

THE BATTALION

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Amtrak collision with tractor-trailer injures 70

The Associated Press

INTERCESSION CITY, Fla. — An Amtrak passenger train smashed into a stalled tractor-trailer Tuesday as frantic state troopers tried to flag it down. About 70 people were injured. The oversized truck carrying a 150-

ton generator got stuck at a train crossing several minutes before the collision, said Chris Gent, a spokesman for the Kissimmee Utility Authority, which owns the generator.

A train dispatcher was notified about the stalled truck and told utility officials that that the train was not due at the

crossing until 1 p.m., said Gent, who witnessed the accident.

CSX Transportation says it didn't receive any phone call prior to the accident.

The train struck at 12:45 p.m., Amtrak spokeswoman Sue Martin said.

"The signal crossing arm came down

on top of the cab. I didn't know what was happening. Then I saw the train," Gent said. "Then it hit... I heard the scraping and the screeching of the steel all along the track."

Four of the eight cars on the Tampa-to-New York Silver Meteor derailed. The first sleeping car overturned when

it jumped the tracks. Rescue workers had to pry off some windows to rescue trapped passengers.

CSX Donna Rohrer said no record was found of a phone call before the accident advising them of a problem at the crossing.

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'Tis the season . . .



Susan McDaniel, the music instructor at Jones Elementary School in Bryan, leads the fifth grade choir in the MSC Flagroom Tuesday

afternoon. The MSC Flagroom will be the site of many holiday events throughout the week.

Tommy Huynh/THE BATTALION

TAMU-Koriyama faces possible closing

Political friction creates financial problems for Japanese campus

By Cheryl Heller

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University may be forced to shut down its Koriyama campus because of financial and political problems in Koriyama, an A&M official said Tuesday.

John Norris, director of the TAMU-Koriyama support office and interim director of the Koriyama campus in 1991, said he feels the Japanese campus is facing a financial crisis resulting largely from political friction in Koriyama.

The city of Koriyama owes \$500,000 of a \$1 million payment that was due Aug. 31.

"I believe the financial trouble in Koriyama is being caused by politics, not because there is a lack of funds in Koriyama," Norris said.

Lisa Larson, who worked in the library of the Koriyama campus from September 1991 to September 1992, said the mayor of Koriyama at the time the school was established didn't have high standing in the polls but supported the university.

Koriyama's current governor belongs to a different political faction, she said, and doesn't have the same support for the school.

Although Texas A&M University wants the Koriyama campus to remain open, it cannot use its own resources to help the Koriyama campus with its financial problems, Norris said. The school is funded entirely by the city of Koriyama and private Japanese sources.

"By law, we cannot put any money into the Koriyama campus," he said. "Texas A&M is a state institute, and any money allocated to Texas A&M from the state has to remain in Texas to be used to run the campus here."

If the campus is closed, Norris said, those students who are academically eligible will be allowed to relocate to College Station to attend Texas A&M University.

"Some would go into the ELI (English Learning Institute), which is designed to teach English to foreign students, and some may be able to attend regular classes, based on their level of English," he said.

Faculty members at the Koriyama campus, who consist almost entirely of former Texas A&M professors, would be able to return to the College Station campus, Norris said.

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False alarm causes library evacuation of 2,000 people

By Jennifer Smith

THE BATTALION

Two thousand people were evacuated from Sterling C. Evans Library at 11 a.m. Tuesday after a fire alarm was pulled by a student who could not find a way out of the building.

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police Department, said an international student on the third floor of the library could not get out of the south middle stairwell of the building.

"She couldn't get the door open, and she pulled the alarm in a panic," Wiatt said.

Wiatt said no charges were made against the individual because the student did not intentionally pull the fire alarm.

Wiatt said University Police, the College Station Fire Department and the Physical Plant responded to the fire alarm.

The evacuation lasted for about 15 minutes, and students and library staff were then allowed back into the building.

John B. Harer, head of access services at the library, said it is standard procedure for authorities to be called and for the library to be evacuated when a fire alarm is pulled or a smoke detector goes off.

Harer said the circulation desk of the library has an emergency panel that alerts library personnel when a fire alarm is pulled or a smoke detector is activated. Officials from the University Police are then called to investigate the building.

"But most are usually false alarms whenever this happens," Harer said.

Harer said the building is usually evacuated once or twice a month because a fire alarm has been pulled.

Regents approve street renovations

Pedestrian malls to replace several areas of campus congestion

By Shelley Steagall

SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

Two of the most congested areas on campus, Lubbock and Ross streets, are being considered for pedestrian malls by Texas A&M University officials.

Associate Director for Engineering and Design Services David Godbey said the Board of Regents has already approved the building of the Lubbock Street Mall, which is set for completion by August 1994. But, he said, construction may be delayed until the Evans Library extension has been completed.

Thomas Williams, director of Parking, Transit, and Traffic Services, said the creation of the Lubbock Street Mall will require closing the street to automobile traffic. The pedestrian mall will have a park atmosphere with sidewalks, benches, and more open areas, he said.

"The final design of the Lubbock Street Mall has not been completed, but it is expected that the students will have some input," Williams said.

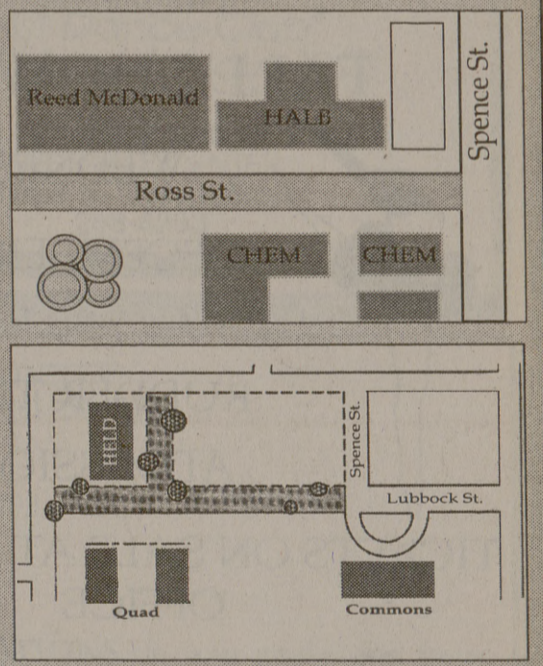
Godbey said in order to allow students to have some contribution to the mall layout a focus group comprised of students will be selected to review plans for the mall and provide feedback to University officials.

Williams said the Lubbock Street Mall will expand the central campus area and make it more accessible to students. By eliminating part of the congestion, students will benefit from a safer and more timely route to and from classes, he said.

The heavy uses of both Ross and Lubbock streets has caused concern by University officials regarding the area's safety, Williams said. This problem is not new, he said, it has just grown in size.

A pedestrian mall around Ross Street has not yet been proposed, he said, but the idea is being considered and the traffic flow in that vicinity is being studied. The intersections along Ross Street are being filmed as part of the study, he said.

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Angel Kan/THE BATTALION

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• Lady Aggies beat Texas Southern: 87-49

• Winder: Rocket-watching is frustrating

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OPINION

• Megliola: Good news is no news in today's media

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Southerland interviews for Koldus' position

By Michele Brinkmann

THE BATTALION

"Texas A&M University is my life," Dr. Malon Southerland, interim vice president for student services, said Tuesday as he completed his interview for the vice president for student services position.

Southerland, Class of '65, is the final candidate being interviewed to replace Dr. John Koldus, who retired in August.

He has received all three of his degrees from A&M and has worked here for 25 years. He worked with Koldus for 20 years and has held 14 different positions on campus.

"I am capable and have had magnificent experience here," he

said. "People always ask me why I have stayed at A&M, but I tell them that A&M has been a lot of universities."

Texas A&M is not the same every year and it has changed in many ways through the years, he said.

Southerland said he loves the interaction he has with the people at Texas A&M.

"This job is a lifestyle, and I feel very comfortable with it," he said.

"I know who and what to ask," he said. "As Texas goes through these budget woes, we want to maintain quality programs, so we need to explain to students why they pay the money they do, and to know how to identify extra resources."



Southerland

"We need to work on strengthening cooperation and collaboration of the faculty, staff, and academic programs, and maybe give it a new look."

Southerland said he would like to place "information centers" in buildings around campus so students will know where to turn if they have questions.

"We at least need to have the information more accessible" he said. "Although students are pretty well

informed, for our size, we need students to want to ask questions, basically we need communication."

Southerland said his most important job is being ready and being a resource to everyone.

"Whether it be the president, The Battalion, the students or whomever, we need to be accessible," he said.

A&M takes a lot of pride in the "other education" (student development programs), he said.

"I think students should have a quality education available and a solid foundation to allow you to change your mind," he said. "If you have a new direction you want to go, you can do it more easily

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Tomorrow in Aggiefife —

Feature:

Benefit concert by soprano Emily Pulley

Reviews: OPAS brings 'The Nutcracker'

& 'The Beavis and Butt-head Experience'

