

FORECAST
A man in Idaho drops a dish, while 1,500 miles away the weather in Aggieland is hot with a chance of afternoon thunderstorms.

SPORTS
NCAA axes athletic dorms
Southwest Conference coaches argue pros and cons of new rule.
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OPINION
"We also need to see rape victims as the victims of a crime of violence and treat them with sympathy, not shame. This will allow them to prosecute their rapists, instead of letting them go free." - Michael Cowen
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The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

Friday, August 9, 1991

Report on teacher certification problems untrue, officials say

By K. Lee Davis
The Battalion

A local newspaper report stating some students in Texas A&M's College of Education might have their graduation delayed because of teacher certification problems was false, officials with the college said.

"There will be some adjustments (in the certification process), but no students will have their date of graduation affected by the changes," said Dr. Donna Wiseman, associate dean for teacher education.

"After the story appeared in the (Bryan-College Station) Eagle, we received clarification from the THECB (Texas Higher Education Coordinating

Board) that all of these students are protected and won't have to graduate late," she added.

Dr. Bryan Cole, dean for undergraduate studies in the College of Education, said the THECB recently interpreted a section of a 1987 state law affecting teacher certification that had not been thoroughly dealt with before.

The law states any individual receiving teacher certification after Sept. 1 must have an academic degree or interdisciplinary academic degree other than education.

This new interpretation will cause some changes in the curriculum A&M uses to certify teachers for bilingual studies and special education.

"(The THECB) has given us an ex-

tension until Aug. 31, 1991, by which time the student can be certified in their current program or can be looked at individually to make sure that they can be transitioned into the new program," Cole said.

Dr. Viola Flores, an associate professor of curriculum and instruction and the director of bilingual education and the English as a Second Language Program, said no student will be forced to graduate behind schedule because of the changes.

"When you start to look at the demand and importance of bilingual teaching in Texas and across the nation, it would not make sense to cut the program back," Flores said. "We really need more recruitment into this pro-

gram."

Flores also stated the college had known about the problem for less than a week before students were notified.

"The college used that time to formulate a plan to deal with the crisis," she said.

Wiseman said 17 bilingual education students were given notification from the college of the new interpretation handed down from the THECB.

"It (the new interpretation) can make some changes in the sequence that some courses have to be taken," Wiseman said. "But we can adjust that with no problem."

However, some students might have to do their student teaching earlier

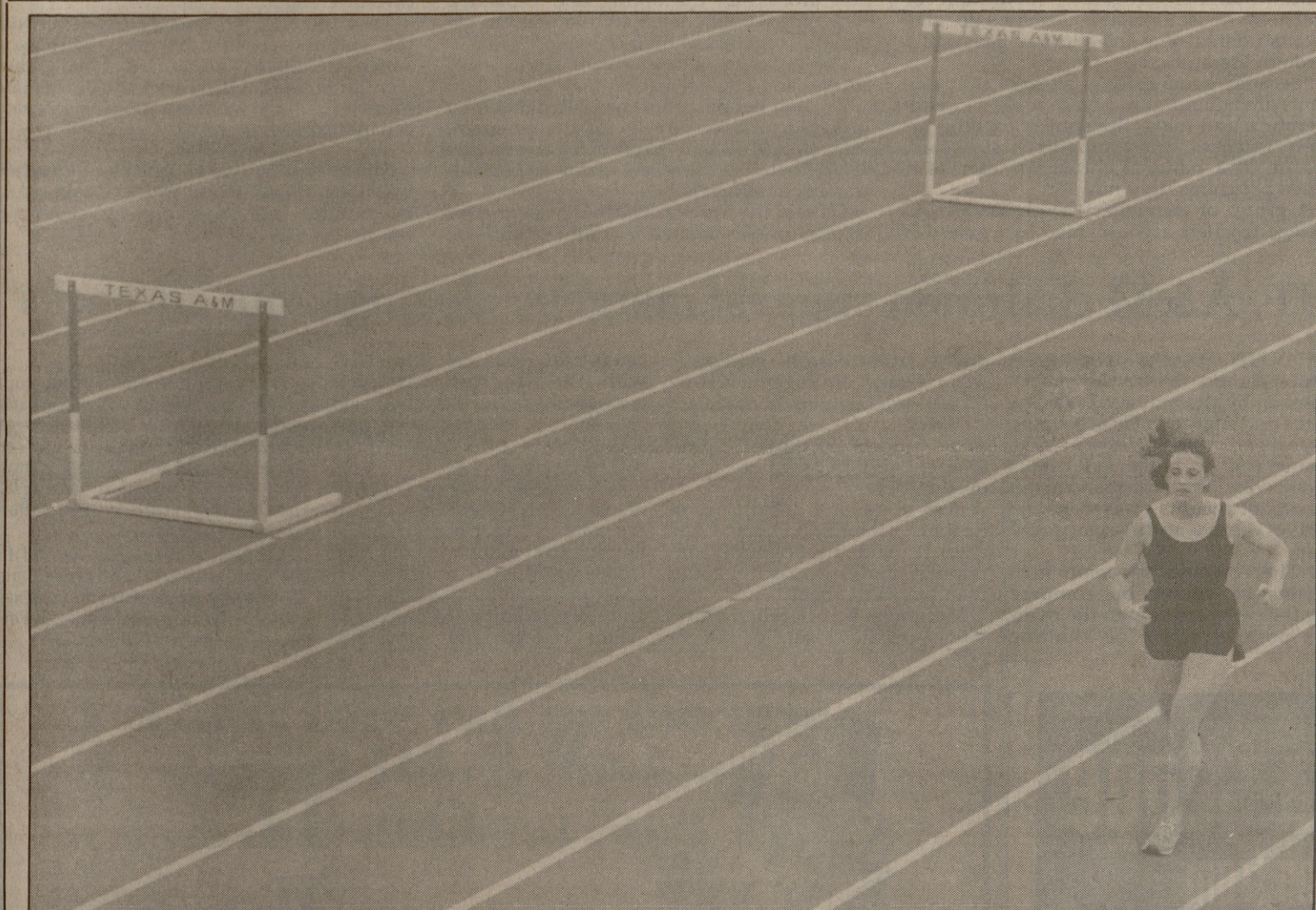
than they had anticipated, she said.

"Contrary to some of the rumors flying around, no programs are being eliminated, no students should lose credit, and no students will graduate late because of this change," Wiseman said.

Cole said 85 special education students will be notified of the changes in curriculum when fall classes resume.

"Too many of them (special education students) are gone for the summer, and the problem has been resolved," Cole said.

All three administrators stressed that students with questions should talk to their adviser soon.



SONDRA ROBBINS/The Battalion

Getting the run-around

Laura Watts, from Houston, runs laps around Anderson Track Thursday afternoon. Watts, a marketing major, will be graduating in August.

Bills' fates unknown

Amendment for student regent held up; tuition increase may be less than expected

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

A bleak legislative outlook surrounds a non-voting student regent amendment, part of the education-minded House Bill 2, said Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan.

Ogden said he had high hopes for the student regent amendment, which had passed both the House and Senate before being held up by a conference committee.

"I'm very disappointed we were held up after getting the measure further than we ever had before," Ogden said. "It's funny how one or two guys can hold something like this up."

Ogden said the bill's almost imminent death was probably the result of opposition by Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur.

"He didn't hold it up just for the student regent amendment, though," Ogden said. "There were several controversial points on that bill, including a decision to save \$200 million by not funding pre-kindergarten baby-sitting. Parker would rather see the entire bill die than try to work it out."

Ogden said the most surprising news came surrounding H.B. 11, a tax bill that included a slight tuition increase.

"Most students had resigned themselves to a bill perhaps doubling tuition," he said. "But the tax issues discussed (Thursday) include only a \$2 per semester hour increase. Any increase will certainly not be along the lines of the major increases proposed by State Comptroller John Sharp."

Ogden said legislative leadership was going to submit a substantial tax bill, totaling about \$2 billion to \$3 billion, coming
See Ogden/Page 8

B-CS communities will look for solutions to homelessness, provide housing strategies

By Robin Goodpaster
The Battalion

Homelessness is a growing problem — even in Bryan-College Station — and the two communities will look for new solutions at an open meeting Wednesday.

Gail Macmillan, community development coordinator for Bryan, said social service providers and the general public will be able to provide ideas about housing strategies.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Brazos Center.

"This meeting is to assess the greatest needs for housing and

what to do about it," Macmillan said. "We want the plan to be reflective of the whole community."

Jo Carroll, community development administrator for College Station, said the additional input will enable social services to help more people.

"We hope to identify groups or needs that have not been seen before, like the elderly or AIDS patients," Carroll said. "Maybe someone at the meeting will come up with a solution that we have not thought of."

Macmillan estimates 127 families are homeless in Bryan-College Station but said the actual number could be higher or

lower. She said a good estimate would be to add together how many people are staying in half-way houses and how many are being turned away.

Bryan and College Station are coming together for the project to gain federal dollars.

Funds generated under the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act are granted when a local government creates a housing strategy, and the meeting is designed to accomplish that.

Block grant funds are designated to eliminate slums, address emergencies or help low
See Housing/Page 8

Pressure buildup causes explosion

By Jeff M. Brown
The Battalion

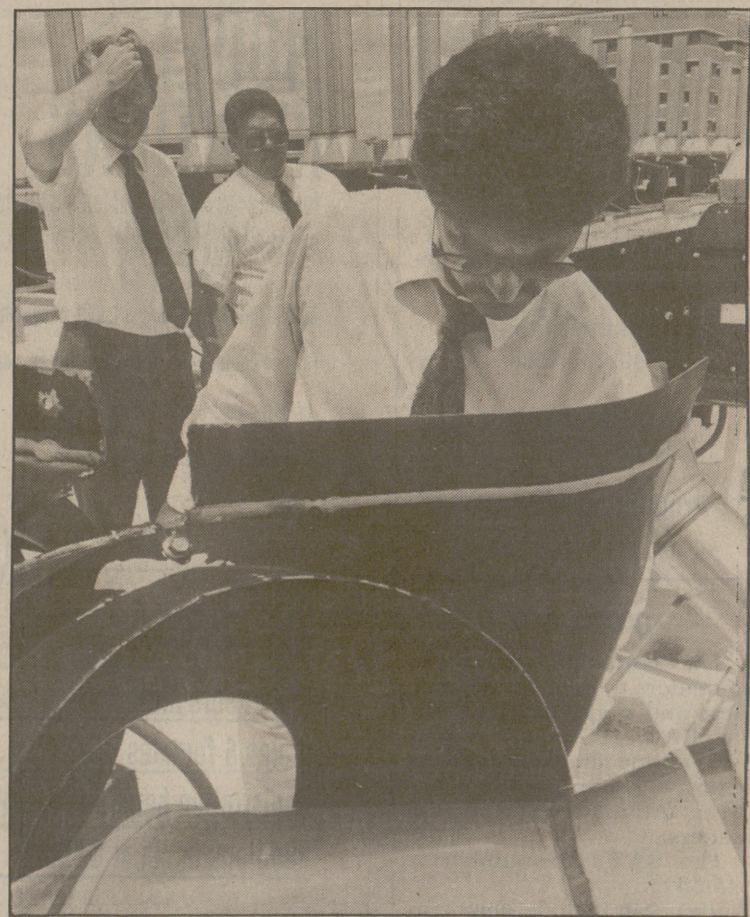
An ether experiment rattled Texas A&M's old Chemistry Building Thursday afternoon when extreme pressure built up, causing an explosion that damaged the lab and exhaust stack on the roof.

Robert Stitler, University safety and health officer, said there were no injuries and a minimal amount of damage.

Graduate students working on a distillation project in lab 201A, where the accident occurred, were able to extinguish the fire caused by the explosion. Increased pressure in a connecting smokestack "popped" the top off the stack on the roof.

The College Station Fire Department and University Police were called to check the building.

Neal Gray, a member of a
See Explosion/Page 8



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

John Demere, with the Systems Safety Office, surveys the damage to an exhaust stack on top of the old Chemistry Building. The exhaust stack was damaged when a chemistry experiment accidentally exploded.

Battalion moves underground in fall

The Battalion office has moved to the basement of the Reed McDonald building. It will now be in 013 Reed McDonald.

Also, The Battalion's final summer issue is today. Look for the next issue of The Battalion on Aug. 28 and The Battalion's Back-to-School Issue on Sept. 2.

A&M offers heart fellowship

Staff and wire reports

Physicians at the Texas Heart Institute and officials at Texas A&M University on Thursday announced a new research fellowship program that will train veterinarians in human cardiovascular medicine.

"To me, the merger is just the epitome of my dreams to see THI and A&M get together," said Michel T. Halbouty, the chief executive officer of Halbouty Energy Co., which made the initial donation to endow the five-year fellowships.

The first two of what eventually will be 10 full-time fellowships have been awarded this month to two graduate veterinarians.