimmit County, about three miles

south of Asherton, and 640 acres of University of Texas System land in Hudspeth County near Sierra Blanca.

Bob Avant, assistant general manager of the Texas Low-Level Waste Disposal Authority, said the state plans to make a tentative decision by mid-December.

Officials of the authority, which was created in 1981 to locate a dispos-

al site, will meet with Dimmit County officials next Tuesday to discuss the proposed project.

The 300-acre facility, which will cost between \$10 million and \$12 million, will store low-level radioactive waste generated by Texas hospitals, universities, laboratories, medical research centers and some industries.

The facility, which will open in late

1987 or early 1988, will be designed to handle 139,000 cubic feet of waste expected to be produced annually in Texas from 1990 to 2020.

Avant said about 30,000 cubic feet of low-level nuclear waste was generated in Texas in 1982, but the total is expected to be raised significantly when four commercial nuclear power

plants become operational in 1990.

The facility will not store high-level spent fuel from nuclear reactors, but it will accept low-level radioactive materials from nuclear plants.

The nuclear plants now under construction are expected to generate an additional 105,000 cubic feet of low-level nuclear waste.

## Soviets still may walk out of arms talks

United Press International

GENEVA, Switzerland — The chief Soviet delegate at talks with the United States to limit medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe hinted Thursday the Soviets might walk out, saying he sees no chance for agreement.

Yuli Kvitsinsky issued the gloomy

assessment before a session of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces talks — the 97th since the negotiations on limiting medium-range missiles began Nov. 30, 1981.

Kvitsinsky said the Soviets are prepared to stay at the negotiating table to find an accord "as long as it is necessary and if there are prospects; but there are none."

The comment implied a renewed threat by Moscow to break off the negotiations, but after the two-hour plenary session the delegations agreed to meet again next Tuesday on schedule at the Soviet mission.

President Reagan, at a news conference Wednesday, confirmed Moscow has been threatening to walk out to

protest NATO deployment of medium-range missiles to counter existing Soviet weapons aimed at western Europe.

However, Reagan called the Soviet warnings a "great propaganda effort" to prevent NATO deployment and said if Moscow carries out its threat, "we'll just wait at the table, and I think they'll come back."

He said he believes the Soviets will "talk seriously" once they see the missiles being deployed.

Paul Nitze, the chief U.S. negotiator, has long argued that Moscow has refused to bargain seriously in Geneva in the belief the NATO allies would cancel deployment because of pressure from anti-nuclear movements.

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### forecast

Partly cloudy skies, with a 30% chance of rain. Highs in the upper seventies.