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# The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 153 USPS 045360 6 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Thursday, June 13, 1991

## New headquarters to provide more space, A&M planner says

By Karen Praslicka  
The Battalion

Texas A&M University System's new State Headquarters will allow more space for employees presently located in the Systems Building, said the manager of A&M's Facilities and Planning Division.

Charles Caffey heads the construction of the new building currently under construction near the College Station Hilton, which is expected to be

completed by January 1992.

Caffey said the new building will allow employees in the systems division to be located in one building instead of being "scattered around" in different buildings.

The location of the new building was planned to be farther away from the University than the present Systems Building because employees are not only dealing with A&M in College Station, he said.

"The system actually deals with eight universities," he said. "It (the

systems division) was planned to be more remote."

The building will house the offices of the chancellor, vice chancellor and deputy chancellor, along with the Texas Forest Service (TFS) and the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEES).

The TFS presently is located in the Research Park while TEES is located in Henderson Hall on campus.

The University bought the building from a savings and loan association in Little Rock, Ark., after the building's

original developers went bankrupt.

Most of the concrete needed for construction was in place at the time of purchase while all of the exterior walls were built, but there were no windows or glass in the building.

A feasibility study done by an architectural engineering firm declared the building structurally sound.

The cost of the construction contract was \$9.5 million, not including furniture for the new building or architectural design costs.

The total cost of the new building is unknown.

Caffey said the University saved money buying a building partly constructed instead of designing a completely new one.

"There is a savings involved, because costs can add up," he said.

The headquarters mainly will have office space, but it also will have a library and four conference rooms.

## Punishment reduces crime, report says

By Jeff M. Brown  
The Battalion

The decline in punishment and lack of prison space have contributed to the increase in serious crimes in Texas, according to a study done in part by a Texas A&M professor.

According to the study by the Dallas-based National Center for Policy Analysis, a criminal can expect to spend only 7.4 days in prison for committing a serious crime, compared to 13 days in 1980 and 24.1 days in 1960.

The study defined a serious crime as a felony committed using violence.

Dr. Morgan Reynolds, an A&M professor of economics and senior fellow of NCPA, said criminals are not scared of committing crimes because of the "marked lack" of punishment.

"They (criminals) realize these numbers in a large way, so they are not deterred as much as they used to be," she said. "I'm not saying the system has completely broken down, but some changes need to be made."

Reynolds said that criminal activity "really does pay today" compared to the past.

"Any good economist can tell you, if profits are up business will continue to rise," she said.

The study compared the California and Texas prison systems during the 1980s.

In 1980, California had fewer state prisons and a 21.6 percent higher crime rate than Texas. Officials in California increased their prison population faster than the population growth in the state and the crime rate started going down.

From 1980 to 1989, the prison population of California rose 255 percent while the crime rate fell

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**Fun in the sun**

Gus Castellanos, an A&M speech communications graduate student, studies Wednesday by Cain Pool.

SCOTT D. WEAVER/The Battalion

## Philippine volcano kills one

Local tribesmen flee mountain home; large eruptions expected to continue

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Tremendous explosions rocked Mount Pinatubo anew on Wednesday, shooting streams of ash and steam 15 miles high and sending molten rock down the steep mountain slopes.

Thousands of primitive Aeta tribesmen fled the lush, green slopes on buffaloes and ox-drawn carts after stones as big as a man's head rained down on them.

Only one death was reported from the eruptions, the largest at Pinatubo in more than 600 years. A Filipino serving in the U.S. Navy was killed Wednesday when his car skidded on an ash-slickened road north of the Subic Bay Naval Base and crashed into a bus. His name was withheld pending notification of kin.

Delfin Garcia of the Philippine Institute of Vulcanology and Seismology said the volcano was entering "an episode of big eruptions" that would continue indefinitely.

The institute said the volcano remained so dangerously active that nobody could get closer than 12 miles for a closer inspection.

About 10 miles to the east, hundreds of Americans fled Clark Air Base, which was evacuated by nearly 15,000 American military personnel and their families last Wednesday.

More than 19,000 Filipinos have been evacuated from three

provinces near the volcano's slopes.

At a refugee center in Olongapo, 35 miles southwest of the volcano, survivors told of the sky growing dark, then of hearing a tremendous explosion followed by a rain of ash.

"There was panic everywhere," said Manuel Romualdo. "Children were crying. We had to grab whatever we could."

Ash fell over about seven towns in Zambales province west of the crater and the San Miguel naval installation, which the United States turned over to the Philippines this year but where many Americans assigned to the Subic naval base still live.

Ash was so thick that at noon, motorists were driving with their headlights and windshield wipers on. Workers used giant rakes to clear ash from city streets.

The huge plume could be seen in Manila, 60 miles to the south. The cloud drifted westward into the South China Sea, raining ash over a wide area of southern Zambales province on the western slopes of Pinatubo.

Heavy rains drenched the area late Wednesday, and scientists warned that mudflows threatened the slopes and nearby plains.

After three eruptions during the day, the volcano calmed, then exploded late at night with a fury.

## Metcalf believes officials planning to clear charges

After meeting with Texas A&M officials Tuesday, former A&M basketball coach Shelby Metcalf said he believes he was cleared of charges that he controlled a slush fund used to pay A&M basketball players.

"I can't speak for the school, but I thought things went well," Metcalf said.

Metcalf was A&M's basketball coach for 27 years, until he was removed in 1990.

The Austin American-Statesman, however, reported Sunday that four sources said Metcalf operated the fund for more than a decade, funneling thousands of dollars to his

players.

Two former players and two A&M administrative sources, all speaking on the condition of anonymity, said cash provided by A&M boosters was given to players in the late 1980s.

They said the money was spent on clothes, parties, dinners, beer, cigarettes, air fare and an abortion for one player's girlfriend.

Metcalf, his assistants and two former players have denied all the allegations.

A&M spokesman Lane Stephenson does not know whether the school will conduct its own probe. But Mark Jones, director of enforcement for the National Collegiate Athletic Association, said the organization would respond to the charges. Jones did not elaborate.



Shelby Metcalf

## Area museum to open new building

By Mack Harrison  
The Battalion

The Brazos Valley Museum is roaring into the present by expanding to hold robotic dinosaurs, learning centers, and new exhibits in a \$600,000 building set to open this fall.

Ron Young, museum director, said the building should be finished by the end of September, but will take an additional two years to install all the exhibits.

"We're opening Oct. 5 whether it's done or not," Young said. "The big picture is that a small community museum is growing up."

The site is located next to Brazos Center and was privately funded by donations, grants, membership dues and program revenues.

The museum will feature Dinosaur — half- to full-size ro-

bot dinosaurs — from Oct. 5 to Dec. 1. The main purpose of the robots is raise money, but they have other benefits, Young said.

"In the process of (fund raising) we see to it an awful lot of education goes on," he said.

The new building also will feature classrooms and a new collections room with the environmental controls, security and fire suppression necessary to accredit the museum with the American Association of Museums by 1996.

As a member of the AAM, the Brazos Valley Museum can apply for federal funding with a better chance of success.

"This means that when I apply for a national grant, I can play on a level field," Young said.

Accreditation also means the museum will be able to bring in traveling exhibits from anywhere in the world, which it cannot do with its present facilities.

It will also be able to attract new employees, Young said.

"What's really important, we will have an equal shot at hiring museum professionals," he said.

One of the museum's goals is to educate local children. In addition to its present summer programs, the museum will have several rooms dedicated to enlightening adults as well as children.



The museum will promote a hands-on approach to learning in its Nature Lab. The room will be a "wet lab" where area school children can work with specimens from a nearby creek.

"It's where you can teach classes that are really messy,"

Young said.

The Discovery Room represents the opposite of what people think a museum is, he said.

The room will have five stations, each with a different theme. Visitors of all ages will learn about the solar system, endangered species, ecosystems, survival and nonbiological cycles.

"You don't take a tour, with someone answering your questions," he added. "You discover the answers yourself."

The Astin Gallery will have 3,500 square feet devoted to exhibits. Young said the room will focus on the natural history of the Brazos Valley. Exhibits will show how the area looked millions of years in the past.

"It will be a walk through about 66 million years of Brazos Valley history," Young said. "It's a logical way to present things."