



# THE BATTALION

Vol. 93 No. 49 (12 pages)

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

Thursday, November 4, 1993

## Meeting aims to prevent problems at A&M-UT football game

By Cheryl Heller

THE BATTALION

Administrators and students from Texas A&M University and the University of Texas discussed past problems and made plans for this year's Texas A&M-UT football game at a meeting Wednesday.

Dr. Malon Southerland, interim vice president for student services, said the meeting allowed representatives to talk about things that have gone wrong in the past in order to avoid problems this year.

"It's high on our agenda to be sure that there is a spirit of cooperativeness between us," he said.

Arrival times and positioning of the Longhorn Band and Bevo were outlined during the meeting.

The Spirit Line will be allowed at the game for both pre-game and halftime as long as it stays off the field, A&M officials said. However, UT cannot bring its cannon to the game because of a shortage of room.

The space on the southwest side of the scoreboard, which was suggested as a location for the cannon, will instead be occupied by a large diamond vision screen that will be used for a pre-game show.

Southerland said Texas A&M is not trying to spite UT by not allowing the cannon.

"There has always been an attempt to let both teams do what they normally do, but problems arise in the different stadiums," he said. "The goal should be that the best reasonable accommodation is allowed for each team, even though things may have to be given up on one or both sides."

Chris Plonsky, associate athletic director for external services at UT, agreed that it is important to set standards for both teams.

"I think both school's traditions are important to the essence of the game," she said. "I understand that sometimes exceptions have to be made, but I don't think we should chip away at the things that make the game special."

Dr. James W. Vick, vice president for student services at UT, said one of the most important ways to avoid conflict between the two schools during the game is to demonstrate friendship and cooperation between the A&M yell leaders and the UT cheerleaders and the two bands.

"I think seeing the two opposite sides working together and cooperating, instead of visibly fighting, will make a big impression on most people," he said.

The halftime fireworks show, a new addition to A&M for this year's game, was also discussed at the meeting. The A&M and the UT bands will shorten their halftime performances to allow the four-minute fireworks show.

## Student Senate calls for approval of academic calendar

# Senate says 'yes' to Aggie Bucks for parking

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

The Student Senate passed a bill Wednesday requesting the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transit Services allow students to charge their parking garage fees to their Aggie Bucks accounts.

Sen. Jennifer Simmons introduced the bill, saying being able to use Aggie Bucks at the three garages would increase students' convenience when paying their garage fees.

"I know from living off campus and using the garage frequently, it's a hassle to carry a wad of cash to pay for parking," Simmons said. "We already have Aggie Bucks. Why not use them?"

During the presentation of the bill,

Tom Williams, PTTS director, discussed the feasibility of implementing Aggie Bucks as a means of payment. Williams said using Aggie Bucks at the garage is not a new idea.

"When Aggie Bucks began, it was designed to be set up in food services," Williams said. "We looked at it as an option when we first opened the garages. However, at that time, the main computer that processes Aggie Bucks didn't have the capacity to do it."

Williams also expressed concern about the cost of implementing the system.

"Each Aggie Buck machine costs \$1,200," Williams said. "Then, you have a \$12 service charge a month to access the telephone line used in processing Aggie Bucks and another service surcharge."

Williams said PTTS is working with the Fiscal Office to study the feasibility of

using Aggie Bucks at the automatic pay station located in each garage. He said students must consider the time of the transaction using Aggie Bucks would take.

"We've timed it and sometimes there is a two to 30 second delay during the transaction," Williams said. "If there's going to be that big of a hold up, we'd rather have it at the automatic pay station than the teller window."

However, Sen. Chad King said the delay using Aggie Bucks isn't comparable to using cash as means of payment.

"You can't tell me it takes more time to process Aggie Bucks than it does to pull out your wallet, dig out your cash and then have change given back to you," King said.

Sen. Dave Lilley said he supported his decision to pass the bill, but said Williams's

concerns made sense.

"I think this bill was drafted with the intention of helping students, but everything Williams said tonight made sense," Lilley said. "PTTS has obviously researched this issue, and I think we should heed their advice and work with them to ensure what's best for the students."

In other business, the Senate passed a resolution calling for the immediate approval by the Faculty Senate of the 1995-1996 proposed academic calendar.

Sen. Ben Dale, academic affairs chairman and faculty senate liaison, introduced the resolution and said the Faculty Senate should be reminded the proposed calendar is what students want.

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## 'I swear, I was at the library'



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

Patrons at Denim & Diamonds respond to the introduction of the Hollywood Knock-Outs Wednesday night. The Knock-Outs are female oil wrestlers from California. The women performed in front of a rowdy crowd of 400+ people.

## Multiculturalism among topics discussed at forum

# Representative urges support for higher education

By Lisa Elliott

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University students were urged to solicit support for higher education as a means to solve society's problems during the MSC Political Forum on higher education Wednesday night.

State Rep. Robert Earley, D-Portland, said more people need to get involved in higher education after they graduate, in addition to when they are actually utilizing it.

"There will be a significant impact if more money is put into higher education," he said.

A lot of people move on after graduation and never put any of their money back into the education of the next generation, he said.

Karla Staha, a sophomore agricultural economics major and chair of the Legislative Study Group, said her group, which is

an executive committee of the student government that represents the student body before the Texas Legislature, has been studying the issue of funding closely in the past few months.

She said the study group suggests an amendment to the tax code in the form of some sort of state income tax is a possible solution to inadequate funding.

The job of the Legislative Study Group is to research topics concerning the student body and make recommendations to the student senate. The student senate then votes on the issue before taking it to the legislature.

Another issue debated during the forum was the legislative position on the proposal for the addition of multiculturalism courses to the core curriculum.

Earley said the issue of multiculturalism does not have a place in the state legislature, but is some-

thing that should be decided by the school and the student body.

He said the school should try to define multiculturalism before it decides to implement it, and that Texas A&M has made a bigger issue out of it than they should have.

"It's been more of an issue on this campus than any other I've seen," he said. "But if they're going to do it, they need to define it."

Staha said the legislative study group will support any decision the Faculty Senate makes.

"It's hard to take a stand on this issue," she said. "But there can be long-term benefits of instituting such a program."

Bill Presnal, the director of the Office of Public Policy for the Texas A&M University System, said the Board of Regents has expressed no interest in the issue and hopes they won't be forced to make a decision on

multiculturalism.

Students at the forum expressed concern about getting a student representative on the Board of Regents, which Staha said has been the main issue the group has been working on lately.

"We've been looking into the feasibility of having it happen," she said. "But the position of a regent is a demanding job and on a student it would be very demanding."

Staha said the main stumbling block is deciding the selection process, the term and the job outlines.

Staha said the group will continue to work on it in the future.

Earley said students should start getting involved right now in the future of higher education and politics in general.

"Politics and politicians will always be there whether you like them or hate them," he said. "So get to know them."

## Texas Rangers continuing Margraves investigation

By Jennifer Smith

THE BATTALION

An investigation into an anonymous letter sent to Ross Margraves, chairman of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, is still being conducted by the Texas Rangers as well as the System.

The two investigations began when Margraves forwarded a letter he received five weeks ago to Gov. Ann Richards, and she turned it over to the Department of Public Safety.

A representative with the Texas Rangers in Austin said Wednesday the investigation is "still ongoing" but would not comment on its progress.

James Bond, interim general counsel for the A&M System, told the Associated Press a week ago that an internal investigation is also being conducted as a result of this anonymous letter.

"The letter elevated the need to make some checks," he said. "But no pattern has turned up, other than an awarding of contracts in a very objective process."

Bond did not return phone calls from The Battalion Wednesday.

Scott Kelly, assistant general counsel for the A&M System, refused to comment on the University's internal investigation.

Margraves, who also did not return phone calls from The Battalion, meets periodically with representatives from the DPS to be informed of the investigation's progress.

The AP has reported the letter contains allegations that Margraves has benefited from several of the System's business deals.

Margraves admitted last week that Barnes and Noble, the owners of the A&M bookstore, paid for him and Vice President for Finance and Administration Robert Smith to travel to New York in July 1990 to finalize the deal for the operation of the bookstore.

Margraves said he made four trips that included stays in expensive hotels, meals, limousine service and tickets to Broadway shows.

John Steiner, of the Texas Ethics Commission, said "pleasure trips" were legal in 1990. "But since Jan. 1, 1992, pleasure trips that are paid for by lobbyists have been prohibited," he said.

The Texas Government Code says this includes travel with the intent of influencing administrative action.

## Some GRE problems prove to be no test at all

### Researchers find shortcuts to analytical section

By Geneen Pipher

THE BATTALION

Some Texas A&M University students have learned a shortcut to answering questions in the analytical section of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Jose Ferreira, director of GRE programs for Kaplan Educational Centers Inc., said officials in the Research and Development Department have discovered a quick way for students to answer "pattern identification" questions without any mathematical skills.

"On these questions, we tell people not to worry about math at all because it takes too long," Ferreira said. "I can explain the directions to you in about five minutes, and it will

take you about seven seconds to answer the question correctly. But on the exam, it is taking students who don't know this stuff 30 minutes to complete a section or a minute per question."

The October exam was the first time the pattern identification questions were used and Ferreira said students who took the exam, using Kaplan's strategy, reported that they finished the section in 15 minutes or less.

"The difference between seven seconds and 50-60 is phenomenal when you think about it," he said. "Most students who had this strategy for the October test did it in about 15 minutes with 15 minutes left over, which is crazy when you consider that most people don't even finish this section."

Patty Spiller, manager of College Station Kaplan Center, said the Kaplan formula demon-

strates a flaw in the question type that would almost certainly force the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to remove it from future exams.

"I am sure that ETS will now change the tests, they'd have to," Spiller said. "If there is anything on the test that can be figured out without having to actually do any calculations, it's not fair. It really wouldn't validate the tests."

Ferreira said Kaplan has told ETS that the questions are flawed and urged them to consider removing them from future exams.

"We sent ETS our strategy for solving these problems and told them we thought they had a bad question on their hands," he said. "We honestly felt a sort of social responsibility, and since we have done that, my feeling is that they are going to have to take it off the test."

Spiller said the questions may not be taken off exams scheduled for December, February and April because the tests are already written.

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### WEATHER

• Thursday: Mostly cloudy with scattered showers

• Forecast for Friday: Some clouds, turning cooler

### TEXAS LOTTO

• Wednesday's winning Texas Lotto numbers: 2, 3, 5, 8, 33, 39