

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 93 No. 19 (12 pages)

1893 - A Century of Service to Texas A&M - 1993

Thursday, September 23, 1993

## Student Senate says 'yes' to cultural diversity

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University Student Senate passed a bill Wednesday supporting the addition of required classes emphasizing cultural diversity to the University's core curriculum.

The bill will now be presented to the Faculty Senate for consideration as an amendment to a similar proposal they will be voting on in November.

The bill requires students to take a three hour course focusing on either a United States minority or an international culture. The 261 classes offered under the bill must also be uniform throughout each college.

It stipulates a minimum of 100 classes be available at all times with at least 35 of the courses having multiple sections. Also, 35 of the classes must not require a prerequisite.

Under the bill, a course satisfying another core category, a departmental requirement or a free elective can also be used to satisfy the new requirement if it is a class drawn from the approved 261 class list.

Russell Langely, student senate speaker, said the bill is a strong message for the administration to consider.

"The Student Senate represents their constituents well and this is what they want," Langely said. "We want to now work with the administration to imple-

ment the best policy possible."

Ben Dale, student senate academic affairs committee chairman, said the bill is a step in the right direction for students at A&M.

"We made history tonight," Dale said.

"When the Liberal Arts Council implemented multiculturalism classes in their college's curriculum, they made a significant step for that college," he said. "Tonight we made the first step for the whole university."

Dale said the Faculty Senate has the option of disregarding the bill or changing their bill to conform to the Student Senate's bill. Student Body President Brian Walker and Dale will present the bill

to Interim University President Dr. E. Dean Gage.

"We've already talked to him once about the bill before tonight and he seemed very upbeat about it," Dale said. "He likes what we have and we're very happy about that."

Despite the majority vote, many senators expressed concerns about the issue before the final vote.

Student Sen. Thomas Reed said the requirement will cause a budget crunch.

"To add sections of the classes offered on the list is going to cost money," Reed said. "It costs money to add sections, that's why we can't get into the classes we want now. In essence the bill has merit but not

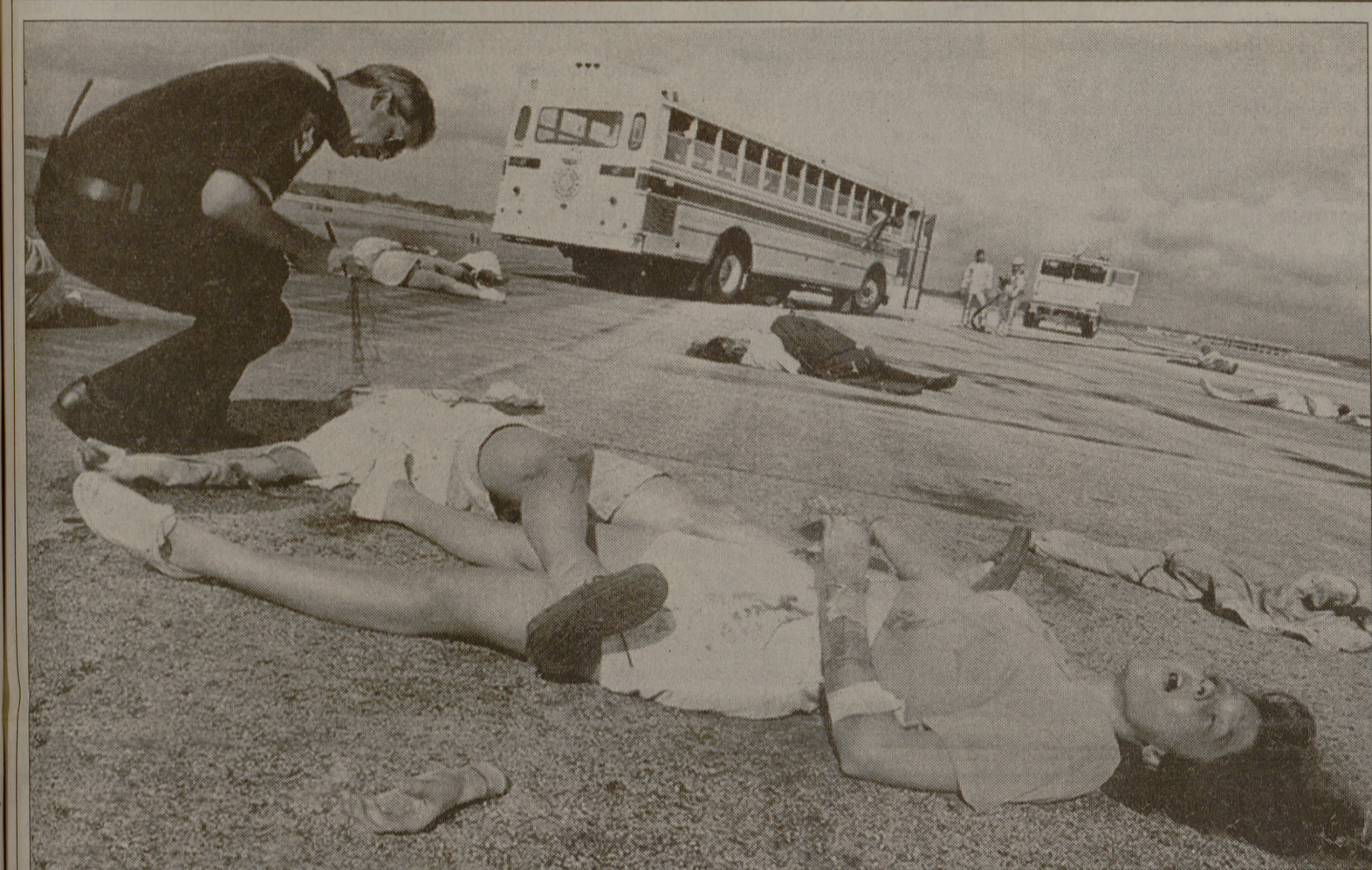
enough to justify the cost."

Student Sen. Angela Amshoff said the bill won't add to students' understanding of other cultures.

"This bill won't enrich our cultural knowledge," Amshoff said. "It seems it's intended to enrich A&M's name. I think we're rushing into this and we should research more."

Student Sen. Forrest Green said a multiculturalism class requirement is inevitable.

"One way or another we're going to have required multiculturalism classes at A&M," Green said. "I'm against having a requirement but at least this way we have some input and the students will have the opportunity to pick their own classes."



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

Richard Weisen of the College Station Fire Department tries to assess the injuries sustained by two passengers of Blue Sky Airlines flight 1234 that wrecked at Easterwood Airport

Wednesday morning. The victims are students from Bryan High School and were part of a mock crash exercise that is required by FAA regulations.

## Emergency services stage mock crash

Training exercise tests community response; students volunteer as 'victims'

By Mark Smith

THE BATTALION

Brazos County emergency services received a message Wednesday that a plane had crashed at Easterwood Airport soon after takeoff, beginning a training exercise designed to test the community's response to a major accident.

The Texas A&M University-Easterwood Airport Crash/Fire/Rescue team was the first unit to arrive at the site. The truck sprayed fire retardant foam on several fires in the grass near the A&M shuttle bus, which served as the plane's fuselage.

Bryan High School students posing as victims greeted arriving emergency medical personnel with shouts of "I want my mommy," and "Call Dr. Seuss!"

The medical unit did not rush to the victims, but moved methodically through the bodies using a system called triage. Triage is a medical process in which a medical team assesses a group of wounded and assigns priority to more critical patients.

Some observers asked why the emergency

personnel were not moving faster.

"We train our people to respond in a very level type of movement because what we want to do is calm the situation and show the patients we have everything under control," said J. S. Bland, chief of the Bryan Fire Department.

Emergency personnel miss important information in emergency situations when they rush to the victims, Bland said. An atmosphere of urgency occurs when victims become aware of their injuries.

"We train our people to stay calm and be very deliberate in their movements to make sure they don't make any mistakes," Bland said.

The exercise began at 10 a.m., when the emergency services received the fictitious call about the downed aircraft.

Several organizations participated in the exercise, including the fire departments of Bryan, College Station and Brazos Valley, police departments from across the county, area hospitals, Bryan and College Station Emergency Management teams, students and staff from A&M and students from Bryan High

School's Health Occupations class.

Organizers of the event said the focus was to evaluate emergency plans and the performance of personnel in case of a major accident.

"Our primary concern here is just make sure we can get everybody working together to take care of any situation occurring either here or in Brazos County," Bland said.

Bland said the exercise, which is required by the Federal Aviation Administration once every three years, improves the emergency team's response and the treatment of the patients.

Although he could not evaluate the exercise until after he discussed it with the other organizations involved, Bland said the event went well.

"After the exercise we will bring all of the entities together and do a post-incident analysis of the situation," Bland said. "Dispatching from 911 and College Station Fire Department, dispatchers have worked real well together on this today."

See Crash/Page 9

## Clinton outlines plan of action for health care reform

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Proposing a top-to-bottom makeover of the nation's health care system, President Clinton

called Wednesday night for ambitious reforms guaranteeing every American comprehensive medical benefits "that can never be taken away."

Clinton, in a speech to a nationally broadcast session of Congress, said his plan would reform "the costliest and most wasteful health care system on Earth without any new broad-based taxes."

Laying out his rationale for the biggest social initiative since the New Deal, Clinton said the current system is "too uncertain and too expensive, too bureaucratic and too wasteful. It has too much fraud and too much greed."

Pointing to his own proposal, which would require all employers to provide health insurance to their workers, the president said, "Let us guarantee every American comprehensive health benefits that can never be taken away."

Clinton spoke for 53 minutes to a House chamber packed with lawmakers and dignitaries who interrupted him 32 times with applause.

The president signaled a willingness to compromise over the course of what is sure to be months of debate. "On this journey, as on all others of consequence, there will be rough stretches in the road and honest disagreements" about how to proceed. "After all, this is a complicated journey."

Senate GOP leader Bob Dole said Republicans would work with Clinton to fashion a new health care system, but warned of disagreements ahead. "In the complex debate that will come in the months ahead, let's keep in mind four key issues: choice, quality, jobs and cost," Dole said.

Clinton said that under his plan, some Americans would be asked to pay more but that the vast majority would pay the same or less for health care coverage that would be the same or better

## Youth bear too much of costs, A&M medical professor says

By Stephanie Pattillo

THE BATTALION

President Clinton is looking to the youth of the country to fund much of the costs of health care, said Dr. James Rohack, A&M assistant professor of internal medicine, Wednesday night after Clinton unveiled of his health care plan before a joint session of Congress.

The president said single people in their 20's with insurance will foot much of the country's health care bill. His plan calls for the pooling of costs to help pay for the care of the elderly. He said all people will benefit in the long run when they are older, even though some will have to bear the brunt of the costs now.

Rohack, an officer of the Texas Medical Association and an American Medical Association delegate, said Clinton used the wrong analogy of social security when explaining that the insurance rates of those in their 20's will go up. "College graduates will fund the big bill for the elderly and high school dropouts," he said.

See Youth/Page 9

than they currently have.

To help pay for it, Clinton said he would impose new taxes on tobacco but he dropped the idea of increases for beer, wine or hard liquor. Clinton also said he would seek a "modest" tax on corporations that opt out of the health alliances and set up their own programs, and seek billions in cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. The White House deliberately left vague the financing details, one of the thorniest issues to come.

In a direct challenge to lawmakers, Clinton said, "Let us pledge tonight: before this Congress adjourns next year, you will pass and I will sign a new law to create health security for every American."

## North warns against reductions in military

By James Bernsen

THE BATTALION

Retired Lt. Col. Oliver North warned students Wednesday against the reduction of U.S. military preparedness and called for young people to get involved in politics to take the government back from the "career politicians."

Although the threat from the former Soviet Union is diminished, it is not gone, and the U.S. will still need the military to be ready, North said in a speech sponsored by the Texas A&M University College Republicans.

The Clinton administration's new military budget will reduce America to its lowest level of

## Speaker urges students to get involved in politics, 'take the government back'

preparedness since Pearl Harbor, he said.

"It's not a new world order, it's a new world disorder," North said. "Our military needs to be restructured, but we can not as a nation unilaterally disarm."

North also said the opportunity for peace in the Middle East is something unique in world history, and should not be squandered by world leaders or allowed to be destroyed by the actions of radicals.

He said the person most responsible for the progress of peace was George Bush.

North encouraged students to get involved in the Republican party and politics.

"We're not going to pull this nation together without a strong Republican party," he said.

"The generation of which I am a part, and the generation that preceded me has failed you most of all," he said. "We haven't provided well enough for you to assume those positions of leadership. We have capitulated to professional politicians who have become the norm, rather than the exception."

"The average term length of a

member of congress is approaching 15 years, and the average term length of a convicted criminal is less than three. We've got that backward."

North said his generation has taken the future of young people away by raising the national debt through "the cowardice of government," which amounts to taxation without representation. He said the solution to the nation's problems is not more bureaucracy.

At a press conference before the speech, North said he supports health care reform, but hopes it will not "break the existing system" for those who are insured.

See North/Page 2

## Inside

### Aggielife

•Reviews: Judgment Night, Prince, Nirvana  
Page 3

### SPORTS

•Lady Aggie spikers sweep away Red Raiders  
Page 7

### OPINION

•Multiple Mail Call: more and more multiculturalism  
Page 10

### WEATHER

•Thursday: partly cloudy with scattered showers  
•Forecast for Friday: partly cloudy in the evening, highs in the 90s

### TEXAS LOTTO

•Wednesday's winning Texas Lotto numbers: 1, 2, 25, 38, 39, 49