

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Dr. Heckle and Mr. Gibe

Hecklers at Sunday's baseball game at Olsen Field showed little respect for the visiting team of McNeese State. While the Aggies swept

McNeese in three games over the weekend, A&M only managed a tie Monday against Sam Houston State. See story, page 7.

Photo by Doug La Rue

## Board approves 9.8% increase in car insurance

AUSTIN (AP)—The State Board of Insurance Monday approved a 9.8 percent average increase in automobile insurance rates, an increase the board chairman said would have been higher if Texans were not buckling up.

The increase, effective May 1, follows two years of board-ordered rate decreases and brings premiums back to 1984 levels.

Because of the increase, Texans could pay an additional \$270 million a year in premiums. Insurance industry officials pushed for a 19.7 percent increase that would have added about \$550 million to annual premiums.

Auto insurance rates in Texas vary widely. In addition to separate rates for 66 territories set by the insurance board, many insurance companies are granted permission to charge rates lower than those set by the board.

Rick Gentry, spokesman for the Insurance Information Institute, estimated that 65 percent of Texas motorists pay rates that are lower than those set by the board.

The largest average increase approved Monday was \$88, or 16.6 percent, for Kaufman and Rockwall Counties. The next highest was \$79, or 14.9 percent, for Bexar County.

Chairman Lyndon Olson and board members David Thornberry and James Nelson voted for the 9.8 percent increase recommended by the board staff. However, Thornberry said the 9.8 percent increase

was "on the lower end of what a reasonable rate would be," and Nelson said, "It's on the high end of what should be considered."

Olson said the 19.7 percent increase sought by the industry was not reasonable.

"I totally think the industry's recommendation is out of line," he said. "They probably knew better than that."

Olson and Gentry agreed the increase would have been higher if not for the seat belt law. Olson said seat belts have reduced injuries and deaths and so have saved Texans money on their insurance bills.

Gentry said the industry was pleased to get the rate increase, but he said, "I don't think what they approved is what we thought should have been. I think it would be fair to say we were disappointed."

He said many Texans still will be able to find auto insurance at rates below those set by the board.

"There are some 400 to 500 insurance companies in Texas competing for the auto insurance dollar," Gentry said. "Each of these companies will have to make their own marketing decisions based on where they feel they are positioned in the market."

"It's a very competitive marketplace out there, and I think if people look around they will find that people are aggressively seeking their business."

## Coast Guardsman charged after bizarre campus chase

By Olivier Uytendaele  
Senior Staff Writer

Gus Peter Grammas' arrest in the north campus area of Texas A&M Sunday night began with a report to University Police that the Coast Guardsman was astounding the residents of Dorm 9 with a pistol and a bizarre story.

Grammas was charged Monday in Brazos County Court with felony charges of possessing weapons on school premises, which carries a maximum penalty of two to 10 years in prison, and misdemeanor charges of resisting arrest, said Bob Wiatt, director of University Police.

Grammas, who came to A&M early Sunday to stay with a friend, told dorm residents that he was a police officer fleeing for his life, Wiatt said.

Grammas had three bullet holes in his jacket and shirt to substantiate his story, he said.

Grammas claimed that a bullet-proof vest he wore under his shirt

had saved his life from mysterious assailants, Wiatt said.

Grammas had, in fact, tied his clothes to a tree stump in some remote place and fired three shots into them with a stolen .45 caliber automatic pistol, he said.

Police said Grammas stole the pistol, two ammunition clips and the bullet-proof vest from the arms room of the Coast Guard cutter Point Monroe.

He is believed to be absent without leave from the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard administrative office in Houston refused to comment Monday.

Police cornered Grammas following a room-to-room search of Dorm 9, but the armed man jumped from a second-floor window and fled to the PA 25 parking lot pursued by patrol officer Vici Jarrott, Wiatt said. Grammas then drove off in his friend's 1969 Buick, Wiatt said.

See Guardsman, page 9

## Reform bill dead, but not forgotten

Legislation questioned effectiveness of Student Senate

By Christi Daugherty  
Staff Writer

Miles Bradshaw stepped out of his role as Senate Speaker Feb. 11 to lobby for the reform legislation. Handing his gavel to the speaker-pro-tempore, he pleaded with the senators to pass the bill that would have cut the 87-member body in half.

But the much-debated Student Senate reform bill, which had the support of the most powerful members of the Senate, including both the student body president and the speaker, failed by a considerable margin to garner the necessary two-thirds majority.

It was the latest and most drastic

attempt to end the Senate's problems with attendance, apathy and low productivity.

The co-authors of the bill, Chris Dowdy and Jay Hays, heatedly debated the issue for almost two hours with other senators before a vote was taken, and Dowdy admits some friendships were permanently damaged in the sometimes angry debate before the vote.

But Dowdy said his inevitable disappointment at the bill's failure is tempered by the fact that a majority of Senate members voted for the bill, and he feels it made the rest think about the possibilities.

Dowdy, a senior biochemistry major, said the Senate's failure to

achieve a quorum in the last meeting of the fall semester spurred the writing of the bill, which had been discussed for years but never seriously attempted.

"We decided to try the bill because we felt that even if it lost, if it caused everyone to be less sure of themselves, and to be a little more worried about their jobs, it would be a success," Dowdy said. "It made people think."

Some senators said the bill, which used a mathematical formula to assign a number of senators to each living area and college, might have had a better chance if changes still weren't being made on it during the Senate meeting.

Others said if the cut in size, which would have made the Senate a 51-member organization, had been less drastic it might have passed.

But Dowdy said the point of the bill was to increase the importance of the senators' jobs, without making the group elitist, and to make the members feel more needed.

Cutting the size of the Senate also might eliminate students who join for the purpose of resume enhancement but don't intend to attend meetings, he said. With an average attendance of 50, more than 30 members miss each Senate meeting.

In an ironic twist, exactly 51 sen-

See Reform, page 9

## 'Dorm eviction notice' draws fire from parents

## Walton residents given short-term reprieve

By Carolyn Garcia  
Staff Writer

Walton Hall E-ramp residents, who had been ordered to be out of their dorm rooms by last Saturday, were given a reprieve until Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. by University officials to help the students juggle relocating and taking exams.

"We (officials) decided to give them an extension because so many of them had come to us saying that they couldn't make the deadline," Mary Keck, assistant area coordinator said. "This decision was based entirely on the students' needs."

All 32 E-ramp residents are being relocated by the North Area Office of campus housing because officials believe this to be the best way to fight the recurring incidents of vandalism and rough-housing and to improve the students' study environment.

The students were given a choice between alternative dorm assignments or moving off campus.

Almost 50 percent of the students have opted to move off-campus, David Smith, a senior finance major and former Walton Hall resident, said.

Although University officials say they cannot pinpoint those responsible for the incidents, apart-

ment manager "B" Riley was given a "clean bill of conduct" on students that she called A&M officials to ask about.

But the evicted are not the only ones upset by the upheaval — some parents are not pleased, either.

Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs, said that about a dozen parents have called his office.

Donna Canario, mother of a junior aerospace engineering major from the ramp, said she and her husband are very upset.

"My husband got on the phone as soon as he heard about it to try and get this resolved," Canario said. "I tried to call both (John) Koldus (vice president for student services) and Sasse, but I didn't get any further than the secretaries."

"We went through orientation and everything together and what impressed us was what we were told about the family atmosphere of living on campus. I don't know if I would want my son back in a dorm now. We have a son in high school now who we were planning to send to A&M next year, but now I don't know if we are going to send him there."

"The parents are the ones who are paying money for their kids to go to school there," she said. "I

feel that the University should have contacted the parents before taking the action it did."

Students choosing to move off-campus are being offered prorated rent refunds and room deposit refunds.

John Southard, manager of McCaw Cablevision, said the company will not charge a cable reconnection fee for those students who relocate on campus.

"This is the kind of thing you look at on a case-by-case basis," Southard said. "The reason we are not charging is because it (the move) was not the students' choice."

The E-ramp residents had been written up for 10 housing violations since Jan. 30. The incidents include shaving cream and water fights, flooding of the hall, harassment of the RA, firecracker throwing and having broken bottles and trash on the stairwells.

Housing officials have charged the students with a Feb. 11 attempted assault of their RA — a charge which the students insist they had nothing to do with.

Anthony Bolner, a senior agricultural economics major, said he

See Eviction, page 9

## Reagan said to like parts of proposal on welfare

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's governors came away from a White House meeting with President Reagan on Monday saying he agreed with low-cost elements of their work-oriented welfare reform proposal but not their call for a national standard for welfare benefits.

"He basically agreed to support more of our program than I thought he would," said Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, chairman of the National Governors' Association.

New Hampshire Gov. John Sununu said, "I think the governors and the administration, at least on the bulk of the kinds of things we're trying to accomplish on welfare reform, did reach an agreement."

The governors, holding their annual winter meeting, are expected to approve a formal policy statement today calling for major overhaul of the welfare system.

Clinton said Reagan endorsed portions of their proposal requiring work for any welfare recipient with a child 3 or older, and establishing a contract between the government and each welfare recipient promising job assistance in return for an effort to get off welfare.



Walton Hall's E-ramp residents vacate the premises.

Photo by Greg Bailey