

The Battalion

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Editorial Policy

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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.

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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.

Lawmakers propose expansion of prisons

AUSTIN (AP) — Plagued by lawsuits and public outcry over the release of violent prisoners, lawmakers took aim Wednesday on the state's prison crisis, proposing a \$1.1 billion construction plan to make room for 30,000 more inmates.



Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock said the Senate may act on the massive prison measure Thursday. House Speaker Gib Lewis said his chamber would consider it next week.

"It's a fact of life, we are not safe in our homes, we're not safe in our place of business, we are not even safe in this Capitol from time to time," Bullock said.

With a projected \$4.8 billion state budget shortfall, the issue of paying for the new prisons became a hot topic.

The Senate is considering a plan to borrow the money by issuing bonds.

House members say they favor increasing the state's 6.25 percent sales tax rate — already one of the highest in the nation — and dedicating that additional revenue to prison construction.

One House proposal would place the question of how to pay for the prisons before voters.

Financial aid excludes computers

Federal rule restricts repayment

By Mack Harrison
The Battalion

Computers are becoming standard educational tools for college students, but federal regulations do not allow financial aid to cover the cost of buying one.

The Chronicle for Higher Education recently reported that Dartmouth College made owning a personal computer an entrance requirement to get around this rule.

Texas A&M students, however, have other ways to get assistance in buying a computer.

Donald Engelage, director of Student Financial Aid for Texas A&M, said students who qualify for financial aid can receive assistance to cover the costs of books and supplies as part of their aid package.

Students in classes that require additional materials can bring the receipts to the financial aid office for reimbursement.

If a professor requires materials costing far more than normal, such as a computer, Financial Aid will verify with the instructor the need for any expensive equipment.



Students browsing through a computer sale consider computers due to federal regulations. Financial Aid at A&M doesn't cover the costs of assistance with the costs of books and supplies.

Engelage said his office cannot reimburse the full price of a computer, but there are other means of assistance.

"The regulations leave it as an option," he said. "We can't

provide financial aid just to cover a computer, but students can get a short-term loan if they have to buy one."

Engelage said no professor or class presently requires students to own a computer.

"There's nothing like that now," Engelage said. "Obviously, computers are the way to do things, and if (a computer requirement) ever comes to pass, we'll have to address it then."

Colleges must accept cuts, governor says

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards told her top college and university appointees Wednesday that higher education must help pay the freight for a balanced state budget.



Gov. Ann Richards

Richards said educators who protest budget trimming need to know that average Texans worry more about making ends meet than about funding some high-dollar university programs.

"It is imperative to understand that the average Texan is far more concerned about taking care of the kids and their elderly parents and the bills than they are about research on cold fusion," Richards said.

"The perception of the people of this state is that we waste a lot of dollars ... They are convinced

that we are fat," she said.

Higher Education Coordinating Board Chairman Harry Reasoner responded that colleges and universities have suffered 20 percent reductions since 1986, spending ranks 49th among the states and that Texas schools may be in jeopardy of becoming second-rate.

"It would be the wrong message for the people of Texas to believe there's a lot of fat in higher education," Reasoner told Richards.

The governor and legislative leaders, facing a projected \$4.8 billion deficit, are trying to push an austerity budget through the Legislature based largely on an audit by Comptroller John Sharp.

Sharp said many other state agencies — not just colleges — are struggling to provide services.

"The need is endless in most of state government," Sharp said. "There are needs for tax-

payers, too. And they don't understand it when we spend \$2 million remodeling a chancellor's office."

Sharp proposed numerous economies in higher education — including tuition hikes combined with increased scholarships, making schools use interest on "local funds" for operations, and suggesting that higher tuition help reduce general tax spending.

University administrators and their powerful lobbyists have been waging a full-scale Capitol blitz, saying such proposals could damage colleges and universities, force faculty layoffs, cancelled classes and reduced library hours.

Sharp said higher education officials who last week claimed that his budget would cut \$622 million from their programs were wrong. "We believe it was an honest mistake," he said. "But it was certainly a mistake."

He said his audit recommends

a 4.1 percent boost over current spending of all funds, a \$310 million increase to \$7.92 billion for 1992-93.

Richards told her university regents and coordinating board appointees that their help was needed in the legislative struggle.

"We need you inside this tent — not outside setting fire to the canvas," she said.

"Since higher education represents 14 percent of state expenditures, it is unreasonable to think that we can balance the budget without trimming higher education's budget requests."

The governor said she wasn't frustrated with university officials but warned that many taxpayers are.

"I ... have (been hearing) a lot of hostility on all those kids driving Camaros and BMWs and paying very, very low tuition to attend the University of Texas or A&M or any of these schools," Richards said.

Mosbacher's cancellation of speech angers many

HOUSTON (AP) — Hundreds of Hispanics angry over Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher's last-minute cancellation



Robert Mosbacher

of an appearance Wednesday at a national convention boomed and walked out on a speech given by an official sent in his place.

Mosbacher, who on Monday refused to adjust the 1990 census that missed more than 5 million people, was scheduled to speak at a luncheon at the National Council of La Raza's annual convention, but he cancelled Wednesday, only hours before he was to appear.

Hispanics who were anxious to hear Mosbacher explain why he would not adjust census figures that missed millions of minorities fumed over his decision.

"We don't understand why a public official cannot defend his policy before the public," NCLR President Raul Yzaguirre told about 1,000 people attending the lunch.

Mosbacher, in a letter to Yzaguirre sent Wednesday, said he had to cancel because of discussions with four Latin American governments and the White House on rescheduling a trade mission.

The late July trip by Mosbacher and Vice President Dan Quayle had to be rescheduled because it fell at the same time as the U.S.-Soviet summit, announced Wednesday.

The council said it was angry at Mosbacher for canceling his appearance when the census count was such an important issue for Hispanics.

"The suggestion that the secretary would cancel a speech in his hometown for no other reason than to dodge the census issue is absurd," Mosbacher's press secretary Marci Robinson said.

After Yzaguirre blasted Mosbacher, commerce undersecretary Roger Wallace was introduced to the crowd. Many booed as he began to talk about supporting free trade with Mexico and then about a third of the crowd walked out of the hotel ballroom.

Council approves plan to sell beer, wine at Texas Stadium

DALLAS (AP) — A three-point plan to implement beer and wine sales at Texas Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, was approved Wednesday by the Irving City Council and endorsed by the arena's operators.

The plan would exempt the stadium from a restrictive city ordinance that dictates alcohol sales total no more than 40 percent of a facility's receipts. State law allows for 75 percent of an establishment's sales to be in alcohol and 25 percent food-related.

But before the plan can be implemented in time for this year's

football season, voters would have to approve it in an Aug. 10 referendum, and the Legislature would have to validate the local ordinance, said Mayor Roy Brown. Texas Stadium Corp., which leases the arena and handles operations, also would have to drop its lawsuit against the city, he said.

"We've become a model where on the one hand the fans can be entitled to their alcoholic beverage," said Mayor Pro Tem Harry Joe, "and on the other, the safety of the fans can be assured."

WHAT'S UP

Thursday

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Everyone welcome! Philosopher Wes Baker will be speaking on the holiness of God at 7:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder. 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.

Friday

STUDENTS OVER TRADITIONAL AGE: Supper club meeting at 6 p.m. at Pop's Barbeque.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion at noon. Contact Center for Drug Prevention for more information at 845-0280.

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.

The TAP

Nickel Nite
5^c Draft
Thu & Sat 7-10 pm
815 Harvey Rd. Woodstone Center
696-5570

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July 20, 1991 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) &
July 24 & 25, 1991 (6-10 p.m. & 6-10 p.m.)
College Station Hilton
For more information or to pre-register phone
693-8178 24 hours a day.

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