

The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 48

College Station, Texas

"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

10 Pages Wednesday, November 6, 1991

Aggies Against Bonfire urge relocation, abolishment

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

Aggies Against Bonfire is fired up this year for Bonfire '91, a tradition that the student organization is hoping will be relocated to the polo field next year and, eventually, abolished.

Kelly Harper, vice president of Aggies Against Bonfire, says the Texas Air Control Board (TACB) investigated the annual event last year and will be there again this year as a result of complaints filed by residents who live around Duncan Field, the site of bonfire.

"We've talked to neighbors living in the area about bonfire," Harper says. "They can't even leave their homes for Thanksgiving because they have to stay home and hose down their roofs."

Eugene Fulton, regional director for the board, said during a telephone interview with The Battalion that the bonfire tradition is able to continue because it is recognized by the

agency as a ceremonial fire, which can be fairly large. Fulton said that if it qualifies as a nuisance, however, that would override the exemption.

"There are a lot of people in the community who think bonfire sucks."

— Kelly Harper vice-president for Aggies Against Bonfire

"Just because a few residents say it's a nuisance, doesn't mean it actually is a nuisance."

— Bill Kibler associate director of Student Affairs and head of the University bonfire advisory

"This year we will be there again to determine if bonfire is a nuisance," Fulton said. "If it is, there are certain consequences the school will have to suffer, such as relocation."

In determining whether a particular activity is a nuisance, Fulton said the agency looks at factors such as flying embers, smoke, trash, traffic and safety.

The board has met several times with A&M administrators and various student organizations including Aggies Against Bonfire. Topics discussed were alternate sites for bonfire and activities that could replace the tradition.

Fulton said the board does not become involved with "the politics" of bonfire, just regulations that it could violate.

As a result of last year's investigation, no violations were cited. The board did, however, report potential violations that could occur in the future, especially under windy weather conditions. A report outlining this information was given to the University.

Harper says that, in addition to talking with residents and the board, Aggies Against Bonfire are planning their annual protest on Nov. 27, the night of bonfire.

See Students /Page 8

Center pole raises anticipation; students work late to finish job

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

In celebration of Center Pole's arrival on Thursday, most Texas A&M students are buzzing with anticipation and excitement as Bonfire '91 inches closer and closer.

Cutting has ended, and students are working late hours to form the second stack which began to pile up Monday night. All the wood for bonfire has been transported to Duncan Field, the bonfire site.

Senior redpot Mike Flatten

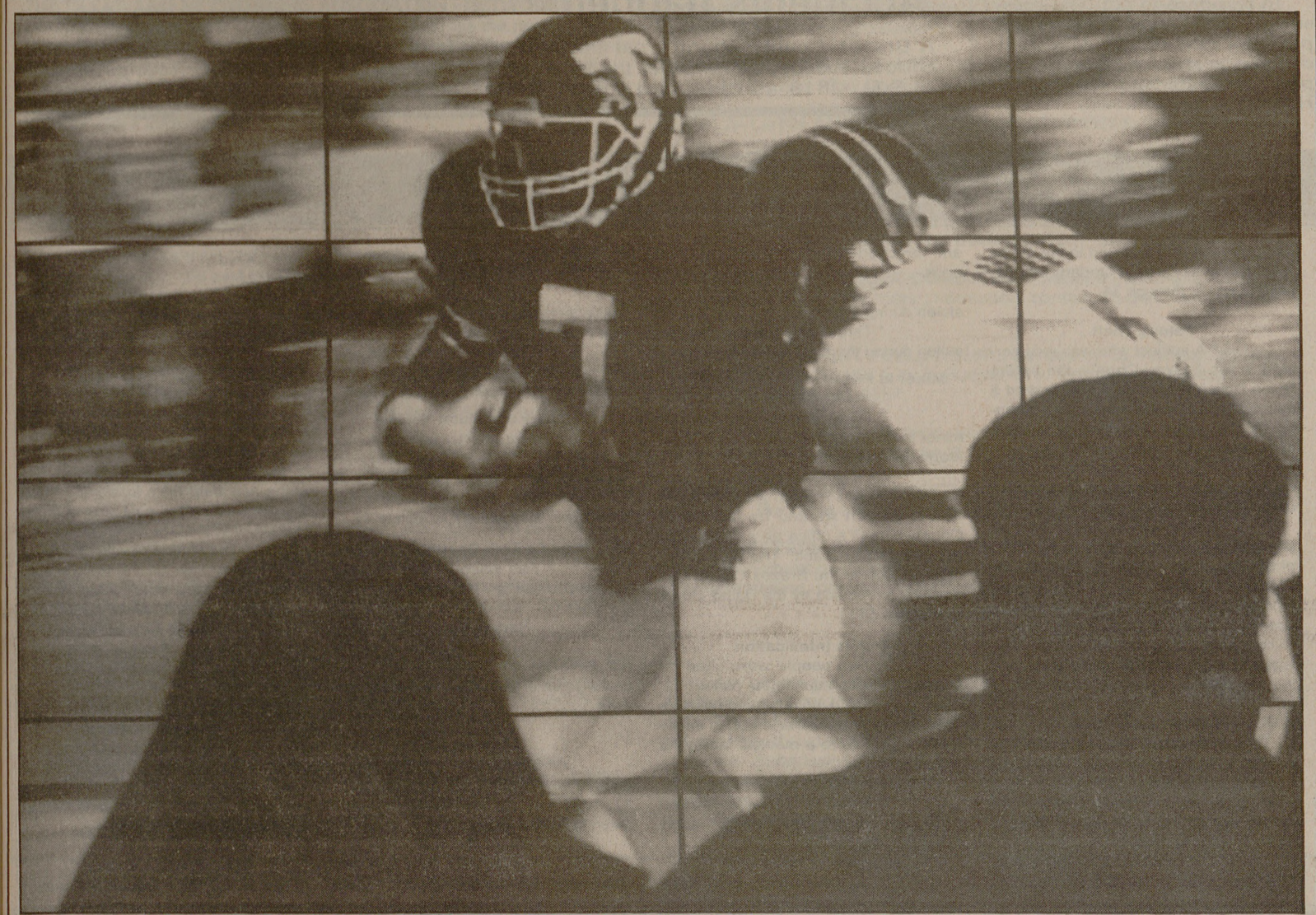
says nothing unusual has occurred so far, and that there have been fewer injuries than ever.

"It's been a really safe year," says Flatten. "Last year was the most accident-free year, and this year is even better."

According to senior redpot Jim McTasney, all injuries have been minor, such as cuts, bruises and sprains. However, Dr. John Koldus, vice president of Student Services, says one student was bitten by a snake.

"The student thought he had been stung by something," Koldus

See Bonfire/Page 4



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Richardson on the run

Leah Duncan and Jay Heck watch A&M quarterback Bucky Richardson on a film at the A&M Visitor Center. The film is

designed to promote A&M to visitors and prospective students, although many current and former students watch the film.

20-minute breaks

Class schedule allows for traveling time

By John Lose
The Battalion

Texas A&M students will have extra time between classes next spring and fall, but an unofficial polling of students indicates that there is uncertainty about why the extra time is needed.

"I think there's plenty of time right now," said sophomore Steven Santerre. "I don't see why

we need to double the time between classes."

The 20-minute break was the final recommendation of a subcommittee of the Faculty Senate, established specifically to define and address the problem of transit time between classes.

The report indicated that the number of classes scheduled on the West campus will increase in the future, due to building and expansion of the West campus, and

also the growing number of non-agriculture classes held in West campus buildings. Along with the longer break between classes, the subcommittee presented other solutions, the extended break judged to be the most practical.

The new 20-minute break was approved by University President William Mobley, and next spring's implementation of the new sched-

See Trial/Page 4

Peace conference gives hope for future, A&M experts say

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

Despite the lack of breakthroughs at the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, Spain, experts at Texas A&M say real progress was made, giving hope to success at future conferences.

Dr. Larry Yarak, a professor of history at A&M and an expert on the Middle East, said the peace conference was encouraging because for the first time all sides were brought together in negotiations.

Yarak pointed out that planned peace talks in the 1950's between Israel and its enemies fell through before the sides ever

reached the negotiating table.

"Everyone is finally at the same table, although Israel was brought there kicking and screaming, so to speak," he said. "This burst the psychological barrier."

Yarak said although the current Israeli government is the most conservative in that nation's history, Israeli protests which disrupted previous peace initiatives have not happened.

He said he thinks the Israeli people are being quiet and taking a watchful stance, fearful Israel will lose much of the territory it won in the 1967.

Ronald Hatchett of the Mosher Defense Institute, who served the Joint Chiefs for eight years on the Middle East Desk, said the state-

ments of both sides lends support to the theory a land for peace compromise will eventually be worked out.

"Shamir didn't repeat what he said before the conference - that Israel would never return the West Bank," Hatchett said. "He said the quickest way to an impasse was to focus on land for peace, but he also said once the Arab states showed their desire for a lasting peace was sincere, they would discuss interim self-government for the Palestinians."

He said the Palestinians also showed willingness to compromise by accepting Israel's right to exist. Previously, territorial de-

See Palestine/Page 10

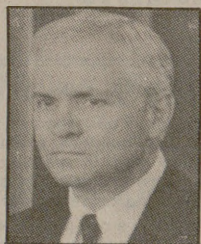
Senate confirms Gates to head CIA with 64-31 vote despite long ordeal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly confirmed Robert M. Gates as head of the Central Intelligence Agency following a six-month ordeal that laid bare painful disputes within the spy agency.

The vote was 64 to 31, a strong margin despite the taint of the Iran-Contra affair that

clung to Gates through much of the confirmation hearings and charges that he tailored intelligence reports to suit the political views of Reagan administration higher-ups.

Backed by a solid phalanx of Republicans, Gates benefitted from a split within Democratic ranks to survive the longest and most controversial approval process ever for a CIA nominee.



Robert Gates

Former director of A&M graduate studies dies

Dr. Lawrence Guseman Jr., former director of Texas A&M's Office of Graduate Studies, died Tuesday at Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Memorial Funeral Home.

Guseman was named to A&M's Office of Graduate Studies

in 1988 after joining the University's mathematics faculty in 1968. He returned to teaching on Sept. 1.

He formerly served as graduate adviser for the department and was a 1984 winner of the Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching, jointly bestowed by the University and the A&M Association of Former Students.

He also served as coordinator of a 10-institution remote sensing basic research program sponsored by NASA.

He spent four years as a research mathematician for NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston and was a summer faculty fellow at the Johnson Space Center in 1973.

Former A&M shortstop Chuck Knoblauch wins 1991 AL Rookie of the Year/See Page 5