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Friday, January 26, 1990

Journalism lecture series

Doctor: Abstain from TV—medicine

By **NADJA SABAWALA**
Of The Battalion Staff

Television news is an improper medium to transfer good, accurate medical knowledge, Dr. Bruce B. Dan, a physician and journalist, said.

"There are syndicated medical reporters on TV who not only tell you what to do, but they also make a diagnosis and treatment over the air," Dan said during part of the journalism department's Science and Technology Lecture Series Thursday.

Dan said that without knowing the history of the patient, few physicians would be able to make a fair diagnosis of a person's ailments.

There is a fine line between the objective journalist, who observes and reports the facts, and the doctor, who recommends treatment to his patients, Dan said. These physician/journalists are known as medical-reporters, he said.

"A medical-reporter is a journalist who says they have specialized knowledge that gives them the right to be a reporter in that area," he said.

However, Dan asked, "Would you want them telling you which drugs you should be taking?"

Limited time slots for news topics add to the confusion, Dan said. He said when physicians are interviewed, they don't understand that quotes must be quick and in terms the general public can understand. Dan said the typical broadcast allows him only 90 seconds to relay his news.

Dan said another problem with transferring medical news through the airwaves is the limited language and vocabulary. For example, when the AIDS epidemic began to receive coverage, "condom" was not a word to be readily used on television, Dan said.

"You couldn't mention the sort of things that were important to mention to talk about the epidemic and really deliver information to the

American people because of television," said.

Medical news has become the most popular news on television today, Dan said. Although some people turn off the news at certain segments of the broadcast, like sports or weather, everyone is interested in their own health, and the news section loses only a small amount of its audience, Dan said.

Dan said perhaps the greatest misfortune of broadcast news medicine is that people are getting their medical information from their doctors anymore but from the mass media. He said physicians and journalists must work together to communicate important information correctly and accurately.

"There is a great deal of intolerance and intolerance and ignorance out there, and the thing is to use the miraculous tools we have in our hands, whether it's TV or microwave transmission, to conquer that," Dan said.

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**Services
at depot
to expand**

By **PAM MOOMAN**
Of The Battalion Staff

Amtrak has good news for Bryan-College Station travelers.

It is expanding its services with two new routes to Dallas and Houston.

Anne Bell, director of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitor Bureau, said Texas A&M played a big part in Amtrak's College Station depot. Amtrak wanted to be near the University, she said.

Many Bryan-College Station passengers have ridden the rails since Amtrak opened the depot Dec. 14, 1988, Bell said.

"They've (Amtrak) been pleased with the ridership from this area," she said. High ridership numbers justify almost doubling the service, she said.

The daily routes will be more convenient for passengers, she said.

The fare to Dallas is \$34 one way and \$68 round trip, while the Houston fare is \$19 one way and \$38 round trip.

There will be a limited number of discounted seats on each train, but they only will be available through travel agencies.

Train 522 will depart College Station at 11 a.m. and arrive in

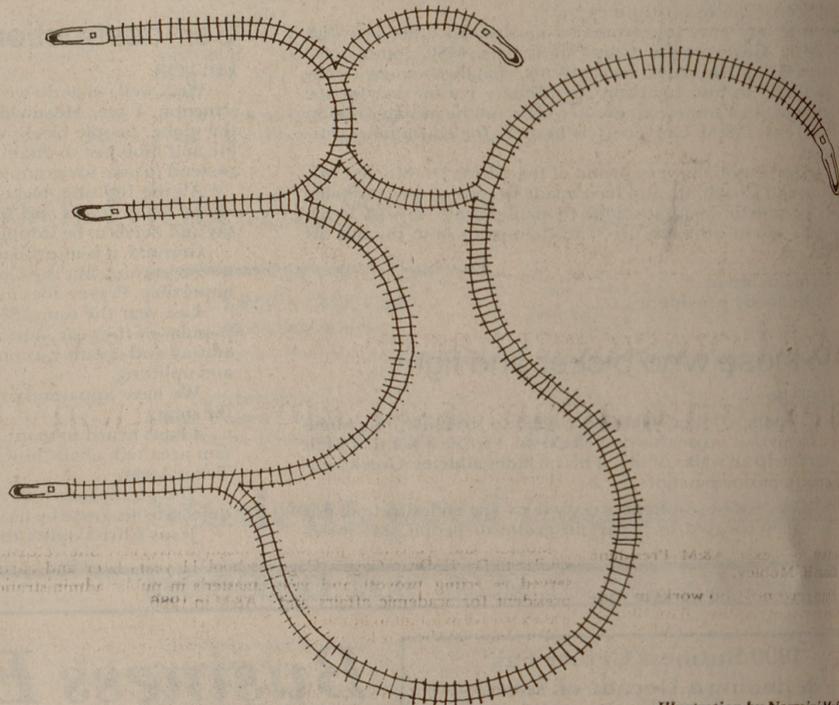


Illustration by Norzaini Muhi

Dallas at 3:15 p.m.

For the return trip, train 521 will depart Dallas at 2 p.m. and arrive in College Station at 5:40 p.m.

Travelers to Houston will de-

part College Station at 5:40 p.m. on train 521 and arrive in Houston at 8:15 p.m.

For the return trip, train 522 will depart Houston at 9 a.m. and arrive in College Station at 11

a.m.

Amtrak has a toll-free number (1-800-USARAIL) to answer questions about fares and schedules.

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Regents hear presentation for Master Plan detailing possible renovations on campus

By **CHUCK SQUATRIGLIA**
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M may become a greener, safer, more unified campus in the next few years.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents heard yesterday the presentation of a final plan for a "University Master Plan" that details extensive renovations to be made around campus.

The goal of the plan is the long-range planning of construction on

campus. Some of the objectives of the plan include:

- the unification of the main campus with the west campus, located across Wellborn Road.
- minimizing pedestrian and vehicular "conflicts."
- providing additional parking and shuttle bus service on campus.
- providing more open "green space."
- reinforcing and defining the campus perimeter.
- providing for long-range plan-

ning and development for the campus.

The plan was designed because of the rapidly growing student body and the problems associated with such an increase, Gene Schrikel, head of the firm hired to devise the plan, said.

Some specific proposals of the plan include closing the central campus to all vehicles, creating 6300 parking spaces, increasing student parking spaces from 28 percent to 36 percent of all spaces, increasing

green space on campus with the creation of an open mall and banning bicycle traffic from the "academic core."

The plan was created by Schrikel, Rollins and Associates Inc., Arlington, Texas. A total of \$215,000,000 has been spent on the proposal so far.

In other action, the Board: • was presented with the lowest bid for the University Center expansion and new parking garage. **See Regents/Page 6**

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1. Fish Lot (PA61) - corner of Beef Cattle Road and Joe Route Blvd. next to the bus stop.
2. Duncan field behind the University Press building off Lewis Street.
3. Jogging track - north of Floral Gardens, adjacent to Mt. Aggie.
4. Research Park - Hwy. 60 entrance on the right side by the lake.
5. Hensel Park - near caretaker cabin, in the parking lot.
6. Olsen field bus stop (PA63).
7. Zachary parking area off Bizzell Street (PA50/51).

Convenience telephones are located near each residence hall. For additional information, or to report emergency telephone repairs, contact the Department of Student Affairs at 845-3111.

Keep this ad with you for emergency purposes. Emergency telephone locations are to the right.

Texas A&M University
Department of Student Affairs
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