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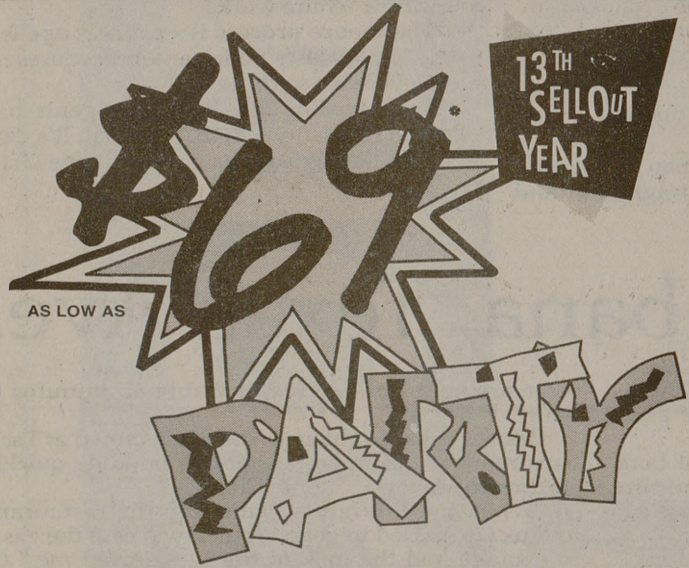
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## Counseling service gets new home

### Bigger location, rising demand spur move

By James Bernsen

THE BATTALION

Student Counseling Services at Texas A&M University has a new larger location this semester in Henderson Hall, which should increase services.

The new offices will provide space for all the previous programs offered by Student Counseling Services as well as new programs.

In the past, Student Counseling Services was spread out in offices in the YMCA and A.P. Beutel Health Center.

Bill Kibler, interim assistant vice-president for Student Services, said the move is indicative of the center's expanding role.

"One of the demonstrations that the University considers important is that they're moving to their own building," he said. "We wouldn't be making that

kind of an investment if we didn't feel it was important."

Dr. Wade Birch, director of the center, said the office provides a wide variety of services for students and will be expanding even more.

"Our facilities were just too cramped," he said. "Now we can run more counseling groups."

Birch said the center will have a 24-hour crisis hot line, and will recruit graduate students in psychology to do night-time counseling.

One office will be retained in A.P. Beutel Health Center to provide emergency counseling in cases where the student also needs medical attention.

The center will employ 16 doctorate-level psychologists, three master's degree professional counselors and four interns.

The center helps students who have problems studying, taking notes or reading textbooks, and it also has career planning services which help students choose a major. Two staff members are on duty at night for emergency counseling and crisis intervention.

The center also provides assis-



Chad Cooper/ THE BATTALION

Stephanie Durocher, left, Rhonda Kraft, center, and Stacy Zips look through grade distribution books at the Student Counseling Services.

tance for problems of a more serious nature such as suicide attempts and deaths.

Birch said there are about one or two suicides deaths by A&M students every year.

But Birch said they realize when a student cannot be helped

by the center, in which case he or she will be referred to other agencies for assistance.

Student Counseling Services was established in 1974 through the efforts of Dr. John J. Koldus, former vice-president for Student Services.

## Conference complex considered for campus

By Michele Brinkmann

THE BATTALION

A hotel and conference center may be built on the Texas A&M campus if University officials receive approval from A&M's Board of Regents.

However, Rene Henry, director of University Relations, said plans are not definite for the project, and it is only being considered.

"We are still in the study phase process," he said. "Right now I am gathering information from other universities that have conference centers to see how they are working."

Rick Floyd, associate vice president for finance and administration and interim director of Food Services, informed the regents of the idea at its Dec. 10 meeting.

Floyd said Robert Smith, vice president for finance and administration, plans to hold a town hall meeting to discuss the conference

### Officials cite need for public discussion before drafting plans

center with the public.

But before a date for this meeting can be set, Smith's office needs to address a series of suggestions that State Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, sent to Smith Nov. 3, Floyd said.

Ogden's office sent the letter to The Battalion in which he said he could not commit to support legislation to authorize the project until A&M officials consider the following:

- Engage in public dialogue so that all view points can be considered.

- Provide evidence that the private sector on private property is unlikely to meet the needs of the University with respect to hotel and conference facilities.

- Explain in more detail why a "public/private" partnership ad-

vances the interest of the students and how it supports the mission of the University.

- Justify any tax advantages the hotel and conference center would have over its competitors.

- Justify any financial obligations, either actual or contingent, that would be incurred by Texas A&M and to justify any subsidies or guarantees that would be required in order to develop and maintain these facilities.

"This is still in the discussion stages, the very, very early stages," Floyd said. "We still have a lot of work to do yet. There is not even a draft of the plans."

Floyd said earlier reports that the center has been secretly planned for more than a year and that it is scheduled to open in early 1994 are "garbage."

The idea of a campus hotel and conference center has been around since Floyd came to the University almost 20 years ago, he said.

Bryan City Manager Mike Conduff said he doesn't know enough about the plans to draw any formal conclusions about the center, but he hopes the center will not conflict with the city of Bryan's plan to build a smaller-scale center on Bryan's public golf course.

"This is one of the issues that we would like to discuss in the public meetings," he said.

Conduff said he has yet to see plans for the conference center at A&M.

College Station City Manager Ron Ragland said he has had no further conversations with Smith on the topic since it was first discussed.

Before the administration can draw up plans and continue with the center, it has to get the approval of the Board of Regents.

## A&M president short list due by March

By Michele Brinkmann

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Presidential Search Committee has received a large number of inquiries and applications as it makes progress towards its goal of presenting a candidate to the Board of Regents by the end of March.

Don Hellriegel, presidential search committee chair, said in the past two A&M presidencies, the Board has not tried to attract a national pool of applicants.

"We are progressing quite nicely and are very positive and optimistic in terms of this being a national search," he said.

Texas A&M University System Chancellor William H. Mobley has asked the committee to submit a list of three to five candidates to him

by the middle of March.

Hellriegel said the large and diverse applicant pool the committee is seeking is one reason

**"We are progressing quite nicely and are very positive and optimistic in terms of this being a national search."**

- Don Hellriegel, presidential search committee chair

son the individual candidates will not be interviewed on campus this year.

"We will interview those potential finalists at a neutral site," he said.

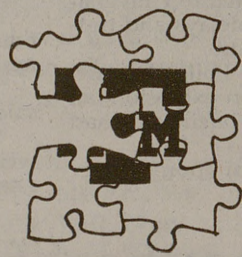
Hellriegel said unlike other searches, the presidential search is exempt from the Open Records Act. Presidential applicants' names are not public knowledge because of the delicate and critical positions the applicants may hold.

"If it was found out that these people were seeking another position, it could be adverse to them," Hellriegel said. "It could jeopardize their positions that they currently hold."

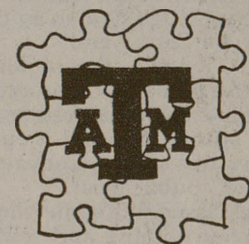
When the search committee is ready to submit the names of the candidates to the regents, the candidates names will be available to the public.

The 20-member committee, formed in September by Mobley, had its fifth meeting Jan. 14. The committee will continue to narrow the list of applicants and will soon begin interviewing candidates.

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