

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Senators try for funds to move railroad track

By Tracy Staton  
Senior Staff Writer

Legislation will be introduced in Congress next week in another attempt to ease the inflammation caused by the railroad tracks that bisect the Texas A&M campus.

Sen. Phil Gramm (R-College Station) and U.S. Rep. Joe Barton (R-Ennis) will introduce bills that would authorize the Department of Transportation to pay the majority of the cost to reroute the railroad tracks to an area west of Easterwood Airport. In order to obtain funding from

the DOT, the project must be funded by a program that supports demonstration projects in certain cities around the country.

Congress must specify which cities qualify for the program.

Barton said the upcoming legislation, if passed, would put the relocation of the College Station railroad tracks under jurisdiction of the DOT.

"He (Gramm) and David Eller went to DOT and they agreed that if we could include College Station and designate it as one of these areas in

conjunction with a city in North Texas called Sherman, they could fund quite a bit of it through federal funds," Barton said.

"When DOT agreed to do that, Sen. Gramm and I agreed to introduce legislation to designate College Station as one of the demonstration cities," he said.

Barton said no specific cost estimates have been made, and no final plan for a new location for the tracks has been formulated. Previous cost estimates were \$36.2 million to move the tracks west of Easterwood Airport and \$21.3 million to relocate the railroad to the FM 2818 corridor.

Larry Neal of Gramm's Washington office said the DOT's involvement was important to the bill's success.

"Simply as a practical point of view, the DOT's involvement and support for moving the tracks was simply considered crucial going in order to get legislation through the Congress," Neal said. "It was clear that the department was going to have to support that legislation and be involved in the process, thus the meeting between Sen. Gramm and the Secretary (of Transportation) in late February."

A statement released by Gramm said chairman of the A&M Board of Regents David Eller met with Gramm and transportation secretary James Burnley to discuss the railroad problem.

Then during an executive session of the March Board of Regents meeting, the Regents voted to abandon a previous plan of lowering the tracks and Wellborn Road into a trench at the same site.

The trench plan had been proposed by a joint committee of railroad, state, city and University officials, and had drawn support from the College Station City Council and the Texas Department of Highways.

Barton said the proposal could have drawn federal funds.

"The FHA was willing, at least verbally, to commit to some funding for that solution," he said.

"But from what I'm told the Regents decided that it wasn't appropriate because it created a physical gap between campus area that they didn't feel like would work," Barton said. "What they tentatively agreed on then was to relocate the tracks to an area west of Easterwood Airport."

Eller could not be reached for comment.

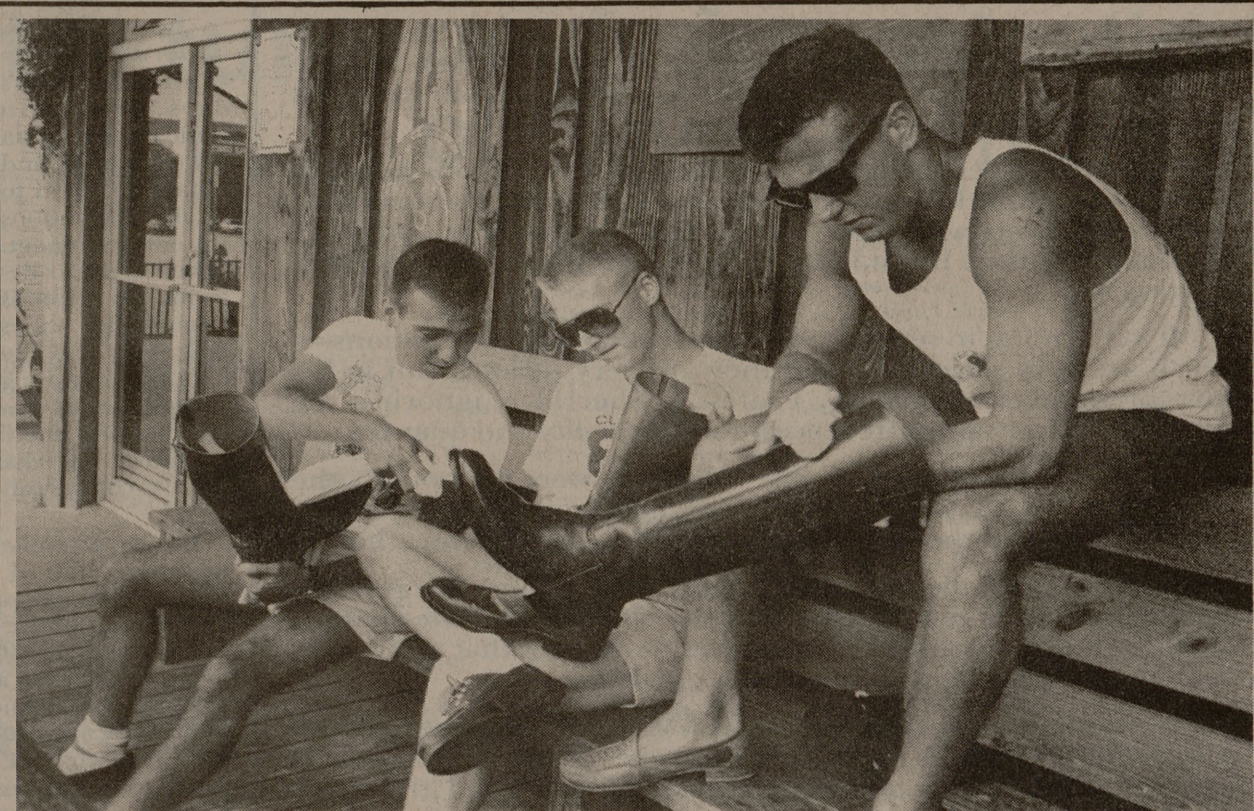


Photo by Sam B. Myers

### Booting a shine

Industrial Distribution major Ozzy Marcenaro and political science majors Bryn Russell and Ed

Schwartz shine their boots at the Chicken Tuesday. They are all members of Company E-1.

## Runoff elections decide winners of student races

By Drew Leder  
Staff Writer

All remaining positions up for election in the Texas A&M Student Government were decided Monday by a handful of students who cast ballots in the runoff election.

The closest of the seven class council and three Student Senate races was for the head of the Class of '90 council. Katherine Smith, a business administration major, defeated Dan Gattis by a margin of three votes to become class president. The 118 votes cast for Smith were enough to give her 50.64 percent of the total vote for the presidency. In the general election it was Gattis who received the larger number of votes, receiving 48.31 percent of the vote to Smith's 23.89 percent, but because neither candidate received more than 50 percent, the race was taken to a runoff.

Smith said lots of phone calls and knocking on doors during the days preceding the runoff helped her turn the tide in her favor. Smith, who served on the council this year as chairman of the class ball, said she plans to reallocate power throughout the council and reorganize committees to improve the organization and effectiveness of the council.

Freshman students elected Steve Miller, a political science major, as president of the Class of '91, giving him 61.41 percent of the 355-votes

cast. Miller, who also received most of the votes cast for freshman president in the general election, says one of his goals as class president is to bring a nationally famous band to G. Rollie White Coliseum to perform a charity benefit concert.

The vice presidents for the junior and sophomore classes were also decided in Monday's runoff election. Mike Campbell won the job for the Class of '90, getting 138 votes to Rachel Powitzky's 90. For the Class of '91, Ben Hewlett won the race for vice president. Hewlett received 224 votes to David Fischer's 110.

Other students elected to the Class of '90 council were Jason Kappel, who was elected secretary, and Sharon Brunner, who will be the class historian.

Seats on the Class of '91 council were filled by Melissa McCenroe, social secretary, and Billy Flanagan, treasurer. Class of '91 council positions attracted more votes than those for the Class of '90, as freshman voters outnumbered sophomore voters in all of the class council runoff races.

Five students also were appointed to the Student Senate Monday. Mark Williams and Kelly Hardin were elected as Ward 1 senators. Mike Cardona and David Wiley will represent Ward 4. And Chris Leist will fill a college seat representing the liberal arts and general studies.

## Faculty Senate: Schedule for finals to be unchanged

By Karen Kroesche  
Senior Staff Writer

It's final. This semester's finals schedule will not change.

Faculty Senate Speaker C. Richard Shumway said President Frank E. Vandiver sent him a letter dated March 22 that said the finals schedule will remain as it stands.

Finals will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, and Monday and Tuesday, May 9 and 10.

Shumway would not release a copy of the letter, but said timing was the president's main concern.

A spokesman in the president's office quoted from part of the letter, which read, "Revising the schedule at this date undoubtedly would inconvenience numerous students and faculty."

Shumway said he has received two letters from students, one signed by 61 students, requesting that the current schedule remain in place. He said he thinks Vandiver received similar correspondence.

The Faculty Senate and Student

Senate have been working since January to work out a finals schedule acceptable to both groups after a trial run last semester of the current schedule proved unsatisfactory.

Both groups agreed that the current schedule is unacceptable, and worked out a compromise plan at a meeting in January. That plan was promptly passed unanimously by the Student Senate.

But after holding public hearings at which only a dozen faculty members and more than 100 students showed up, the Faculty Senate last month rejected the compromise plan, opting instead for a proposal brought to the floor by one of its senators.

The Student Senate then passed a resolution expressing dissatisfaction with the Faculty Senate plan, and standing behind the original compromise between the two groups.

Shumway said he does not know if this semester's schedule would have been changed if the two groups had been able to reach an agreement. He also said he doesn't know why stu-

dents have not been informed yet that the schedule will not change.

A committee consisting of faculty, students and administrators has been meeting to try to work out a long-term solution to the scheduling problem.

## Band picks drum majors

The Aggie Band chose its new drum majors for the 1988-89 school year. The drum majors lead the band during the drills at halftime at the football games as well as at performances and parades throughout the year. Eighteen band members have been practicing for two weeks for the tryout.

The band chose Chad Corbett as head drum major, Will Nabors as artillery band drum major and Kevin Roberts as infantry band drum major.

## Allegations may be worse than Sherrill acknowledges

By Tracy Staton  
Senior Staff Writer  
and  
Anthony Wilson  
Sports Writer

Several of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's allegations against the Texas A&M football program may be more serious than A&M Head Coach and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill has acknowledged.

Sherrill has de-emphasized the importance of the seven possible violations of procedure, calling the strong wording of these allegations "semantic." Instead, he has focused attention on the 31 alleged rules infractions.

But Knox Nunnally, a Houston attorney who represented the University of Texas during its 1987 NCAA investigation, considers several of the possible violations of procedure to be more grave than the potential rules violations.

"To me, those are serious allegations," Nunnally said Tuesday in a telephone interview. "That would bother me more than a coach visiting a kid five times or telling the kid, 'I'm going to take care of you.'"

"I would think that A&M will be most concerned about how serious the allegations are concerning ethical conduct. From my brief reading of the allegations (against A&M), those are the sort of things that involve multiple coaches. If the NCAA was able to prove what they alleged, those would be the more serious things I would be concerned with defending."

And Texas Tech Athletic Director T. Jones said some of the allegations could be taken seriously by the NCAA infractions committee.

"Any time you've got money being exchanged, this is where the NCAA takes it more seriously," Jones said Tuesday. "And the way the NCAA looks at it, there are some in here that they would consider serious."

Six of A&M's possible violations



1 Mike Lyssy



2 Jeanne Baca



3 Greg Williams



4 Troy Smith



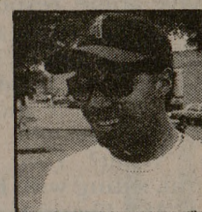
5 John Fields



6 Ladd Hoffman



7 Tina Bennett



8 David Rodriguez

## Students express feelings about NCAA allegations against Texas A&M

The Battalion asked Texas A&M students to express their feelings about the National Collegiate Athletic Association allegations against the A&M football program. A sample of their answers is below.

"I think it'll hurt recruiting in the future for Jackie Sherrill. I think it's (the allegations) probably minor. But I think it's legitimate. I think it happens everywhere." — Mike Lyssy, senior, speech communications.

"I think up to a point, it's all right to do things like that — certain incentives for players. But when you start to get into stuff like paying for their families' medical expenses, that's too far-fetched. Sports aren't supposed to be that way. They're supposed to be for school spirit and fun. But now it's become too

specifically mention exchange of cash between coaches or alumni and players or recruits. Twelve others concern "material inducements" or "material benefits" that are unspecified.

In 1987, the NCAA made 61 allegations against the UT football program. One of the possible violations involved ethical misconduct by an assistant coach. Nunnally said he was more concerned with this allegation than any of the other possible violations.

"I had great sensitivity to the allegations of ethical misconduct on the part of the staff," he said. "That was one of the matters we were most concerned about. The rest of the al-

legations would be considered by most people as relatively minor."

A substantial number of the accusations against UT involved the sale of complimentary football tickets by student athletes. Nunnally said that since there was no evidence of staff involvement in the ticket sales, these were minor violations.

Of the allegations made against Texas Tech, 15 were substantiated. Jones said the most serious impropriety involved poor judgment by a coach.

"The most severe we had was a coach who made a poor decision in recruiting concerning how much money he had spent on entertaining

as far as dinners and a rent car," Jones said.

"That's the one I thought was the most serious. Most of the others were when we had exceeded visitation, and I would classify those in the minor bracket, although they are still infractions."

Texas Tech lost three scholarships for the 1987 football season as a result of its violations of NCAA rules and procedures.

The 31 possible rules violations by A&M include seven potential violations of visitation rules that govern recruitment. Six allegations involve exchange of small items such as T-shirts or baseball caps, and one inci-

dent concerned the sale of complimentary football tickets by a student athlete.

Nunnally said his study of five years of the NCAA infractions committee's findings revealed that these kinds of infractions are considered minor by the NCAA.

"I don't believe the committee has ever looked harshly upon seeing a kid one or two more times more than what the rules provided, as long as it wasn't done multiple times," Nunnally said. "If it was a one-time thing and he saw the kid five times instead of three, I don't think that would be regarded as a major violation. But if that coach did

five kids ten times, that's a different question."

Since the allegations haven't been fully investigated, Sherrill's attempts to soften the charges are understandable, Nunnally said.

"Most universities downplay the seriousness of the allegations," he said. "My view is, from being intimately familiar with UT's situation, any time the NCAA conducts an investigation and makes allegations against you, it is a very serious matter. It's like opening up Pandora's box. Once the publicity starts, there's lots of people looking at things, and you never know what young men are doing."