

The Battalion

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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.

Poultry experts flock to A&M

By Jeff M. Brown
The Battalion

The Poultry Science Association's 80th annual meeting will take place at Texas A&M next week, rounding up an international group of academic and industry members.

Lee Cartwright, an associate professor of poultry science and a poultry specialist with the Texas Agriculture Extension Service, said the 900 individuals attending the meeting will come from as far away as Australia and Great Britain.

Members will present papers

and participate in symposiums discussing topics such as improvement of egg composition, fat content of poultry products and decrease of phosphorus in waste.

"A lot of the research might be interesting to many different fields, so all students are encouraged to attend," Cartwright said.

There will be social events as well as sessions on pathology, genetics and nutrition.

Monday night the association will hold an ice cream social, and Wednesday evening former Dallas Cowboy Bob Lilly will appear at a barbecue hosted by the

Phizer Animal Health Company. Thursday evening, the association will hold its annual banquet and present awards for outstanding work in poultry.

Although people might think poultry science is a narrow field, Mary Van Elswyk, a graduate student in poultry nutrition, said the subject has wide-ranging benefits.

"A lot of people have a misconception that we just deal with chickens," she said. "Most of the research done with poultry can be transferred to other species and even humans."

Richards may recall legislators

AUSTIN (AP) — Legislative leaders and Gov. Ann Richards said Thursday they remain hopeful that lawmakers can write and fund a state budget before Tuesday's end of the special session.

But with time running out, Richards said she was prepared to immediately call another special session if the Legislature fails.

"My inclination is — if we by any chance do not finish — to we'll continue" on Wednesday, she said.

"We had a long discussion yesterday with the leadership," Richards said. "They really do want to finish, and they're going to try hard to do that. But we do not want to finish at the expense of legislation that is good legislation."

House Speaker Gib Lewis and Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who presides over the Senate, said they hoped to wrap up by Tuesday. "We're working 24 hours a day, as you know, to achieve our goal," said Lewis, D-Fort Worth.

Bullock said meeting the deadline was "a real possibility." The current state budget expires on Aug. 31.

Lawmakers are struggling with a projected \$4.8 billion deficit for 1992-93 if all services are continued at present levels.

Course links geography, literature

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

Two Texas A&M departments offered a joint course earlier this summer that gave Texas teachers a chance to learn about the Southwest's geography and literature.

Dr. Donna Norton with the Educational Curriculum and Instruction department said the purpose of the course — the Advanced Summer Geography Institute for Teachers — is to enable teachers to give their students new insights on geography through literature.

"Because geography is an area that students are behind in, we want to tie it in with literature and make the subject exciting for both teachers and students," she said. "There is a national thrust for literature-based programs right now."

A group of elementary, high school and college teachers accompanied by a group of

instructors from A&M, traveled to New Mexico, Colorado and West Texas and studied the literature of each area.

Before the 11-day trip, each teacher took two short preparatory classes — a multicultural children's literature course and a field geography course.

The course was funded by National Geographic, The Texas Alliance for Geography and the Hobby Foundation.

Each participant went through an application process in the spring and explained how they would combine literature and geography together in their classes.

The teachers chosen were from social studies and English disciplines.

Dr. Bob Bednarz, an associate geography professor and co-director of the program, said people began to realize during the 1980s that there was a lack of geographic training at all levels.

He said the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education was created by teachers and col-

lege faculty in 1986, and its purpose is to ensure teachers get the proper training.

On the first leg of the trip, the group traveled to New Mexico to study the G. Plains.

They then went to Colorado to study about settlers who crossed the Continental Divide. While in Colorado, the group visited old mining towns. Then the group returned to New Mexico and saw ancient cave dwellings.

They traveled to Santa Fe to learn about the cultural clashes between Hispanic American Indians and tourists. Finally, they went to El Paso and crossed the border into Mexico to study writings about the American industries moving to Mexico.

The group studied all genres of literature involving those areas, Norton said, including biographies and non-fiction to science fiction and poetry.

UT, A&M chairmen suggest mergers, closings, not cutbacks

HOUSTON (AP) — The Legislature should follow the precedent set by the military base closures and merge or close schools instead of impose cutbacks that would lead to higher education mediocrity, the chairmen of the boards of regents of the University of Texas and Texas A&M said.

"There would be some hurt feelings, of course, but compare that adverse effect with the overall positive effect of shutting

down unnecessary schools," A&M Board of Regents Chairman Ross Margraves Jr. said.

"Why can't we follow the same concept as the U.S. government did in shutting down military bases?"

Margraves and UT Board of Regents Chairman Louis Beecher Jr. said the politically unpopular move would be better than across-the-board cuts.

Margraves and Beecher didn't name specific closure or merger

candidates, but in interviews with the Houston Chronicle published Wednesday they said the state's budget problems should make their idea a more realistic possibility.

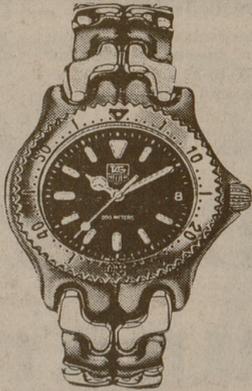
An expected revenue shortfall of nearly \$5 billion has caused the state to target higher education for \$500 million in cuts. The House on Monday approved an appropriations bill requiring UT and A&M to absorb 84 percent of senior college and university

budget cuts.

Opposition from school superintendents quickly has doomed previous calls to close or merge schools. Since 1960, only the public universities in the state have been closed, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Closure candidates named in the past included Sul Ross State University at Alpine, East Texas State at Commerce and UT at the Basin at Odessa.

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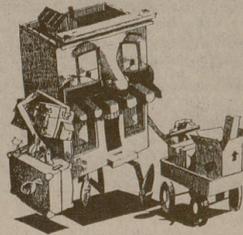
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