

## Students air opinions at multiculturalism forum

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

Students expressed concerns and aired opinions Thursday night at a public forum to discuss a Student Senate bill amending a Faculty Senate proposal that would add an American Cultures and International requirement to the University core curriculum.

The Faculty Senate proposal would require students to take a six hours of courses relating to minority or interna-

tional groups. The requirement would add two new categories, but would not increase the number of hours to the core curriculum.

Student Senate Academic Affairs Committee Chairman Ben Dale introduced the bill at the forum and informed the students of amendments the committee has implemented.

The committee has revoked its initial proposal to change the name from American Cultures and International Requirement to "Cultures Course," Dale said. The committee also revised some of the

wording to clarify the meaning of the bill.

College Republicans President Phil Meuret said he is concerned about the section of the proposal requiring the University to offer at least 25 classes.

"I'm worried about the number of choices we would have if this is passed," Meuret said. "Twenty-five classes is not enough. Even as a minimum, it's not enough."

Agriculture Sen. Trent Ashby said he thought 25 classes was not enough and urged the students to contact their senators so they could voice the concerns of

their constituents because the proposal has not yet been "set in stone."

Dane Ray, chairman of the Young Conservatives of Texas, said he thought the 120 classes being considered to satisfy the requirement contained a hidden political agenda.

"You need a much broader spectrum of classes to choose from," Ray said. "I can understand what a literature class might do for me but not a women's history course."

Mark Mc Elwain, vice chairman of the Young Conservatives, said the classes did

not cover every racial group.

"If this is going to be about multiculturalism you need to represent everyone," Mc Elwain said. "Why aren't there any classes about whites or males? If you can bend over backwards to make sure women are represented you can represent them too."

A list of the senators' phone numbers would be available Monday in the student government office and students are to voice their opinions about the proposal. Another public forum will be held next week.

## Preparing for real life



Gus Morgan/THE BATTALION

Attendees of the Brayton Fire Training School extinguish a tanker truck fire during an afternoon drill at the school Thursday.

## Group to help fight illiteracy in B-CS

By Jacqueline Mason

THE BATTALION

A local organization is calling upon the community to help eliminate the problem of adult illiteracy in Bryan and College Station.

The Brazos Valley chapter of Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA) recruits A&M students and local residents to help adults who are not able to read, said LVA volunteer Alex Potente.

Currently, 15 A&M students volunteer at LVA, but the organization needs about 50 more tutors to aid functionally illiterate adults on a one-to-one basis.

"Tutoring requires a commitment of a nine-hour training class or video training and at least two hours a week of tutoring," Potente said.

There is initial frustration between tutors and students, but there has never been a real problem among volunteers, he said.

Laurie Ellington, LVA volunteer in charge of Family Literacy, said, "If there ever is a problem, we can pair them up with someone else."

About 40 of the adults needing help are A&M employees, Potente said. "These people have made it through school," he said. "Many of them have graduated from high school without being able to read a newspaper."

A national study conducted by the New Jersey group Educational Testing Service reported that almost 10 percent of Americans do not understand news articles. Researchers blame insufficient education for much of this illiteracy.

"In order to be functionally literate, you need to know not only how to read but how to write," Potente said.

LVA uses a technique called Language Experience in which students prepare a sentence or two based on their own experiences. Tutors read the sentences back to the students, analyzing the various components.

"This kind of approach is good for students who have some minimal reading skills," Potente said.

"What we do with more advanced students is go to more structured formats," he said. These formats emphasize grammar and sentence construction, he said.

This year, for the first time, some LVA volunteers will travel to maximum security jails to tutor inmates.

Volunteers tutor students referred to LVA from churches, county jails and public service groups like Aid to Families with Dependent Children or Food Stamps.

## G. Rollie White to face renovations upon Board approval

By Lisa Elliott

THE BATTALION

G. Rollie White Coliseum could get a major face lift if the Board of Regents approves a \$29 million expansion plan submitted to the Facilities Planning and Building committee Thursday afternoon.

The proposal would expand the seating capacity to more than 9,000 up from the current 7,800, and improve and increase the number of restroom facilities as well as bring the building up to current American Disabilities Act standards and fire safety standards.

The improvements would expand the walking area around the arena and add new dressing rooms

\$29 million expansion plans would improve air system, restrooms, seating; Bush Library construction on agenda

for men and women athletes.

In addition, the heating and air-conditioning systems would be updated.

If approved, these changes would make A&M's basketball facilities fourth in the Southwest Conference in terms of overall capacity.

In other business, the committee viewed the preliminary plans for the \$82 million George Bush Presidential Library Center, which is expected to begin

construction in November 1994.

The center will consist of three main buildings, the main library center, a shared use facility and academic facility.

The main section will contain a museum area as well as a document storage area.

The shared use facility will consist of an auditorium, banquet hall, kitchen and a center for international studies.

The center for public leadership and presidential studies offices as well as political science and economics faculty and classrooms will be housed in the academic facility.

The Board will vote on these proposals tomorrow in addition to proposals on:

- emergency repairs to the sanitary sewer at the John J. Koldus Building
- a site of the Support Services Building on Raymond Stotzer Parkway
- a contract for asbestos abatement of the power plant boiler and smoke stack
- the design of the Easterwood Airport storm drainage renovation.

## A&M architecture students to design Chicago medical center for children

By Geneen Pipher

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University architecture students got a taste of the real world last Wednesday when they began a semester-long research and design project with a trip to the Northwestern University Medical School in downtown Chicago.

The group will develop a 10-year master plan for the Children's Memorial Medical Center (CMC), a pediatric teaching facility for the medical school.

CMC covered all expenses for the 17 student's first visit to Chicago and will pay for their return trip in December when they present their ideas.

George Mann, project director and endowed professor of health facilities design, said the CMC contracted with the Department of Architecture to develop design concepts to improve the existing facility and create a more healing environment for children.

"We are going into a whole new system of children's care," Mann said.

"We will be working on education, prevention and care for the entire family.

"They came to us, I think, because we are known for our health facilities work."

Jenny Cotner, a representative for the College of Architecture, said studies have found that friendly surroundings aid healing.

"The project will focus on children and how to make it more friendly toward chil-

dren," Cotner said.

"They are finding more and more that people get better faster in less sterile looking facilities."

The students will provide the CMC with fresh ideas and designs that professional architects might not have considered, Cotner said.

"The hospital will benefit from the new cre-

**"It's a big, challenging job. This is the kind of thing we dream of, the kind of thing careers can be based on."**

— Chris Cope, senior environmental design major

ative ways of thinking," she said.

"They are also benefiting from George Mann, who is well-known in health facilities design."

Chris Cope a senior environmental design major, said students have a different perspective than older, more established architects.

"You could look at us as kids because everyone we dealt with in Chicago was in their late 30s and beyond," Cope said.

"When they are designing for children, the older architects tend to look at the building in

a way an adult would look at it.

"I think having us and our ideas gives them ideas they'd never think of in their lives."

Heather Robertson, a senior environmental design major, agreed, "I think the Medical Center will benefit from our ideas. We have the capability to look at a project from a younger person's point of view. We will find out what the children and families need and center it around them."

Robertson said she is excited to finally get some hands-on experience and a chance to use the things she has learned in the classroom.

"It is really practical," Robertson said. "This is what we will be doing once we graduate."

"It is the first time we've gotten to do something outside of the textbook and classroom. This will really help me in the future."

Cope said he believes he and the other students have the skills to do a good job on the project, but he said, it will take a great deal of work to do it well.

"I think we have learned the skills to do a good job, but we only have a small amount of time to do it," he said.

"It's a big, challenging job. This is the kind of thing we dream of, the kind of thing careers can be based on."

"If they like one of our designs, our buildings could be built! Can you imagine having on your resume that you designed a building that was built in Chicago? This is the chance of a lifetime."

## Law improves home security

By Jennifer Kiley

THE BATTALION

A new Texas law that specifies security guidelines for owners of rental housing went into effect earlier this month, but a representative of the Texas Apartments Association said some College Station apartment complexes may not feel its effects.

"Some of the provisions of the bill will have more of an impact than others," said David Mintz, TAA government affairs director.

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### WEATHER

• Friday: partly cloudy, highs in 90s

• Forecast for Football Saturday: also partly cloudy, highs in 90s

• Extended forecast: still partly cloudy, highs near 90