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# THE BATTALION

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# STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS Local community surprised by Clinton's moderate views

### **By Angela Neaves**

THE BATTALION

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President Bill Clinton's conservative me in his first State of the Union adss Tuesday night surprised many xas A&M student leaders and faculty mbers

Clinton urged Congress to reform the alth care and welfare systems. Clinalso voiced strong support for cter legislation against crime

Bryan Jones, a professor of political ience at A&M, said Clinton gave a igh-minded, conservative speech that ealed to the moderate wing of the mocratic Party.

'Clinton's stress on family values s reminiscent of the Reagan years," hes said. "This middle of the road nce is bad for Republicans.

Jones did not agree with Clinton's tement that the welfare system "des our values as a nation.

"The welfare system involves two trains of values," Jones said. "On one and, we want to offer people the opportunity for maximum individual iniive. On the other hand, we want to p people out when they're in trou-

Sometimes in helping people we take ay that initiative, Jones said.

Clinton took a conservative stance the welfare issue because that's re he sees most Americans," Jones

Ron Going, a member of the College with the emocrats and a sophomore philosomajor, said the welfare system is a itive system that has been abused. The welfare system was designed to p people who slipped through the cks," Going said. "Instead of being wed as a handout, it should be wed as a way to give people a sec-d chance. It should be there to assist se in need."

02-08-94 Going also praised Clinton's empha----- s on family values.

9:30 P. Phil Meuret, president of the College : 1.61 epublicans and a senior geography

major, said Clinton's focus on family values was hypocritical.

"Republicans have long stood for family values," Meuret said. "After making fun of Dan Quail, the Democrats are focusing on family values because it sounds good. Clinton is pulling a fast one on Americans."

Jones said Clinton's goal for reformation of the health care system is a good one. Insurance companies have long been competing for profits, which led them to cut costs by not insuring people with health problems, Jones said

"By leveling the playing field and saying all companies must cover everyone with no regard for preexisting conditions and serious illnesses, everyone is competing on the same level," Jones

Jones and Going agreed that Clin-ton's "Three Strikes and You're Out"

program, which would make third time felony offenders ineligible for parole, would be approved by Congress

"People are fed up with crime and have expressed it to Congress," Going said.

Jones said although the mandatory sentencing policy will probably pass, it needs to be carefully thought out.

"This is a simple idea about a com-plex problem," Jones said. "The policy doesn't leave much discretion to the judge and jury, and that is what this country is based on. It works against our system."

Meuret said the mandatory sentenc-

ing policy reflects Republican values. "The problem all goes back to family values," Meuret said. "The only way to fight crime is to keep criminals in jail and teach children good family values that will lead them away from crime."

### President pushes Congress to pass health-care reform plan, crime bill

### **The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON - Proclaiming progress on his promises to break grid-lock and revive the economy, President

Clinton challenged Congress Tuesday night to move togeth-er on health care and welfare reform this year. "Our work has just begun," he de-clared in his first State of the Union address

on Congress to pass the health-care re-form plan that is the centerpiece of his domestic agenda, Clinton – who has yet

to veto a bill - threatened to veto any measure that does not meet his standard of universal coverage.

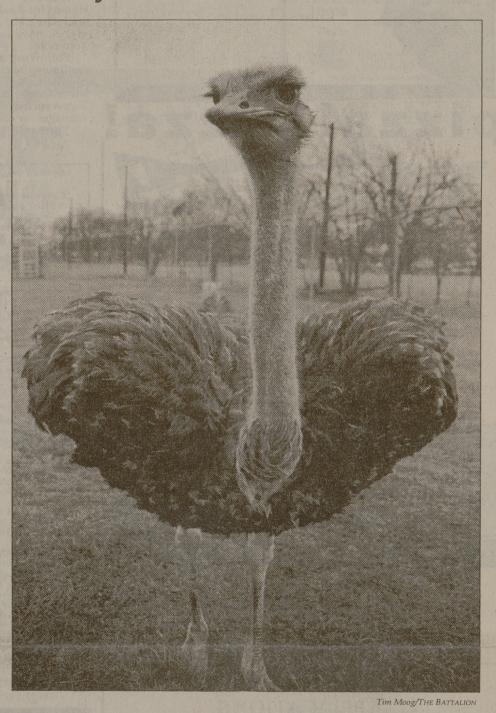
'It is inevitable and imperative'' that the health-care system be overhauled, Clinton said, calling it an issue on which 'the people are way ahead of the politicians

Clinton voiced strong support for leg-islation that would put 100,000 more police officers on the beat, send three-time felons to prison for life and ban assault

weapons. "Violent crime and the fear it provokes are crippling our society, limiting personal freedom and fraying the ties that bind us," Clinton said, sounding a theme popular both among both Republicans and Democrats.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the president's chief adviser on health care, was seated in the gallery between AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and Jack Smith, the chief executive officer of General Motors.

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Stick your neck out

TAMU Wildlife and Exotic Animal Center's 7-foot tall ostrich recently celebrated its first birthday. The bird is part of the center's developmental studies.



# AG supports Arby's ban on smoking

The Associated Press

"It is a terrific thing to see responsible corpo-WASHINGTON - Texas At- rate leaders stepping forward doing what is

franchisee-owned outlets, but Arby's is urging franchises to adopt the smoke-free policy.

Upping pressure

### By Angela Neaves

infuriates gay students

ONCourt's sodomy ruling

Opponents of the Texas sodomy law enjoyed a short-lived victoefore the Texas Supreme Court last week dismissed an earlier il court's ruling that the law was unconstitutional.

Five individuals challenged the constitutionality of the sodomy v in 1989 saying it violated their rights to privacy and equal thts. A lower court agreed in 1990, saying the sodomy law was

constitutional because it violated the right to privacy But the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision last week, said civil urts do not have jurisdiction to rule this law unconstitutional.

James Mazzullo, an adviser for the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual gies and associate professor of geology, said the Supreme burt's decision was disappointing to the homosexual community, it it does not have much effect on Texas A&M students.

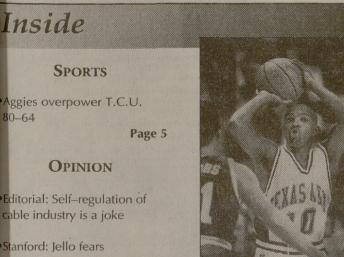
But when the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Aggies were establish-g their organization, the University fought the group's creation ing an endorsement of criminal behavior if the group was permit-d on campus.

"Now, fortunately, most universities aren't using that excuse ymore," Mazzullo said.

Jason Payne, who answers telephones for the Gay Line and is a enior computer engineering major, disliked 'he Supreme Court's eason for dismissing the ruling. "The case was thrown out because the individuals involved were of charged with violating the statute," Payne said. "The statute as never been enforced, so how will anyone ever rule on constitu-

onality? How do we get our day in court?" Although the law does not only apply to homosexuals, Payne id it is used as a reason for prejudice.

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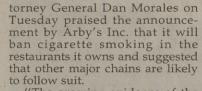


Stanford: Jello fears

**SPORTS** 

**OPINION** 

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"The growing evidence of the dangers posed to non-smokers shows that smoking in public places is much more than an annoyance; indeed, it can be a killer," Morales said at a daylong forum on passive smoke in fastfood restaurants.

"It is a terrific thing to see responsible corporate leaders stepping forward doing what is clearly in the best interest of the pubclearly in the best interest of the public."

– Dan Morales, attorney general

leaders in the effort by 17 state attorneys general to end smoking in fast-food establishments.

The attorneys general formed a task force after the Environmental Protection Agency issued a report last year saying secondhand smoke kills 45,000 non-smokers annually. They targeted fast-food outlets, saying passive smoke hurts young customers and work-

Children account for one-

lic," said Morales, among the fourth of the fast-food market and up to 40 percent of the industry's staff is under the age of 18, according to a report issued last year by the attorneys general.

The Arby's decision is one of the broadest anti-smoking steps taken as the fast-food industry grapples to balance health and economic concerns.

Smoking will be banned this summer in the Florida-based chain's 257 corporate restaurants. The policy doesn't affect the 1,991

Arby's is the first major chain to institute the corporate policy, although thousands of fast-food outlets nationwide already have banned smoking, generally at the franchisee's behest or because of local laws.

Minnesota-based International Dairy Queen Inc. also is urging its 6,000-plus Dairy Queen, Orange Julius and Karmel Korn franchises worldwide to go smoke-free.

Tobacco industry officials denounced the smoke-free policies, saying they're worthless from both health and business perspectives.

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## A&M replaces Academic Building windows

Students, faculty opinions differ over appearance

### **By James Bernsen**

THE BATTALION

The wooden windows of Texas A&M's Academic Building are being replaced with aluminum windows this week, and students and faculty have mixed views on the change

Dan MacGilvray, associate professor of architecture, said replacing the wooden windows with aluminum ones takes away from

the building's character. "I think it's a shame they took them out," he said. "It destroys the historic integrity of the build-

ing." But officials in the Physical Plant defended the changes.

David Godbey, associate direc-tor of the Physical Plant for Engi-neering and Design services, said the new windows will fit in with other buildings on campus.

But MacGilvray said replacing

the windows in the other build-ings was a mistake, and the Physical Plant is repeating that same mistake

"I don't know anybody (in the college of Architecture) who has come out in favor of them," he said

Amy Cochran, a senior German major, said she likes the windows.

"I like them because I have a lot of classes in this building, and the old ones looked gross and were starting to rot," she said.

The new windows, around 250 in all, have aluminum frames and feature an in-swinging casement so they can be opened from inside. This will make cleaning the windows easier, which Godbey said is important in a building that is such a focal point on the A&M campus.

Some of the windows that have been replaced still have exposed nails and masonry on the inside, but will be covered by wood trim similar to the old trim, Godbey said

But MacGilvray said the Physical Plant could have replaced the windows with aluminum windows with the same color and pattern.



Old windows of the Academic Building (right) are being replaced by new and modern ones (left).

'The white ones were very distinctive and could be seen from afar," he said. "They look now like they have black eyes.

The windows were selected by Engineering and Design Services using computer visualization techniques, which allow different windows to be inserted into a photograph to view the new designs

Cost and maintenance were ex-

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