



**WEATHER**

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:  
 Partly sunny  
 HIGH: 90      LOW: 68

# Regents hear views on parking, bonfire, other issues

## Student Senate speaker calls forum 'a good start'

By Kelly S. Brown

Of The Battalion Staff

Lester O'Bannon saw plenty of faults with the A&M campus he taught at for 22 years, but never became a passive complainer. He believed the philosophy of "if you go to the right people, you'll get things done." Maybe this is why the 93-year-old professor emeritus chose to pay a visit to the Board of Regents open forum on policy issues Thursday.

To a room full of students, faculty, regents and community leaders, O'Bannon quietly told a story that could be applied today.

After exhausting all resources, O'Bannon went straight to the president in 1948 with a request to repair a hole in the ground on the baseball diamond near third base. O'Bannon said he gasped during the games when players would jump for fly balls, knowing one day a player might land in the hole. The president had the situation remedied immediately.

While participants in the forum probably don't expect overnight solutions to the issues they aired to three Regents Thursday, they agree it's a step in the right direction.

In the first meeting of its kind, the Regents sometimes wrestled with the issues, but mostly listened carefully to the concerns of each speaker, whether it was the issue of the MSC expansion, where controversy over the removal of 20-odd trees has people taking definitive sides, or talk about moving bonfire, improving undergraduate advising and spending too much time on research, the Regents heard the voice of the campus.

Other issues considered included improving the

parking situation, improving married student housing, increasing funds for the College of Liberal Arts, upgrading undergraduate advising and the library, standardizing course instructor evaluations, not accepting the title of A&M as a "world class university," and formation of a hotel and restaurant management program.

These issues were few in comparison to the overall amount submitted in written form to the Committee for Academic Campuses. The forum was the third of seven the Regents will be making on their tour of the schools in the A&M System.

Regent Douglas DeCluitt, who originated the idea for the statewide visits and public-hearings, said they wanted to hear input from all sides before they determine a focus, as they are in the process of deciding which issues the Board will address during the current two-year cycle.

Kicking the hearing off on a "cozy" note, DeCluitt asked students to fill in the nine empty seats at the Board table, and join him along with Chancellor Perry Adkisson and Regents Raul Fernandez and Billy Clayton.

Elizabeth Edwards, co-president of the Texas Environmental Action Coalition, asked the Regents to re-evaluate their plans for the MSC expansion so that the trees around the MSC would not be uprooted.

"I'm not advocating not expanding the MSC," Edwards said. "I'm just saying the expansion plans could be changed where perhaps only the smaller and sick trees would be removed. The plans should be changed to where the proposed expansion has the campus behind it, not just people representing a small population

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Photo by Scott D. Weaver

Texas A&M Regents (l. to r.) Billy Clayton, Douglas DeCluitt, and Raul Fernandez and Student Senate representative Ty Cle-

venger listen to speakers making their case during the Board of Regents public meeting Thursday.

# Questions arise over state investigator

AUSTIN (AP) — The ex-superintendent of a mental institution where retarded people were found dying after improper medical care has been hired by the state to investigate alleged abuse of the retarded, it was reported Thursday.

Advocates for the retarded said the state investigation might thwart a proposed court inquiry into the alleged abuse, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

The advocates question whether Perry Vincent, former superintendent of Denton State School, can conduct an impartial investigation at San Antonio State School.

Allegations of abuse at the San Antonio institution were reported

this summer to U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders' court monitor, sociologist Linda O'Neill of Florida.

Sanders, who oversees a class-action lawsuit against Texas institutions for retarded people, is expected to rule soon on a proposal for an abuse investigation by O'Neill, the newspaper reported.

The state last week hired Vincent to investigate the abuse. His expertise was praised by Jaylon Fincannon, head of Texas retardation services.

Vincent resigned from his position at Denton State School on Nov. 29, two weeks after a federal court report faulted the medical treatment of 16 retarded people who died at

the school in 1987 and 1988.

He now is a top official in the Louisiana Division of Mental Retardation. Reached Thursday by the Associated Press, Vincent said he was in conference but would call back. He did not immediately do so.

Fincannon said Vincent is an experienced mental retardation professional. He said Vincent was hired because he is familiar with rules of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation but is independent of the agency.

The medical problems and deaths during Vincent's administration of the Denton school should not be considered abuse and neglect, Fincannon said.

"He was, and is, a good mental retardation professional, and he understands our agency," Fincannon said. "He is a good manager and knows good management techniques."

"I have no problems or concerns about him doing a thorough, objective, fair investigation," Fincannon said.

Mental retardation advocates said they doubt Vincent can be an impartial investigator because of his recent close ties with the Texas system and his professional friendship with Tom Deliganis, superintendent of San Antonio State School.

# Plant employee kills seven workers before committing suicide

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A man with an assault rifle mowed down co-workers as he went from floor to floor "looking for bosses" at a printing plant Thursday, killing seven people and wounding 13 before taking his own life.

The gunman, Joseph T. Wesbecker, had been on permanent disability and was described by Police Chief Richard Dotson as a disgruntled employee. One worker called him paranoid and said he had a fixation with guns.

"I told them I'd be back," Wesbecker told fellow Standard-Gravure Co. employee John Tingle, who approached him before the shooting began. "Get out of my way, John. I told them I'd be back."

"I said, 'How are you Rock?'" Tingle recalled. "He said, 'Fine, John. Back off and get out of the way... all the way to the wall.'"

Tingle and other employees nearby then ran into a bathroom and locked the door.

Police searched every floor of the three-story Standard-Gravure building for victims. Two were found as officers led Mayor Jerry Abramson through the building.

"We also found a fellow sitting in a corner that was just shudder-

ing in fear," Abramson said. "He hadn't been shot, but he was in shock."

Five of the wounded were in critical condition with multiple gunshot wounds, hospital officials said. One person who was not wounded suffered a heart attack and was taken to a hospital.

"It looks like a battle zone... with the blood and the people involved there," Abramson said.

Wesbecker entered the building at 8:30 a.m. with a duffel bag, an AK-47 semi-automatic rifle and a 9mm semi-automatic pistol. He also carried six to eight ammunition clips, each holding about 25 rounds, Dotson said.

Wesbecker took an elevator to third-floor offices, pulled the rifle out of his bag and opened fire, police and witnesses said.

Wesbecker worked his way downstairs, randomly shooting people along the way. "He eventually ended up in a pressroom in an annex area, which is where he killed himself," Dotson said.

Dotson described Wesbecker, 47, as a disgruntled employee of Standard-Gravure, which prints newspaper inserts and Sunday newspaper supplements. He was on permanent disability, although the nature of his disability was not immediately known.

# Corps to parade in Fort Worth before game

By Holly Becka

Of The Battalion Staff

Campus may seem a little emptier this weekend as members of the Corps of Cadets travel to Fort Worth to participate in a parade before Saturday's A&M football game against Texas Christian University.

Maj. Mark Satterwhite, Corps recruiting coordinator, said the trip is the first of two parades for out-of-town games. The Aggie Band, Corps units and the Parson's Mounted

Cavalry will march in the parade.

Corps members will assemble for an impromptu yell practice at 2:15 p.m. Saturday on the corner of Lamar and Weatherford streets in downtown Fort Worth.

The march-by will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the same corner, and travel east on Weatherford. The parade route will continue south on Main Street, east on 7th Street and north on Commerce Street to the beginning point.

Reviewing officer will be Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling.

Satterwhite said the commandant's office

would like everyone to be responsible during the the Corps trip.

"We want everyone to be careful during the weekend," he said. "We're stressing safety on the road and for everyone to be safe during the weekend. It's a night game, and we're starting later in the afternoon, so there's no need for anyone to rush up or back."

Satterwhite said the Guard Room will close at 7 a.m. Saturday and will re-open at 7 a.m. Sunday.

Aggies who will be in Fort Worth on Friday can attend a midnight yell practice at Billy Bob's Texas, 2520 Rodeo Plaza.



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

# Hustle and bustle

A wide angle camera lens and long exposure time make these students look like a blur as they rush to class in the Academic Building.

# Health Center creates new education position

By Michael Kelley

Of The Battalion Staff

To increase student awareness about health-related topics, the Department of Student Services, in conjunction with the University Health Center, is searching for someone to fill the newly-created position of Head of Health Education.

"The student health service has not had a really pro-active program dealing with issue matters on health education," said Dr. Malon Southerland, associate vice president for Student Services and acting director of the student health service.

"We have had a number of consultants that have come in over the last couple of years and that was one of the areas that they highlighted — that we needed a program on health education that might include a long list of potential topics from nutrition, various specific diseases, and even general fitness-for-life programs."

It was Southerland's decision to add the position to the Student Services budget this year, but the new student health service director, who has not been announced at this time, will have the opportunity to choose

the new Health Education director from the growing list of candidates.

"We're excited and have already advertised for the position," Southerland said. "We already have about 20 applicants. Many are really qualified for the job, and this position seems to be what they want to do."

"It's possible, due to the quality of the applicant pool, and the fact that many of the applicants are local, the position could be filled this fall. There is no question that it will be filled by January."

Southerland said the director will present outreach programs on requested health topics to students and student organizations. The position will also lead to more emphasis upon creating campus displays on topical health issues.

"It will be a fun job, I think, with a lot to do," Southerland said. "It could eventually lead to where there would be others participating with the coordinator. I could envision student peer groups and graduate student assistants working with that person, and maybe even another staff member as well."

"The position is going to help communicate a positive message about the health service here at Texas A&M."