

# The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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## Mobley stresses issues university must face

By STEPHANIE PATTILLO

The Battalion

Enrollment, the budget and the status of Aggie athletics are three of the most pressing issues Texas A&M University faces, said University President Dr. William Mobley during his annual State of the University Address at the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center Monday night.

Despite a 20 percent cut per student in state funding, enrollment is on the rise, Mobley said. Approximately 15,000 students are expected to apply for the 6,000 available freshman spots for next semester.

With this continued increased in applicants, Mobley posed the question of how big is too big.

"It would be a shame if A&M lost its sense of community and tradition by getting too big," Mobley said.

No matter how large the University becomes, Mobley said that A&M will always have more applicants than it can accept. Because of this, the selection criteria for admissions will have to be reviewed.

"There is no easy answer; we need to find a way to make it (admissions) fair," Mobley said.

Currently, Scholastic Aptitude Test scores and individual assessment are used to determine who gets into A&M.

While Mobley wrestles with admissions, the state legislature struggles with budget cuts that will affect the University.

"It's not realistic that we will see a budget increase," Mobley said. "A flat budget that tweaks in a couple of areas would be ideal."

Mobley said he hates to see budget cuts in the area of education.

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JOHN BARTRAM/The Battalion

"We are now the third largest university in the nation," said Dr. Mobley in his State of the University Address.

## Barton defends position State official against homosexuals in armed forces

By REAGON CLAMON

The Battalion

Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis, reaffirmed his support for a policy banning gays in the military at a press conference to gather support for his U.S. Senate campaign, Monday.

Barton told a small roomful of supporters in the McKenzie terminal of Easterwood airport that he believes President Clinton's intention to relax the military's policy prohibiting gay's and lesbians is a bad idea. He is planning to introduce a bill in the House of Representatives that will make the policy law.

"I think that (Clinton's plan)



Rep. Joe Barton

DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

is a bad public policy decision," Barton said. "The existing rules and regulations have served our nation well in war and peace for over 200 years."

Before speaking to his supporters, Barton met with a group of students protesting the proposed bill in the lobby of the airport terminal—shaking hands and thanking them for being there.

"...the young men and women outside are exercising their constitutional right to protest and free speech," he said. "They've got a right to be here."

Barton told his supporters it

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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

John Hess, a graduate student from Houston, gets tackled by Chad Cox, a sophomore forestry major from Nacogdoches outside Clements Hall on Sunday.

## Clinton promises to lift ban

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Despite intense opposition from the Pentagon and Congress, President Clinton promised Monday to fulfill his pledge to revoke the ban on homosexuals in the military.

"I intend to keep my commitment," he said.

Clinton summoned the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the White House to hear their objections and explore grounds for compromise.

"I want your input on how we should do it," Clinton said. "I think they're entitled to really be listened to on a lot of the practical issues."

Military officials have raised concerns about housing, spousal benefits, discipline and requests for same-sex marriages. They also have warned of the potential of violence against gay members of the military.

Clinton's promise to end the 50-year-old ban has inflamed passions, presenting the new commander in chief with the delicate challenge of carrying out a major campaign pledge while preventing a backlash from Congress and the Pentagon.

Defense Secretary Les Aspin spoke earlier of the potential for a "revolt" in the military and said that members of Congress are overwhelmingly against lifting the ban.

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## Corps investigates alleged sexual assault

By GINA HOWARD

The Battalion

Officials with the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets are investigating allegations by a female cadet that a senior male cadet sexually assaulted her last spring and sexually harassed her this fall.

The alleged victim, whose name has not been released, filed a complaint with the University Police Department on Dec. 14, 1992, stating she had been the victim of unwanted sexual advances by a male cadet. The cadet's name has not been released because no criminal charges have been filed.

Lt. Col. James L. McCleskey, chief of operations and training for the Corps, said he could not offer specific details, but he did confirm there is an on-going investigation.

"We are looking into a case where some allegations of sexual misconduct have been made, but the whole thing is somewhat sketchy," McCleskey said. "I can't give any details for the protection of the cadets involved."

McCleskey declined to com-

ment on how long the investigation will last.

According to the police incident report, the female cadet stated she did not want to press criminal charges at that time, but she wanted to make a report in case the harassment continued.

In the report, the alleged victim stated she was raped by the suspect in April of 1992, but she did not report the incident at that time.

The alleged victim stated she had gone to the suspect's room around Nov. 12 to pick up some papers for a class. She stated he then tried to kiss her, and she fled the room.

The second incident was not reported at the time it allegedly occurred either.

The female cadet stated because she had reason to believe the suspect was considering the same type of harassment toward a female freshman cadet, she reported the incidents to her adviser and later filed a report with UPD.

McCleskey said so far, nothing has been confirmed.

"It is just allegations at this point," he said.

## Energy tax proposed for deficit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration gave fresh signals Monday it may propose tax increases that would hit most Americans as a way of fighting the federal deficit. A broad-based tax on energy consumption is among "a lot of options," President Clinton said.

A day after Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen floated the possibility of such a tax, Clinton and White House officials did their best to keep it aloft.

"Absolutely, yes," responded White House communications director George Stephanopoulos.

Stephanopoulos also stressed that cuts in entitlement spending also are "on the table" as the plan takes shape.

Clinton took a step further toward that package by signing an executive order creating a Cabinet-level National Economic Council.

The council, headed by former New York investment banker Robert Rubin, will coordinate economic policy.

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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Members of the Gay and Lesbian Student Services protest outside the room where Congressman Joe Barton held a press conference at Easterwood Airport on Monday. Members were there to protest Barton's bill to keep homosexuals from serving in the military.

## GLSS protests congressman's opposition to gays in military

By KEVIN LINDSTROM

The Battalion

Members of a Texas A&M gay student group protested Rep. Joe Barton's opposition to lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military when Barton appeared at a press conference at Easterwood Airport Monday.

The members of the Gay and Lesbian Student Services (GLSS) yelled "support our president" and "ban the ban" as Barton entered the airport conference room.

GLSS member Clay Kilpatrick, an honorably discharged United States Marine and sophomore computer science and management major, said they came to protest homophobia.

"These are the same exact stereotypes and fears that were fought by blacks in the 50s and women in the 70s," Kilpatrick said.

Anne Woods, a senior journalism major, said sexual orientation has nothing to do with military service.

"The issue in the military is sexual misconduct, not sexual preference," she said.

Barton shook hands with each of the protesters and told each of them, "I respect your right to protest."

Kim Rettig, GLSS president, said Barton's recognition helps bring the issue to light.

"I think it helps his supporters to realize that we're here as well, and that his supporters need to think about both sides of the issue," she said.

Dr. Jim Mazzullo, associate professor of Geology and GLSS faculty adviser, said face-to-face contact can help reduce stereotyping.

"Most problems with discrimination are due to people's ignorance," Mazzullo said. "And you can overcome most of that ignorance by just being in the same room."