

## The Battalion (USPS 045 360)

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The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the 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 either associate editor at 845-3313.

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### BATTIPS 845-3315

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.

## Former GLSS advisor receives recognition

By Alysia Woods  
The Battalion

A Texas A&M philosophy professor who has battled to preserve the rights of gays and lesbians for a decade has been honored for his dedication and service.

Dr. Larry Hickman was presented with a special service appreciation award from Gay and Lesbian Student Services (GLSS) during the committee's meeting Thursday "for a decade of service and advisement to GLSS."

Hickman served as faculty advisor for the organization for 10 years. He retired from the position last spring.

Hickman witnessed the organization change from a non-recognized organization by the University, when it was Gay Student Services (GSS), into the active on-

campus organization that it is today.

GLSS was recognized by the University as a campus organization in 1985 after a court battle that lasted nine years which went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It began in 1976 when three A&M students sued the University because administrators declined a request by GSS to advertise the club's meeting in The Battalion.

"It's an important part of A&M history," Hickman says. "The scope of the organization was very limited during those years because of antagonism."

Although the organization has been restricted in the past, he says, it will remain an active organization with goals.

Presently, GLSS offers several services including a roommate referral service, an information number called the Gay-Line and a

speaker's bureau.

The speaker's bureau is a service GLSS provides for various ethics and sexuality courses in which a gay or lesbian visits the class and discuss homosexuality, answering any questions the class might have.

The Gay-Line is an information number for people who want information about GLSS, such as meeting dates and times.

Hickman says, however, the Gay-Line receives numerous harassing phone calls.

During a recent two-week period, the University found that approximately 32 percent of the calls to Gay-Line were harassing calls.

Hickman says the University Police Department has been extremely helpful by tracing calls and fining the offenders.

"During my time as faculty advisor, I met with all the top administrators," Hickman says. "They

have all been very cooperative. I believe there's not a single administrator who wouldn't go the extra mile for gay and lesbian rights."

The reasons for Hickman's retirement as faculty advisor for GLSS are obvious, he says.

"For 10 years, there was not a faculty member who would have felt safe as an advisor," Hickman says. "Since I am not gay, I was protected in a way many were not in the climate of fear and oppression that existed."

"Now that the first faculty member openly announced to being gay (in the spring semester 1991), it's OK. It was then time to pass it (the advisor position) along."

That faculty member is Jim Mazzullo, a geology professor and one of two new faculty advisors for GLSS. The other is Harriet Andreadis, an English professor. Both began advising for the orga-

nization during the summer.

These days, Hickman is investing his extra time in research, and several professional organizations where he serves on the boards of directors.

He is also a member of the Faculty Senate and chairman of the Senate's Minority Conditions Subcommittee.

Hickman teaches PHIL 251 (Introduction to Philosophy) and PHIL 205 (Technology and Human Values).

He also teaches PHIL 375 (Philosophy of Visual Media), a class he developed that is usually offered in the spring.

Hickman says despite his retirement as faculty advisor, he hopes to keep in touch with GLSS in the future.

"I am very proud to have been able to work with the gay students over the years," he says. "I plan to continue to do so, only now, in a different role."

## Custodians help campus run smoothly

By Melinda Cox  
The Battalion

They rise early in the morning, performing some of the most important but often most overlooked tasks on the Texas A&M campus.

They clean, tidy and maintain more than eight million square feet a day, and most of them report to work before 6 a.m.

They are A&M's custodial workers and their jobs are essential for running the campus, says Robert Mathis, manager of custodial services.

"Our workers come across something different every day," he says.

Custodial workers are responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of most buildings on campus, but they no longer clean the dormitories, Mathis says. The workers do general housekeeping including cleaning the floors.

"The workers even do windows," he says.

A&M custodians also do bid work. Bid work includes being hired on contracts to work at places such as the Association of Former Students. Mathis says his department has won the bid through lower prices and better work.

"Custodial services is a service orientated business and cost is important," Mathis says.

Cost and efficiency are maintained through classes each employee must attend. Workers must go through a training course to become familiar with different techniques and chemicals used by the services. New devices are constantly becoming available to reduce cost and time and workers must be familiar with the changes, he says.

Keeping A&M's campus clean is a 24-hour job, Mathis says. Shifts begin at different times of the day with the first shift starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 2:30 p.m. Mathis says this is when most of the cleaning is done.

Restrooms are the first areas to be cleaned, then office spaces, hallways and finally laboratories. Mathis says each worker is responsible for about 24,000 square footage.

Mathis says because the workers become an integral part of the building, they become part of the family with A&M faculty and staff. In fact, when staff move to another building they often request certain custodial workers move with them, Mathis says.

Some workers have been with the University for a number of years, he says.

A promotion system might be the reason for the long term employment rate with the University.

People who are hired through custodial services enter as a "custodial worker 1" and are able to progress up the ladder as a position becomes available, Mathis says. The next position is "custodial worker 2", then leader, supervisor and finally shift supervisor.

## Police seek grocery store burglars

The Brazos County Sheriff's Department received reports of three burglaries of grocery stores in the first three weeks of August.

Benny's Grocery on Highway 21 east of Bryan, Green Acres Grocery on Highway 30 east of College Station, and Wellborn grocery on FM 2154 in Wellborn were the targets of the thieves.

In each case, the thieves forced their way into the store, searched through the counter for things of value, then stole over 250 cartons of cigarettes, six 12-packs of beer, and more than \$200 worth of change. Store owners report that more than \$4,000 worth of these items were stolen.

Sheriff's investigators believe that these burglaries may have been committed by the same persons and that they may be related to similar burglaries in Grimes County. Investigators also believe that the thieves will have sold or traded the cigarettes in the local area.

This week the Brazos County Sheriff's Department and Crime Stoppers need your help in identifying the people responsible for these burglaries.

If you have information that could be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS.

## Professor translates statistics into fun ideas

By Robin Goodpaster  
The Battalion

Statistics can be fun - this may be hard to believe, but Dr. Fred Ruppel, a Texas A&M assistant professor of international agricultural trade and finance, has an inventive way of translating large numbers into interesting ideas.

For instance, using unofficial twelfth day enrollment figures for

A&M, Ruppel says the 40,969 A&M students attending classes this fall could hold hands and encircle the entire Bryan-College Station area.

The 33,022 undergraduates at A&M could encircle the main campus nearly eight times if they were laid end to end, Ruppel says.

Ruppel says he got the idea of translating statistics into common events from "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint Exupery.

In the book, the little prince

says that all the people in the world could fit in a 20-by-20 square mile area (about 400 square miles).

Ruppel says the five million people that now inhabit the earth could fit in a square between Bryan-College Station, Brenham and Caldwell, allowing 28 inches by 18 inches per person.

Other statistics include:

\* It would take more than three months of non-stop double-

elimination competition to determine the table tennis champion of the 7,292 graduate students attending A&M this semester.

\* It would take 50 Aggie buses more than 10 trips each to haul the 23,989 men enrolled during Fall 1991 to the Snook Bakery for Saturday morning kolaches.


\* It would take 4,000 Bucky Richardsons to bench press the 16,975 women that are enrolled this fall.

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