

The Battalion

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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.

Added test date gives TASP takers second chance before fall

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

Texas A&M students who have not passed the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) test will have another chance to take the exam before the fall semester begins.

Karon Sturdivant, director of the Center for Academic Enhancement, said the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board authorized the adminis-

tration of the test on Aug. 17 because of the demand for the test. "We were not able to seat enough students at the June and July tests," Sturdivant said.

TASP was mandated by HB 2182 in 1987 by the Texas Legislature.

Students must take the test before accumulating nine college-level credit hours from any Texas public college or university. Students who fail to meet the minimum passing score of 220 out of

300 points in any area of the TASP Test — reading, writing, or math — are required by state law to enroll in a developmental study course (DEVS) for that area.

The Center for Academic Enhancement offers the DEVS courses, and 150 students were enrolled in the courses last year.

Students can retake failed sections of the TASP test as many times as needed. They must pass all sections of the test before completing 60 credit hours, or

they will have to withdraw from the University.

In addition to freshmen, students who transfer in from out-of-state schools or TASP-exempt private colleges must also take the test. Students are exempt from taking the exam, however, if they earned three college-level credit hours prior to Sept. 1, 1989.

The August TASP test will be offered at El Paso Community College, Texas Tech University,

Collin County Community College, Houston Community College, University of Texas at San Antonio and University of Texas-Pan American. These sites were chosen because they are distributed most equally throughout the state.

During the fall, A&M will offer the test on Sept. 21 and Nov. 14. Sturdivant said she encourages students to take the test later than Sept. 21 to help insulate against problems with registration.



Mr. Universe

Dustin Miller, 9, and his brother Kyle, 4, both of Bryan, play king of the lake at the Bryan Utilities Lake Tuesday afternoon.

PENNY DELOS SANTOS/The Battalion

Lottery faces challenge

Senator stalls legislation

AUSTIN (AP) — Just hours after a proposed state lottery leaped a historic hurdle in the House, it was dealt a setback in the Senate, where a senator Tuesday temporarily stalled the measure as a prelude to trying to kill it.

Sen. John Leedom, R-Dallas, used his privilege as a senator to "tag" the lottery legislation, thus delaying its consideration until Thursday in the Senate Finance Committee.

Should the measure later be approved by the committee and sent to the full Senate, Leedom said he would filibuster the bill, trying to talk it to death.

The special session seeking to bridge a projected \$4.8 billion budget deficit ends Tuesday. Although it is doubtful Leedom could talk that long, his delaying tactic could stop work by conference committees trying to hammer out budget and tax legislation, lawmakers said.

Leedom, a gambling foe, said he doubted Senate leaders would allow the lottery to be considered by the full Senate with so much other work unresolved.

"That (filibuster) has been a constant possibility," said Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, presiding officer of the Senate. "If you wish to

use the word threat, it's been a constant threat in my mind from the time this special session started."

Leedom said he is morally opposed to state-run gambling.

"I just don't think that Texas is going to be benefited by turning to gambling as a source of revenue," he said. "I will filibuster."

Early Tuesday morning, the House gave final approval to enabling legislation for operating a state lottery.

On Monday, the House approved the proposed constitutional amendment required to set up the game. Senate and voter approval still are needed.

Lanier declares bid for Houston mayor's job

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Texas Highway Commission chairman Bob Lanier entered the Houston mayoral race Tuesday, saying he thinks the 10-year administration of incumbent Kathy Whitmire has run out of gas.

"I think this is our time for a change; our chance for a change," Lanier, 66, told about 150 supporters. "I know the mayor has a powerful political machine that has defeated a lot of challengers. It is my opinion that this administration's time has passed. I think it's tired."

Lanier joins state Rep. Sylvester Turner as declared candidates against Whitmire, who is expected to make official next week her bid for a sixth consecutive two-year term in the Nov. 5 non-partisan election.

Lanier was chairman of the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority before quitting last year in a dispute with Whitmire over the mayor's plans to push a \$1.2 billion monorail system for a relatively small section of the city.

"It's a boondoggle, a waste," Lanier said Tuesday. "That's why they don't want you to vote on it."

Lanier said if he becomes mayor, he'll promote an election on the monorail issue and work to defeat it.

"Most of all we need common-sense fiscal management," he said. "I'll tell you, we've got the money to meet our needs."

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