

## The Battalion

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### Editorial Policy

The Battalion is published daily except Saturday, Sunday, holidays, exam periods and when school is not in session during fall and spring semesters. Publication is Tuesday through Friday during the summer sessions. The newsroom phone number is 845-3316.

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station.

The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University and is a division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Texas A&M student body, administrators, faculty or the A&M Board of Regents.

Comments, questions or complaints about any of the editorial content of the newspaper should be directed to the managing editor at 845-3313.

### Subscriptions

Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year: 845-2611.

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### Advertising

Advertising information can be obtained from the advertising department at 845-2696 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by visiting the office at the English Annex.

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### BATTIPS

The Battalion encourages its readers to contribute story ideas and suggestions by calling BATTIPS. The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people. Readers also are encouraged to offer any other suggestions that could improve the newspaper.

# A&M trio conducts test on natural grass

## Astrodome may replace turf with grass

By K. Lee Davis  
The Battalion

The Houston Astrodome might soon have a natural grass-playing surface again, thanks to the work of three Texas A&M faculty members.

Dr. James Beard, a professor of soil and crop sciences, has teamed up with soil specialist Arthur Milberger and retired A&M professor and lighting expert Dr. Cornelius van Bavel to test four different types of grasses that could be used inside domed stadiums.

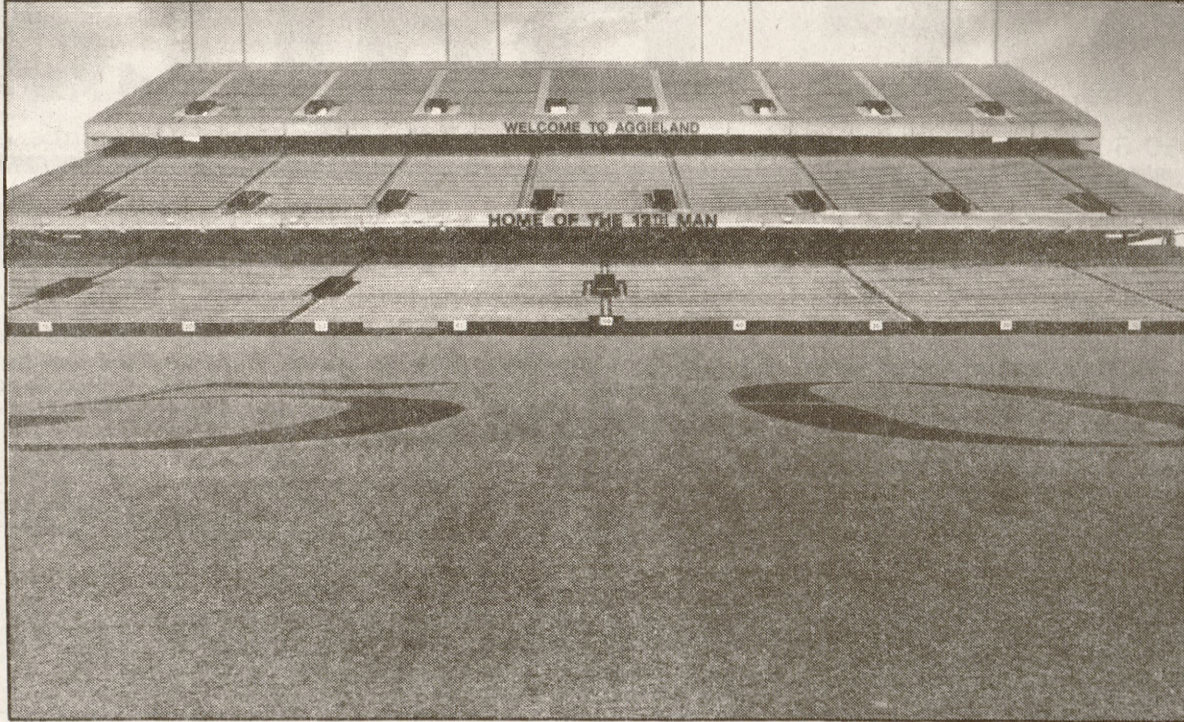
"They are all grasses in general widespread use," Beard said. "We did not select a unique new grass to put in."

The two primary grasses used in present research are Bermuda and Kentucky Bluegrass.

"Kentucky Bluegrass is a type readily available in the Michigan area," Beard said.

Present light levels in domed stadiums cannot support natural sport turf grass of any kind, so recently produced supplemental lighting systems will have to be employed in the project.

"They (the dome consortium)



PENNY DELOS SANTOS/The Battalion

Three A&M faculty members are testing a natural grass for domed stadiums that would replace astro turf.

approached several institutions, but we were the only ones that said it could be done," Beard said. "We know we can grow and produce grass indoors, there is no doubt about that."

"The question is one of cost, and how low supplemental light levels can produce satisfactory turf."

The tests are presently being conducted inside the Super-

dome, with the final test coming Monday when coaches and members of the U.S. national team play on several sections of the grass.

Representatives from the Astrodome, the New Orleans Superdome and the Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich., have stated they would like to install temporary natural surfaces to host World Cup Soccer matches in 1994.

The Federation Internationale de Football Association, the ruling body of the World Cup Soccer Championship, specifies that all World Cup games be played on real grass, with certain performance requirements for the playing surface.

The World Cup, a tournament played in one chosen country every four years, is one of the world's most popular sporting

events.

Dan Mannix, manager of special projects for the Houston Sports Association, said in the case of the Astrodome the grass would only be used for the duration of the World Cup.

"Operationally we do so many events and switch configurations that it (natural grass) would not make sense for us," Mannix said. "We do concerts, rodeos, football, baseball, supercross motorcycle racing and tractor pulls."

Mannix said he believes World Cup games could bring \$50 million to \$60 million into the Houston area.

"The Astrodome has been a stadium that has set many firsts, and now we hope to become the first domed stadium to host the World Cup," Mannix added.

The cost for the project is being entirely picked up by the three-dome consortium, although they are now trying to solicit corporate sponsors.

If the project receives passing marks, the cost to each stadium could be as much as \$1.2 million.

"We think that as a result of these experiments we should be able to cut that by anywhere between 25 and 50 percent," Beard said.

Beard said he believes if the project is successful, it should bring worldwide recognition to the University, as well as bring in a great deal of research money.

## Ceremony to remember freshman

A Texas A&M student died Sunday when he drowned in the Brazos River near Millican.

Michael Sloan Davidson, 18, was found at about 8 p.m. Sunday.

Davidson, a freshman wildlife and fisheries major from Childress, will be honored at the Sept. 10 Silver Taps ceremony.

### BACK PAIN STUDIES

Patients needed with acute (recent) onset of muscle spasms (back pain, etc.) to participate in a consumer use research study with an FDA approved drug. Medical evaluation at no cost to patient. Eligible volunteers will be compensated.

G & S STUDIES, INC.  
846-5933

## WHAT'S UP

Wednesday

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** General discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

**DEPARTMENT OF MULTICULTURAL SERVICES:** Accepting reservations for San Antonio Road Trip to Mexico Art Exhibit with side trips on Friday. Cost is \$25 plus admission to exhibits. Call Bonne Sanders at 845-4551 for more information.

**TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION:** General membership meeting to discuss summer activities. Everyone welcome at 7 p.m. in 119A Zachary. Call Gary at 846-4713 or Helen at 693-9990 for more information.

**KANM 99.9 FM CABLE:** Vietnamese Buddhist monk and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Thich Nhat Hanh reflects on the war in the Persian Gulf at 6 p.m.

Thursday

**CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST:** Everyone welcome! Philosopher Wes Baker will be speaking on the holiness of God. 7:30 p.m. in Rudder 308. Call Pat at 696-1091 for more information.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** General discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

**ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** General discussion at 6 p.m. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

**GAY AND LESBIAN STUDENT SERVICES:** General meeting at 7 p.m. in 230 MSC. Call 847-0321 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

## COMPUTER SOLUTIONS EXPOSITION

Hosted by VerCom Systems 409/268-7937

Wednesday, July 17, 1991  
9:00am - 5:00pm  
Room 224 of the MSC

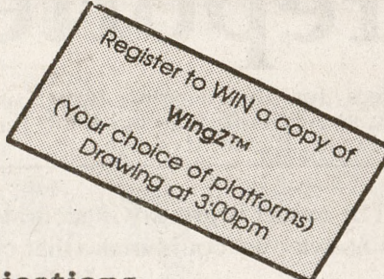
VerCom Systems cordially invites Professors and Researchers to attend this free one day exposition of the latest solutions available to enhance and streamline the research and academic process. You are welcome to visit exhibits of interest at your leisure. There will be representatives and consultants available to demonstrate solutions and answer your questions.

### FEATURING

- Graphical Front End Interfaces
- Multi-Platform Networks
- Data Acquisition Solutions
- Software Porting of Existing Applications
- Commercialization of Software Products
- Custom Technical Software Packages
- Custom Educational Software Packages

Displaying Technology From:

Apple Computer • Motorola • NeXT • Mitem-View • QMS • Performance Technologies



## Texas continues to battle budget

### Richards gambles on lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas joined a nationwide battle of the budget on Monday when Gov. Ann Richards convened a special session of the Legislature and urged approval of a state lottery.

"It is the rarest of creatures; a popular way to generate revenue," Richards said.

"The people of Texas do not want an income tax," Richards told legislators. "We certainly are not going to have an income tax in this session."

Texas lawmakers face a projected \$4.8 billion deficit to pay for an estimated \$57 billion budget that would continue the current level of services for 1992-93.

The current budget doesn't expire until September.

Richards said the Legislature's first priority will be consideration of state Comptroller John Sharp's budget-cutting, fee-raising plan to save \$4 billion.



Gov. Ann Richards

### Legislator wants to curb complaints

AUSTIN (AP) — A key legislator has told higher education officials that lawmakers are serious about cutting the state budget and said university administrators should stop complaining and start cooperating.

Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, met with several dozen higher education officials at the Legislature's budget-writing special session Monday.

He told them he will sponsor legislation containing budget proposals by Comptroller John Sharp, including tuition hikes and putting some local university funds into state coffers.

The key question, Parker said, is "whether or not we really do have the best minds available on our college campuses, or whether or not we're just going to have a bureaucratic, bunker mentality, and let's all get together and tell the politicians to leave us alone."

Parker left no doubt that he expects the university administrators to do more than complain. But he was greeted with silence when he asked them for suggestions on saving money.

## Kremlin pays \$7,000 fuel bill to oil company after 11 mos.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio collections agents may have smelled money, but it took them 11 months of pestering Soviet officials to finally wrangle payment of a \$7,000 fuel bill out of the Kremlin for a Texas oil company.

"We weren't about to give up," said Milo Mims, spokesman for Abbott, Abrey & Beck, a commercial collections agency. "We were determined to make the Soviet Union pay this bill, one way or the other. Our client is very important to us, and this became kind of a project with us."

The Texas oil company tried for nine months to collect the \$7,000 on its own, after a Aeroflot Soviet Airlines jet refueled its tanks at the company's facilities at Anchorage International Airport in October 1989.

But the oil company, which declined to be identified al-

though it confirmed the collection agency's efforts, was forced to turn to Abbott, Abrey & Beck when the Soviets stonewalled on paying the bill.

After numerous calls to Aeroflot in New York, Mims said the collection agency was told that the Kremlin had to authorize payment of the bill.

"That's where we started to get the big runaround. But we couldn't communicate because we don't have anyone who speaks Russian. We had wires going back and forth, between Aeroflot in New York and the Air Ministry in Moscow," Mims said Tuesday.

Aeroflot finally wrote a check in June for the \$7,000 out of its operating budget, Mims said.

At the same time, the Bank of the Soviet Union in Moscow wired the funds to the collection agency's bank via international banking channels.