

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly sunny

HIGH: 90 LOW: 68

New law repeals retirement age for tenured professors in Texas

By Andrea Warrenburg
Of The Battalion Staff

A law enacted by the Texas Legislature in June will affect the retirement age of the more than 1,500 tenured professors at Texas A&M. The legislation prohibits public colleges and universities from imposing mandatory retirement on tenured faculty members when they reach the age of 70. "The important thing about the new law is that it will remove a form of age discrimination that has no place in American society," Dr. Charles Zucker, director of the

Texas Faculty Association, said. The law also reduces the combination of age and years of service at which a Teachers Retirement System participant can retire with benefits. At A&M, professors may become tenured after going through a six-year probation period. At the end of the period, the Board of Regents reviews each candidate based on teaching, research and service to the University and the community. If the professor is not granted tenure, he has one year to find a position elsewhere. "It's a long-term career commitment to that professor in terms of

employment," Zucker said. "With the new law, the tenure will go on until the professor wants to resign." Zucker said Norm Whalen, professor of anthropology at Southwest Texas State, was the instigator of the bill. Whalen was approaching 70 and did not want to retire. He contacted his local state representative and the TFA, who in turn contacted the Texas Legislature on his behalf. "Just because someone hits their 70th birthday, that is no reason to retire them," Zucker said. Texas joins other states in enacting a mandatory retirement prohibition law four-and-a-half years before

the federal government is scheduled to do the same. In 1986, Congress passed a bill prohibiting employers from forcing employees to retire at the age of 70, with the exception of tenured faculty. It permitted universities and colleges to compel tenured faculty members to retire at age 70 until Jan. 1, 1994. "Texas is ahead of their time with the new law — five years ahead of the game," Zucker said. "People do outstanding, brilliant work late in their lives. There is no reason to retire them before they are ready."

Texas paves the way for highway program

By Cindy McMillan
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas paved the way for cleaner roads across America by starting the first Adopt-a-Highway program in 1985, and the rest of the nation is following its lead. A recent survey by the Texas highway department showed that 40 of the 50 states have or want to have Adopt-a-Highway programs. "It's a plan we're proud to see the rest of the nation copy," J. Don Clark, director of the department's Travel and Information Division, said. Volunteers in 24 states regularly take to the highways for clean-up, and 16 more states are developing plans for a program. The hard work is paying off. Following the program's implementation in Texas in 1985 and the "Don't Mess with Texas" advertising campaign, total roadside litter fell by 64 percent, the largest reduction in the nation.

Nelda Riley, Adopt-a-Highway coordinator for this district, said she has noticed "quite a change" in the local litter problem since Adopt-a-Highway came to Bryan-College Station in 1986. "It's a lot more effective than I ever thought it would be," she said. Riley said 46 groups have adopted more than 100 miles of highway in Brazos County. All the major roadways are completely taken, including Highway 6 north and south and Highway 21 east and west, but Riley said the department can always find more places for interested groups. Organizations participating in the program assume responsibility for keeping a certain stretch of highway clean. In Texas, groups are assigned a minimum of two miles of roadway and must clear it from litter at least four times a year. The highway department monitors the assigned areas, Riley said, and notifies organizations if their section of the highway needs an extra cleaning. The department provides trash bags and orange safety vests for vol-

unteers and disposes of the litter collected. A four-by-eight foot white-on-blue sign with the organization's name is erected at each end of the area. Adults, children and college students all take part in the program. Groups in Brazos County that have volunteered include 4-H Clubs, Boys Clubs, fraternities and sororities, the Bryan-College Station adult probation department, the juvenile services department, Kiwanis Clubs, Lions Clubs, church groups and departments at Texas A&M. The program continues to grow statewide. Currently 3,320 groups volunteer their work on almost 7,000 miles of Texas highway. Some states have tried other approaches to the litter problem. Minnesota offers a one-day volunteer program called "Pick-a-Highway," and Rhode Island allows individuals and groups to plan and carry out beautification projects. Michigan encourages litter watchdogs to call in litter violations on a hotline and also requires a deposit on bottles to en-

courage residents to hang on to glass beverage containers. Clark said interest in Adopt-a-Highway programs has spread even across national borders. Canada, Australia, Brazil and Europe have requested start-up information from Texas.

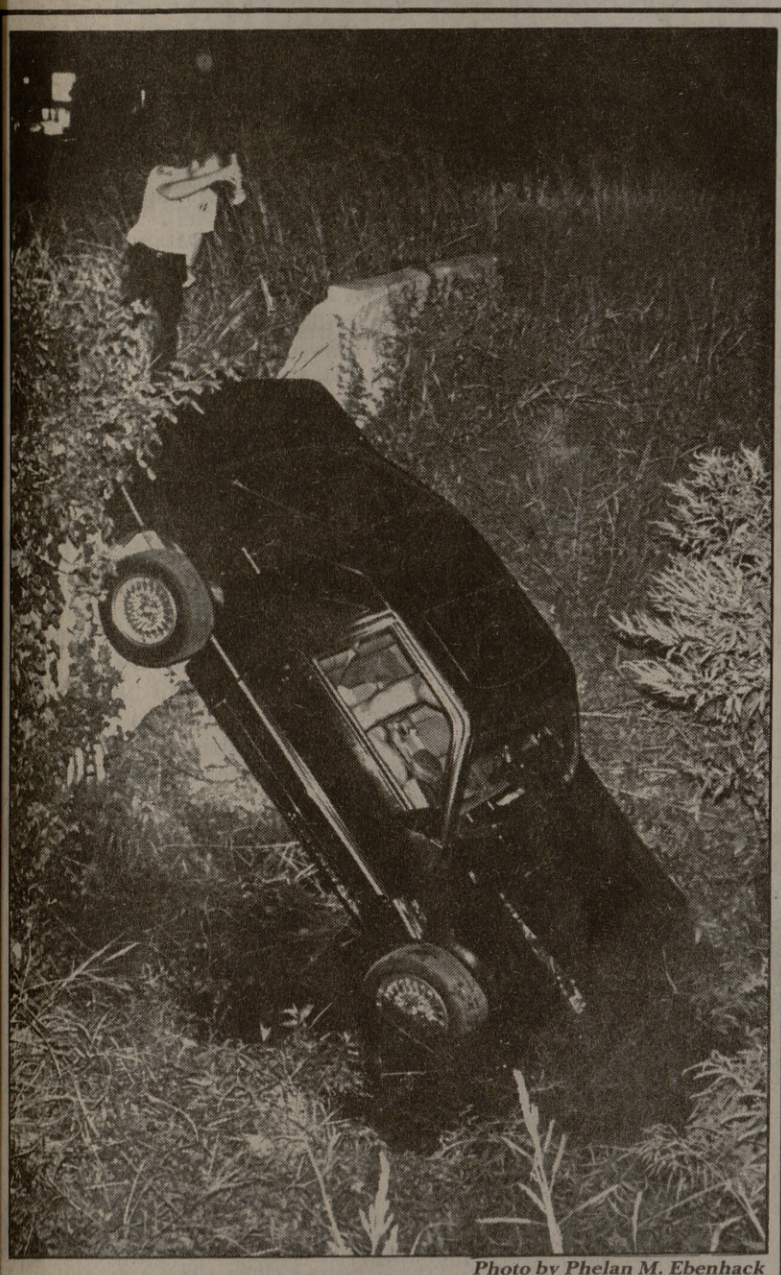
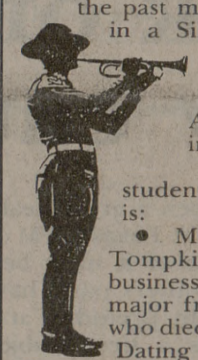


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack
A College Station police officer checks out the damage caused by a 1988 Mustang driven by Christopher Manson, 20. The car crashed through a concrete wall at the intersection of Jersey Street and Marion Pugh Monday morning around 1 a.m. Carol Rose, the front-seat passenger, was taken to Humana Hospital for back, neck and head injuries.

Silver Taps ceremony to honor 1

The solemn sound of buglers playing "Taps" and the sharp ring of gunfire will be heard on campus tonight as one Texas A&M student who died during the past month is honored in a Silver Taps ceremony at 10:30 in front of the Academic Building. The deceased student being honored is: Marion Dwayne Tompkins, a freshman business administration major from La Marque, who died Sept. 23. Dating back almost a century, the stately tradition of Silver Taps is practiced on the first Tuesday of each month from September through April, when necessary. The names of the deceased students are posted at the base of the flag pole in front of the Academic Building, and the flag is flown at half-mast the day of the ceremony. Lights will be extinguished and the campus hushed as Aggies pay final tribute to fellow Aggies. The Ross Volunteer Firing Squad begins the ceremony, marching in slow cadence toward the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Shortly after, three volleys are fired in a 21-gun salute and six buglers play a special arrangement of "Taps" three times — to the north, south and west.



Rains says education is cure for state problems

By Michael Kelley
Of The Battalion Staff

Republican gubernatorial candidate Jack Rains called for an "educational Renaissance in Texas" to deal with prison overcrowding, drugs and unemployment in the state. Rains, A&M class of '60 and former secretary of state, told the A&M chapter of College Republicans Monday night that the theme of his campaign is the improvement of the educational system in the state through reform. "It is time to deal with the gaping holes below the waterline in education," Rains said. "Some of my opponents are still taking the rearrange-the-deck-chairs-on-the-Titanic" approach. "Those gaping holes are soaring dropout rates, falling test scores, and massive increases in funding that are giving no measurable appreciable increase in the quality of education."

Rains said he blames Texas' prison overcrowding and drug abuse problems on education for not teaching youths to take responsibility for their actions. "I propose allowing the Texas Educational Agency to actually come in and take over (schools with low education rates)," Rains said. "I call it the 'bankruptcy act'." "If we value our savings so much that we give examiners the power to see that the money is safe, surely we value the future of our children to allow the TEA to see their future safe." Rains stressed that the difference between himself and his opponents is that he has had experience in both the private and public sectors. Rains served as chairman of the board of 3D International, a billion dollar service company in Houston, before being appointed secretary of state by Gov. Bill Clements. "I can talk about both sides of the issues (public and private) in Austin with credibility," Rains said. Rains called the Gulf Coast of Texas the

"swing area" that will produce the Republican votes needed to defeat any Democratic gubernatorial candidate. He said that he is the best Republican candidate for governor because he already has a large number of supporters from this area. In comparison to Republican gubernatorial candidates Kent Hance, whom Rains called "the funniest guy on the circuit" and Clayton Williams, Jr., whom Rains dubbed "the most colorful guy in the race", Rains said that his message is serious. "Today, with dropout rates soaring, test scores actually going down and one-third to one-half of all the kids in higher education not passing a basic skills test, someone had better start using some oversight," said Rains. "The Texas Educational Agency has created a vast bureaucracy that is attempting to run education from the top down. "They (TEA) assume that what works in Brownsville will work in Bryan and that the

same plans will work in inner city schools," he said. "That's not only highly unlikely, it has proven to be absolutely impossible." Rains said he agrees with the Texas Supreme Court's decision in Edgewood v. Kirby because Texas does not have an efficient education system. "Education in Texas is in crisis, and the Supreme Court has reaffirmed what some of us calling for education reform have been saying for a long time," Rains said. "We don't need to raise taxes. Instead, we need to redirect our educational funding. "We are spending \$13.5 billion on education and we're not getting a return on that investment," he said. "What we need to do is to get the money we're spending into the classrooms and into education." "Until the Texas taxpayers see a return on the 50% increase (over the last five years) they've just put in, it's going to be extremely difficult to get them to throw more money at the problem."

Band's half-time show honors former director

By Michael Kelley
Of The Battalion Staff

Members of the 1989 Alumni Band, consisting of former members of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, reunited Saturday in the Adams Band Hall and on the Haney Drill Field to practice the music and marching skills they developed as Aggie bandmen. The band later played in Kyle Field during the A&M University of Southern Mississippi football game to help the Aggie Band honor Col. Joe T. Haney. The Alumni Band was composed of bandmen who played under the direction of the first three Aggie Band directors — Col. Richard J. Dunn, Col. E. V. Adams and Haney. The classes represented in the Alumni Band ranged from the Class of '27 through the Class of '89. The Alumni Band marched onto Kyle Field at half-time to join the Aggie Band, whose formation spelled out "COL HANEY." Both bands then played "Noble Men of Kyle," which was composed by Haney in 1973 to honor the Aggie Band. "This is the first time in the history of the Aggie Band that former students who were in the band were able to march with the Aggie Band on the same turf at halftime," said Maj. Jay O. Brewer, Class of '81, who is associate Aggie Band director and coordinator for the Alumni Band. "From what I can get from all these former students, we may have now begun another Aggie Band tradition," Brewer said. "We made history today and broke the ice." Bill Schwensen, Class of '77, served as head drum major for the Alumni Band. "When I left A&M, I never really thought I would

get to do anything like this again," Schwensen said. "Being able to come back to Kyle Field and play the "War Hymn" and "Noble Men of Kyle" was really special. Going out onto the field as an alumni was an added treat, since it has never been done before. "Tonight was a very emotional time for many of the former band members because being able to play and march again was a way for them to re-create part of their past, which many thought they would never get to do again." The Alumni Band consisted of members of the Texas Aggie Band Association (TABA), an organization of former Aggie Band members who support the Aggie Band through donations. "The TABA is here to perpetuate the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band as we know it today," John Otto, president of the TABA for the past two years, said. "Our organization is here to help financially through giving tutoring funds to the band, helping pay for new instruments and trips, as well as sponsoring a barbeque dinner for graduating seniors in the spring and for the entire band when they return for the fall semester. "We have established three endowments in the names of the former directors — Col. Dunn, Col. Adams and Col. Haney. It is the income off of these endowments that goes to support the Aggie Band." Otto said that last year, the Association gave more than \$4,500 to the Aggie Band to be used for tutors and trips. The TABA on Saturday elected David Marion, Class of '65, to serve as president of the Association for the next two years. "The next four years are going to be really exciting in the Aggie Band because we are coming up on our 100th anniversary in 1994," Marion said. "One of the main objectives and reasons for this Texas Aggie Band Association is to perpetuate remembering and keeping

going of the tradition of the Aggie Band as a military marching unit that is unique in its style in the way we operate and the way we learn the drills. "I think everybody who goes through this organization carries with them a lifetime of what they learn about discipline, pride and organization. It is about going out and doing the seemingly impossible each weekend during halftime, yet making it come out with precision. That, to me, is the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band."

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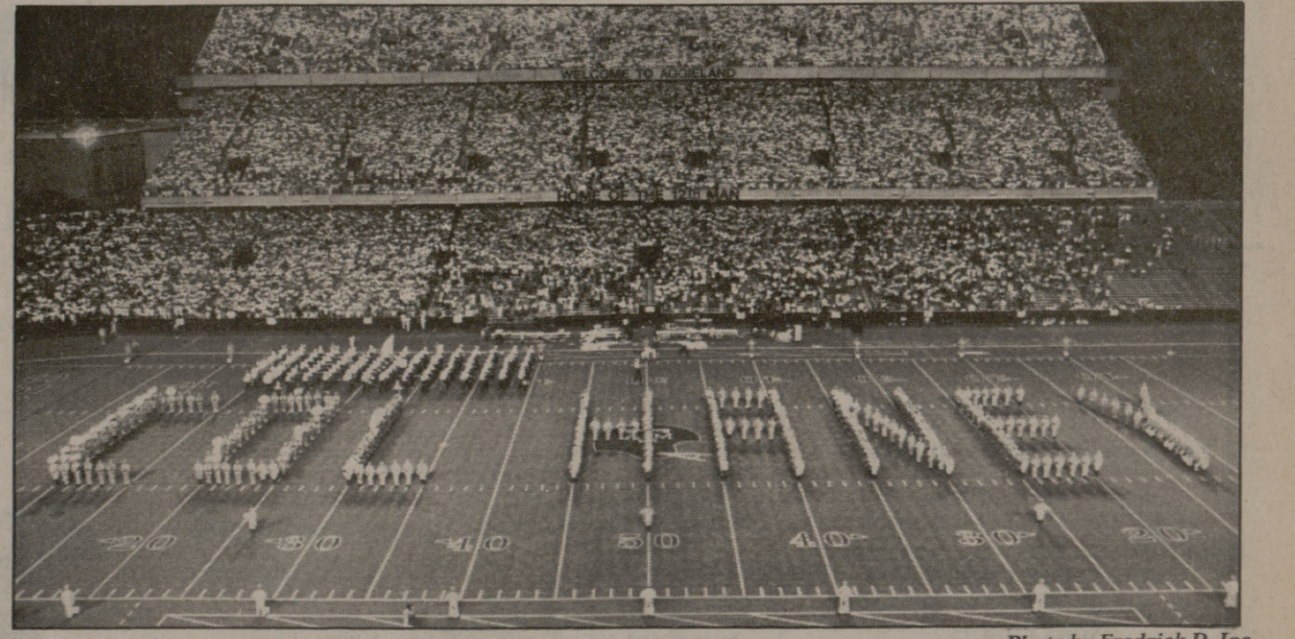


Photo by Fredrick D. Joe
The Aggie Band and alumni march in honor of Col. Joe T. Haney. The alumni march in the rectangular formation, separate from the current band members.