

We asked and you said...
? How valuable do you think your degree will be?
See Page 3

Communication issues addressed

By STACY ALLEN
Of The Battalion Staff

A process allowing Texas A&M students to register complaints about communication problems existing in classrooms is expected to improve teacher-student understanding.

Implemented this fall, the Classroom Communication Enhancement Program was designed by the provost's office to give A&M students an outlet to voice formal, written concerns about problems students and professors may have understanding each other during class.

Complaints submitted by students are supposed to receive results within seven class days to minimize any disruption of the learning process.

Ty Clevenger, student body president and a senior genetics major, says this program is extremely innovative and is believed to be the only one of its kind in the nation.

"It is far from typical of most bureaucracies to have a problem addressed in seven days," Clevenger says. "This is the single most impor-

Classroom program to enhance teacher-student understanding

tant advance we have made in years as far as our undergraduate program is concerned."

Dr. E. Dean Gage, A&M provost and vice president for academic affairs, says the program is designed to promote the highest quality of classroom communication between students and faculty.

Gage says the educational process consists of the content of a course's materials and an instructor's delivery of that material.

This program, he says, targets how the material is being explained to the students.

"We want to try to promote and maintain the highest quality of scholarly exchange," Gage says.

The program is designed to help students who previously have approached professors to no avail about communication problems in the classroom.

In this situation, students should

complete reporting forms available in the offices of department heads and each college's dean.

The forms should be returned to the college in which the class is being offered.

After receiving a student's complaint, the department head will forward a duplicate of the form to the associate dean of the college. Both will investigate the problem and work to resolve it within the seven-day time period.

If the problem cannot be resolved by the department head and associate dean, students should appeal the issue to the dean of the college and, if further appeal is needed, the provost's office.

At the conclusion of each investigation, complaints are sent to the provost's office where the University's centralized data are stored.

At the end of each semester, a report of the data will be sent to A&M

President William Mobley and will serve to monitor classroom communication problems on campus.

Each college is establishing its own master teacher resource panel to help remedy communication problems after they have been reported and stop future ones from occurring.

The panels, which will vary from two to five members depending on the size of a college, will be comprised of instructors who have demonstrated superior teaching skills through receiving national or student-nominated teaching awards.

These panels will be utilized by deans and department heads in designing programs to assist professors in communicating course material to students.

Additionally, the panels will meet with the director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, a center established to enhance college teaching at A&M, and its advisory council to propose programs to alleviate communication problems in classrooms.

See Class/Page 7

Student Senate votes for bonfire resolution

By BRIDGET HARROW
Of The Battalion Staff

The Student Senate Tuesday night endorsed eight of ten recommendations in a bonfire resolution from a faculty and student committee. The Senate voted against endorsing clauses that called for reducing the size of bonfire and establishing minimum academic standards for those who work on bonfire.

The bonfire resolution was tabled at the last regular Student Senate meeting during the spring semester and was reintroduced to the Senate by David Shasteen, student services committee chairman. After a lengthy debate, senators voted against requiring bonfire workers who are not bonfire leaders to have a minimum grade-point ratio. Several senators said setting a minimum GPR was not only unenforceable but also unfair.

Senators also disapproved of a

recommendation which called for reducing bonfire by 50 percent over the next four years. Senator Adam Vanek said city ordinances and university regulations currently specify the height and circumference of bonfire, and no reduction is needed.

Student Body President Ty Clevenger told the senators that the Board of Regents will have the ultimate say in what happens to bonfire. "Bonfire will not be reduced by the Board of Regents," Clevenger said.

Brennan Reilly, a member of the committee that created the report on bonfire, said the report was passed by the Faculty Senate in June and it was then sent to President William Mobley.

Reilly said Mobley read the document and sent it to the Bonfire Committee, which is headed by Bill Kibler, associate director of student affairs and adviser for bonfire. The Bonfire Committee is an oversight

See Government/Page 4

Quicker picker upper

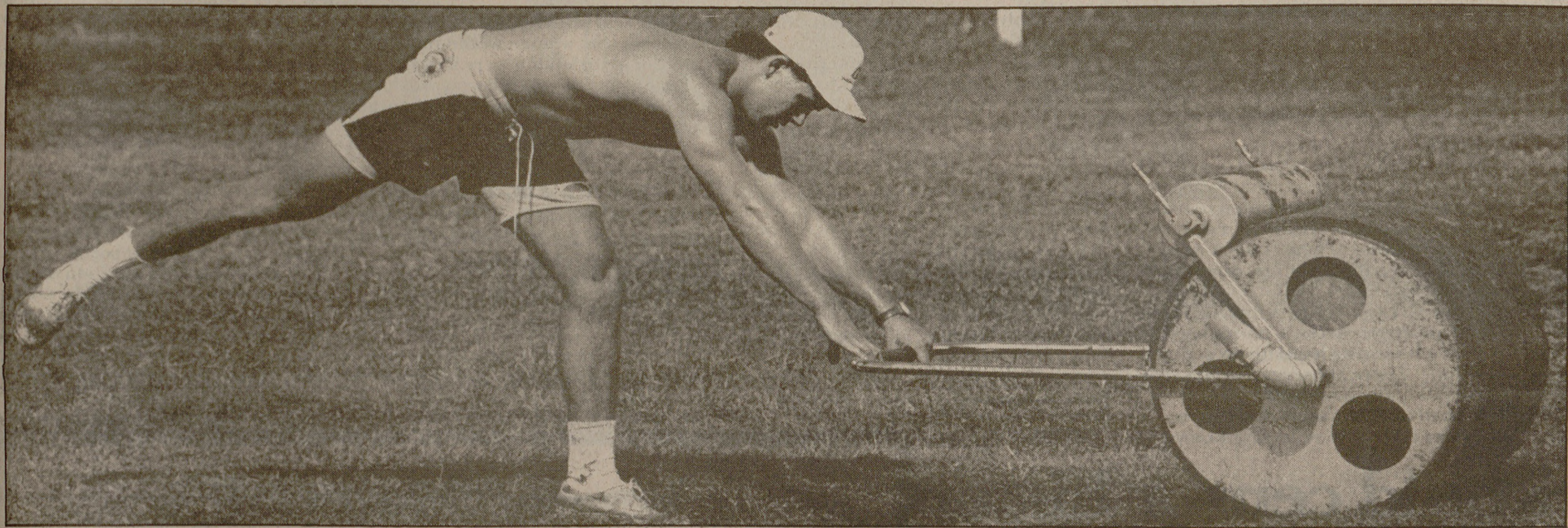


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenbach

Mark Yokem, a freshman business major from Houston, uses a rolling sponge to soak up mud puddles created by recent rains on the intramural soccer fields.

Ogden plans to give power back to juries

By MIKE LUMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

Pointing out negligence and inefficiency in the criminal justice system, state representative hopeful Steve Ogden proposed a plan Tuesday to "give the power back to the people."

Ogden, a Republican opposing Democrat Jim James in the Nov. 6 election, said during a news conference that juries should have more authority to sentence criminals.

"Our criminal justice system is controlled not by the people who sit on juries but by liberal federal judges, unelected bureaucrats, professional politicians and the criminals themselves."

He said juries should be able to set minimum sentences that cannot be reduced by parole.

Prosecutors and defendants should have the right to request jury sentencing, he said. Juries also should have access to the same factual information judges receive when deciding a case.

To be eligible for parole, inmates should be required to have a high school diploma or G.E.D. earned in prison, Ogden said.

He said 83 percent of state prisoners did not graduate from high school.

Better education means less chance of returning to prison, he said.

He also said the state will continue prison construction.

Ogden said he favored "streamlining" the appeals process for death-row inmates.

One appeal should be permitted

A&M student starts pen pal program to help U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia

By JOE FERGUSON
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M students wanting to support American forces in Saudi Arabia can help out best by becoming soldiers' pen pals.

A&M junior John Shultz is organizing a pen pal program at the request of his older brother, Wes, a Marine stationed in Saudi Arabia.

"I wish I was there to help, but this is the only thing I can do," John says.

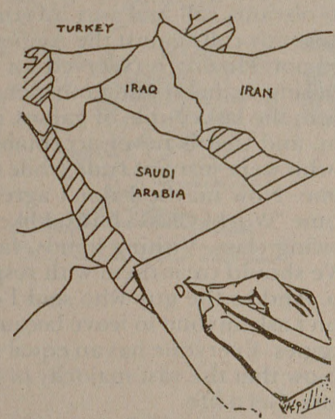
He says some soldiers don't have family members who write, and some do not have a family at all. John says letters from college students would help morale greatly.

"(The soldiers) would love to be able to write to college women," Wes says in a letter to his brother.

Wes says the soldiers don't get a lot of outside news. They get intelligence briefs every day, but he says it's usually ugly.

When John writes his brother, he says he includes the weekly football scores of the Aggies and Dallas Cowboys.

John says students wanting to



Graphic by Eric Wong

are the fathers of children and the husbands of terrified wives. They are the best this country has.

"We are not allowed to mix with the people here. Our existence here is spartan at best," he says. "We are all very tense here and we have no outlet."

The pen pal program is designed to relieve some of that tension. To participate, students can sign up at a table in the MSC.

The table will be open Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting Thursday. It will be open for two weeks to obtain enough people to write to a whole company of soldiers.

The first batch of letters will be sent together to Wes, and he will hand them out to soldiers in his company. Correspondence between individuals will begin after that.

Anyone who knows soldiers in Saudi Arabia can help spread the program to other service branches by leaving addresses at the table.

John says help is needed to work the table and anyone wanting to help can go by the table and volunteer.

For more information, call John at 847-0996.

Candidate: New ideas needed in lieutenant governor's office

By SUZANNE CALDERON
Of The Battalion Staff

Rob Mosbacher, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, said new ideas and a fresh perspective — a businessman's perspective — is needed in the lieutenant governor's office.

Speaking to an audience of about 45 in the Memorial Student Center last night, Mosbacher, said he is against tax increases and pouring money into problems in order to solve them. He said he wants to bring new leadership, new choices, new opportunities and common sense business management to the office.

Mosbacher said his opponent, Democrat Bob Bullock, is an "Austin

and if you've been there that long, there is a good chance you are part of the problem."

Bullock was invited to speak, but declined to attend, said Ron Heath, chairman of political forum.

Mosbacher is currently president of Mosbacher Energy Company, a small, independent oil and gas company in Houston. He said that his experience in the oil business has taught him to spend money efficiently.

Texas is increasing in size, Mosbacher said, and with the increase in size there also comes the challenge of doing things better like improving the quality of life and getting better jobs and health care. The way to accomplish those goals is not by spending more money, but instead by spending the money you have efficiently.

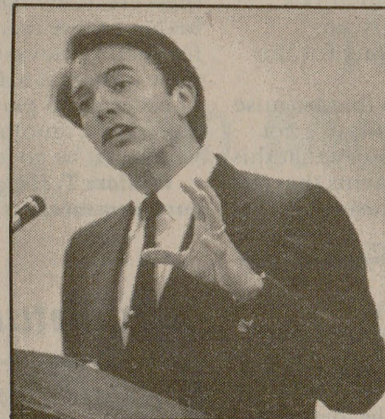
Mosbacher's new ideas for improving Texas include a plan called the Texas Business Enhancement Fund which would make it easier for small businesses to get loans so they remain in business and create jobs for Texans.

He said for a state so wealthy, Texas manages its health care dollars inefficiently. In Texas, he said, the emphasis is put on curing people's illnesses instead of preventing them from occurring. He has proposed a private sector low-cost health insurance program that covers preventive health measures instead of covering hospitalization and catastrophic illness.

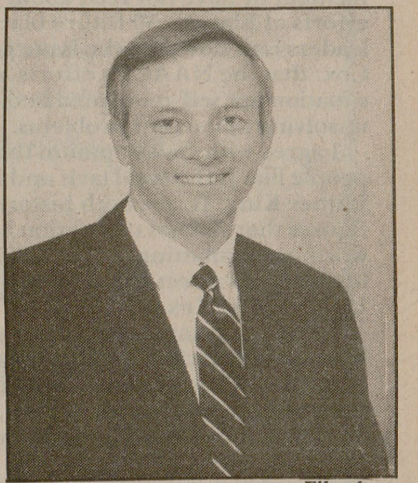
Outside eyes are also needed in government to review how money is being used, he said.

As volunteer chairman of the board for the Texas Department of Human Services, a state agency overseeing low-income assistance programs, Mosbacher said he called for an audit of the agency and found \$15 to 30 million of wasted overhead.

"This bureaucracy had not had an outside impartial management audit of how it allocates overhead in over 12 years," he said. "It is impossible to get your arms around the waste and inefficiency of government if you have no one on the outside telling you what it is — if you leave it up to the agency they will never find it."



Rob Mosbacher



Steve Ogden

in state courts and one in federal courts, he said.

"Eliminate frivolous appeals and cover all arguments the first time."

Discussing other subjects, Ogden said he supported legislation to limit the number of terms in the Texas House to six and the Senate to three. That means a 12-year maximum incumbency for both.

He said he did not favor a tax increase, but would reconsider if convinced Texas A&M's operation would suffer.

Basic needs in the state are safety, education, public transportation and health and human services, Ogden said.

Security is a major public concern, he said. Many local citizens live in crime-watch neighborhoods or display signs warning would-be intruders.

"I want to get the criminal justice system back on its feet."

Pro-life activist stresses importance of ordinary people in abortion issue

By JAMES M. LOVE
Of The Battalion Staff

The president of Texas Collegians for Life, Pierre Riou, said it is crucial for students to get involved with the abortion issue because every bit helps.

Riou, a graduate of Texas A&M, has been a pro-life activist for over two years and is hoping to recruit more members into the TCL. Riou spoke Tuesday evening at an Aggies for Life meeting.

The TCL is a non-profit, charitable organization with representatives from universities throughout the state, which seeks to promote respect for innocent human life and to oppose abortion, infanticide and euthanasia as violations of human rights.

"The strength of the pro-life movement is in ordinary people," he said. "Ordinary college students who get active can make a difference."

Riou urged anti-abortion participants to prepare for

pro-life debates by staying informed.

"It's important to be informed because many times the opponents of pro-life are impervious to logic and facts, and it helps to be ready to deal with it," he said.

Riou added that it takes a lot of time and dedication to be active in the pro-life movement.

"The satisfaction comes from dealing with life and death issues and making a difference," he said.

Riou said that pro-life has made much ground in recent years with several states that have activated parental consent laws. He said many states with these laws have had a substantial decrease in abortions and even pregnancies.

"This is a window of opportunity," he said, "and we can make a difference."

Aggies for Life is a recognized student organization of Texas A&M that wishes to protect human life through education, legislation and promotion of alternatives to abortion.