

# Critics misunderstand college's aims, dean says Student regents bill ready for floor debate

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 "Biotechnology is just modern science," he says. "It is the use of modern tools to do traditional science. There are people who have made the statement that the new College of Agriculture is focusing too much on biotechnology. That means they don't understand what it is."

Some ranchers and livestock groups in Texas, however, worry A&M graduates might be more familiar with laboratories than corn fields.

"If someone is not animal oriented, there's no use in talking to them," says Sims, who owns a farm in Concho County. "I don't understand biotechnology, but I do understand someone in the animal sciences."

"We must maintain that animal production ability, recognizing biotechnology will play a part in it," he continues. "We just don't feel these areas of plant and livestock production should be ignored or de-emphasized in favor of biotechnology."

Arntzen, however, said fewer than 5 percent of the college's

students go into farming and ranching, while 50 percent go into agri-business.

He says he has changed the programs because of the rise in plant genetics, bioremediation, biochemistry, food process engineering and other scientific careers.

Arntzen also says biotechnology must be taught to keep A&M graduates and the people they serve alive in the marketplace.

"If we try to teach these freshmen arriving today the science of today and the '80s, those poor devils are dead. We have to teach them state-of-the-art technology."

"There are folks who would like for us to teach where we are today," he continues. "It's comfortable. But we can't afford to do that. If we're going to stay competitive with the Argentinians, Australians, Canadians and Europeans, we have to have the best technology."

But not everyone associated with Texas agriculture believes Arntzen is taking A&M down the wrong street.

"I have heard some concern about Arntzen's biotechnology push, but I don't think it's a real problem," says state Rep. Pete Patterson, D-Brookston, and chairman of the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee. "Different people have different interests they would like to see the experiments and research go."

Arntzen says it is a time of change for the college, and therefore, concerns surface that traditional agriculture will get left in the dust. That simply is not true, he says.

"That's not our intention. Our intention is to be the No. 1 agriculture program in the country and you can't be the No. 1 ag program unless you continue to serve the traditional clientele, the food and fiber industries. But you have to serve them using the very best tools."

Despite rumors about his ouster, Arntzen says he hopes to stay at A&M.

"Actions speak for themselves," he says. "I don't see how anyone can overlook the impact the new ag program has on

Texas A&M and the agriculture system statewide."

University President William Mobley says Arntzen "has made a number of positive contributions" to A&M and is not the only one to face repeated attacks for the job he does.

"We all get complaints," Mobley says. "Any administrator that has to satisfy a number of constituents will have various views expressed to him — myself included."

Chairman of A&M's Board of Regents Ross Margraves did not return phone calls to The Battalion.

Meanwhile, Arntzen will continue responding to his critics by denying he ignores farming and ranching interests. He remains convinced, however, that biotechnology is now an inevitable part of the agricultural world.

"When changes come, there's always the perception that something has been left out," he says. "I don't believe that's true. We're continuing to support the traditional forms of agriculture, but we're adding and building."

## Student regents bill ready for floor debate

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 voting student regent," he said. "That was because he knew this form had a chance, and the other didn't."

Giesecke said the two-year expiration on the amendment was added to gain Higher Education Committee Chairman Gary Watkins' support. Although Ogden received his support, the bill never reached the floor during the regular session.

Giesecke said the bill, now in amendment form, would go straight to the floor.

For university systems such as A&M's, the student regent

would be chosen by the governor from nominees from each school within the system. A student regent could not be chosen from the same school within a system for two consecutive years.

Student governments at each school within a system would nominate student regent candidates.

The amendment would also create a roundtable for each system, consisting of each school's nominee for regent. The roundtable would meet, with the student regent as chair, to inform the regent of concerns at each school.

## Budget cuts provoke concern in students

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 important for students to fight for the cause of higher education.

"It's important for the Legislature to see the students and the commitment we've made to higher education," Talbot said.

After the rally, A&M students entered the Capitol to talk to legislators.

Cash said the student representatives are pushing for House Bill 1, which maintains current levels of funding for higher education.

"We want the Legislature to

hear our voice as one of concern for our future," she said. "If Sharp's plan were to go through, from my understanding of what it entails, the cuts would be devastating for Texas A&M and higher education."

"The important thing is to keep cuts from being so drastic," Heather Hartman, MSC representative, said the best way to accomplish that is to show support for what the students want.

"If we come forward with a united statement, legislators will see the students' point of view," Hartman said.

## Tuition lowered to assure firefighter training

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onstrations have been eliminated to keep tuition at the lowest price possible.

Page said he understands many of the firefighters come from rural communities with

volunteer departments where funds are a problem. The classes, however, are important for several reasons.

Not only do accredited firefighters provide cities with breaks in their insurance costs,

they also help develop the abilities and knowledge of the department, he said.

"If you live in a rural community like I do, there is a real need for support for the fire department," Page said. "People lose

property and lives without this support.

"Firefighters aren't driven by the money, they just want to try and save lives and property," he continued. "They do it as a service to the public."

## Leadership skills help A&M cadet win award

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However, he said the deciding factor was his strong leadership abilities, which he attributed to being Corps commander.

Sherman said the award will give him many opportunities, not only in what he wants to do with his military career, but

where he will be stationed.

His favorite thing about the camp was the "real-case" scenarios.

"It really gives you a taste of things to come in the Army," Sherman said.

## Graduate students wait on limited apartments

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intersection of University Drive and S. College Street.

Due to the limited space for graduate students, they must wait 18 months between applying and receiving an apartment. A&M's Student Apartment Office recommends students apply now for housing in the spring of 1993.

"There are facilities available to house only 10 percent of the graduate students at A&M," Oprisko, a graduate student in plant physiology, said. "And 33 percent of undergraduates can be housed."

Robert Smith, vice president of finance at A&M, said he believes the University is not solely responsible for graduate students' living arrangements.

"I honestly believe that the private sector can handle the need for graduate student housing," Smith said.

Oprisko disagreed, saying she believes graduate students — especially those with children — need affordable housing only the University can supply.

"Most people don't view graduate work as a job, but it is," she said. "With the graduate student stipend being only about \$500 to \$800 a month — much of that going to support a family — there is a need for housing that we can afford."

Fabiana Bezerra, president of the University Apartment Council of Texas Aggies, said there is a need for more housing but does not foresee an immediate solution.

"With the cuts in the bud-

get, I don't see how more housing can be built without raising our rent," she said. "We've talked to the manager, but the problem is above his capability."

The University Apartment Council is going to do all it can to help the situation, Bezerra said.

"We are trying to build a community here," she added. "We need to be organized as a community in order to have a voice."

Bezerra also said University officials underestimate the need for housing because many graduate students do not apply for University apartments.

"Many students don't even bother to apply because they will be gone in two years, and there is a one-and-a-half year wait for the housing," she said.

Oprisko said she voiced the concerns of the Graduate Student Council in June to John Koldus, vice president of Student Services.

She said the department will respond with a survey in September to determine the housing needs of graduate students.

"The study will prove one way or another what the needs of the students are, and hopefully something will be done about it," she said.

Smith said he was not aware of the survey, and there are presently no plans to build any new housing, undergraduate or graduate.

Koldus was unavailable for comment.

AGGIE M S C CINEMA PRESENTS  
**Harrison Ford**  
 in  
**WITNESS**  
 Wednesday, July 24  
 9:15 pm  
 in  
**The Grove**  
 50¢ w/ TAMU ID  
 \$1 w/o TAMU ID

**JOCK ITCH AND RINGWORM STUDY**  
 Individuals 12 years of age and older with "jock itch" or "ringworm" are being recruited for a research study of an antifungal medication. \$125.00 will be paid to volunteers who complete this study.  
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 Individuals are being recruited for a research study on depression. If you have been diagnosed with depression or would like to find out more about this study, call VIP Research. \$125.00 will be paid to qualified volunteers who enroll and complete this study.  
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 If you have proctitis, colitis, or left sided inflammatory bowel disease, VIP Research is seeking volunteers for a one month research study. Participants can qualify either on or off of medication. \$400.00 will be paid to those individuals who enroll and complete this study.  
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**ACT NOW**  
 The University Police Department has initiated a new program for reporting inoperative exterior lighting called Light-Line.  
 Anyone on campus can dial L-I-C-H-T (5-4448) any time day or night to report lights in need of repair. Off-campus callers can dial 845-4448.  
 The UPD communications supervisor will fill out a repair order and forward it to the physical plant or the proper department. If the reporting party is not sure of the exact location, the security division will help find the light in question.  
 Effective lighting is considered to be one of the best crime deterrents available.  
 Police and security personnel actively report lights on campus that need repair, and the program gives UPD the ability to monitor the status of exterior lighting on campus.  
 For more crime prevention information contact Lt. Bert Kretzschmar or Cpl. Betty LeMay at 845-8900 or 845-6713.

## Weather may delay launch of Atlantis

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA put the finishing touches on the shuttle Atlantis on Tuesday for its trip into space with a satellite that will serve as a switchboard for ships and observatories circling the world.

Launch officials said the sole concern for Wednesday's planned liftoff was weather. Forecasters said showers or thunderstorms were possible.

NASA said the chance of good weather at the scheduled 10:55 a.m. liftoff time was 50 percent. The odds were expected to improve to 60 percent by mid-afternoon.

The nine-day mission, commanded by John Blaha, will be NASA's 42nd shuttle flight. It will be the fifth time a shuttle has taken up a Tracking and Data Relay Satellite.

Atlantis' five astronauts plan to release the giant satellite six hours after liftoff, with an attached rocket boosting it 22,300 miles above Earth. It will join three similar satellites already stationed above the equator.

NASA sent up the first Tracking and Data Relay Satellite aboard Challenger in 1983. The satellite enabled Mission Control to maintain nearly continuous contact with astronauts in space, a vast improvement over the old

system of ground tracking stations.

Challenger had a TDRS craft on board when the ship exploded in 1986, destroying the satellite and killing all seven astronauts. Two more Tracking and Data Relay Satellites have since been placed in orbit, the latest in 1989.

The newest satellite, valued at \$120 million, will replace the second-oldest craft, which will become a spare. The oldest is already a spare. NASA plans to send up two more TDRS craft by the mid-1990s, one of which may go up on an unmanned rocket.

A presidential panel recommended late last year that NASA limit its use of the shuttle to jobs requiring human intervention, the ship's unique capabilities or compelling reasons. The satellite inside Atlantis would have required extensive redesign to fit in an unmanned launcher, resulting in a delay of several years, NASA officials said.

"We're ready to put this satellite in orbit and to begin to check it out and to use it as the rest of our constellation ages," said William Lenoir, head of NASA's space flight program. "We need it. We don't want to wait that long."

**POLICE BEAT**  
 These crimes were reported to the University Police Department from July 13 to 18.

**ASSAULT:**  
 After advising the operator not to move an illegally parked vehicle, a Parking Service Officer was struck on the right knee by the bumper of the vehicle as the subject fled Parking Area 22.

**MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**  
 A wallet was removed from a backpack on the third floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library.  
 A brown leather purse was stolen from a first floor room of the Eller Oceanography and Meteorology Building.  
 A yellow Diamond-back five-speed boys bicycle was stolen from the Sbsa Dining Hall bicycle rack.  
 A dark green Raleigh 10-speed boys bicycle was stolen from the Fowler Hall bicycle rack.

**BURGLARY:**  
 Someone removed a Canon T-50 electronic flash from a first floor room of Lechner Hall.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:**  
 A 1989 Chevrolet pickup truck was covered with mud or a substance similar to cement while in Parking Area 49.

**RECOVERED PROPERTY:**  
 A Huffy 10-speed boys bicycle was recovered by the owner near Building 16 of the University-Owned Apartments. The bicycle had been stolen from the owner's residence in College Station.