

Texas A&M *The Battalion*

Vol. 93 No. 131 (12 pages)

Serving Texas A&M since 1893

Friday, April 15, 1994

OSU's Bowen selected as University president

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

Dr. Ray Bowen, interim president of Oklahoma State University, accepted the position of president of Texas A&M University Thursday afternoon and is expected to begin his duties by mid-summer, University officials said.

The Board of Regents met Thursday in Austin and Chancellor William H. Mobley offered Bowen, Class of '58, the position over the telephone.

Bowen, said he was taken back by the offer.

"I was overwhelmed by the opportunity to come back to my campus and provide leadership," Bowen said. "Anyone in higher education dreams about the chance to come back."

Terri Parker, system communications

specialist, said the decision is contingent upon contract negotiations.

Mobley anticipated the decision to be finalized soon.

"I talked with him a little bit earlier today and I'm confident we're close to having a mutual decision," Mobley said.

However, Bowen said in his heart it's a "done deal."

Bowen would succeed Mobley, who was promoted to chancellor earlier this year. E. Dean Gage has served as A&M interim president since September.

Mobley said although the other candi-



Bowen

dates were well-qualified, there were three general areas that differentiated Bowen from the rest: instruction, experience and maturity.

"He clearly recognizes instruction and the undergraduate education," Mobley said. "He has a commitment to quality undergraduate education which was appreciated."

Mobley said Bowen's experience as provost and chief-executive officer and his experience at the National Science Foundation make him an ideal choice.

Ross Margraves, chairman of the Board of Regents, said Bowen is suited to lead Texas A&M.

"Dr. Bowen's experience in leading a major state university and his background in engineering and science make him ideally suited to lead Texas A&M University

into the new century and a new era of accomplishments built on its past and present," Margraves said.

Bowen earned his bachelor's and doctorate degrees in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M in 1958 and 1961 and his master's degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1959.

Mobley said the fact Bowen was a former student was not a deciding factor.

"It's not a negative, but it's not the deciding factor," Mobley said. "Had he not been an Aggie, he would have still gotten the job."

However, Brian Walker, former student body president and member of the presidential search committee, said Bowen's ties to A&M would be a positive factor.

"He'll do a very good job because of the vision he has and the ability he has to

relate to Texas A&M," Walker said. "He understands the traditions, which I think is essential to the job."

Bowen has served as Oklahoma State's interim president since September of 1993 and joined the administration in 1991 as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Earlier in his career, Bowen served as dean of engineering at the University of Kentucky after spending 16 years on the engineering faculty at Rice University, including five as chair of mechanical engineering there.

He also taught at Louisiana State University and the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology at Dayton, Ohio.

Bill Matthews, Oklahoma State Univer-

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American jets shoot down 2 U.S. choppers

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — American fighter jets mistakenly shot down two U.S. Army helicopters over northern Iraq Thursday, killing all 26 people aboard. "Something went wrong," said the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and President Clinton promised to find out what.

Twenty-one of the dead were military officers from the United States, Britain, France, and Turkey supporting the U.N. humanitarian relief operation for the Kurdish minority in northern Iraq. Five Kurd passengers also were killed.

The helicopters were shot down by two F-15C fighters enforcing the "no-fly zone" over the area. Clinton expressed "terrible sorrow" and pledged a thorough investigation.

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary William Perry said the fighter pilots mistook the UH-60 Blackhawk choppers for Iraqi "Hind" helicopters.

Both jets apparently had the helicopters in sight during the daylight mission and both fired missiles, Perry said. An AWACS reconnaissance plane was overseeing the helicopters' flight.

"The pilots of the F-15s feel

they had positively identified the Hinds," said Lt. Gen. Richard Keller, chief of staff of the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. Audio and camera tapes from the aircraft will be studied in the investigation, he said.

Asked what threat the helicopters might have posed that justified shooting them down, Keller replied, "I honestly don't know."

One F-15 fired a radar-seeking AMRAAM missile, the other a heat-seeking Sidewinder, the general said in a telephone briefing with reporters at the Pentagon.

Gen. John Shalikashvili, the Joint Chiefs chairman, said the final order to shoot normally is given "on the scene" and not from military commanders at the jets' base in Incirlik, Turkey.

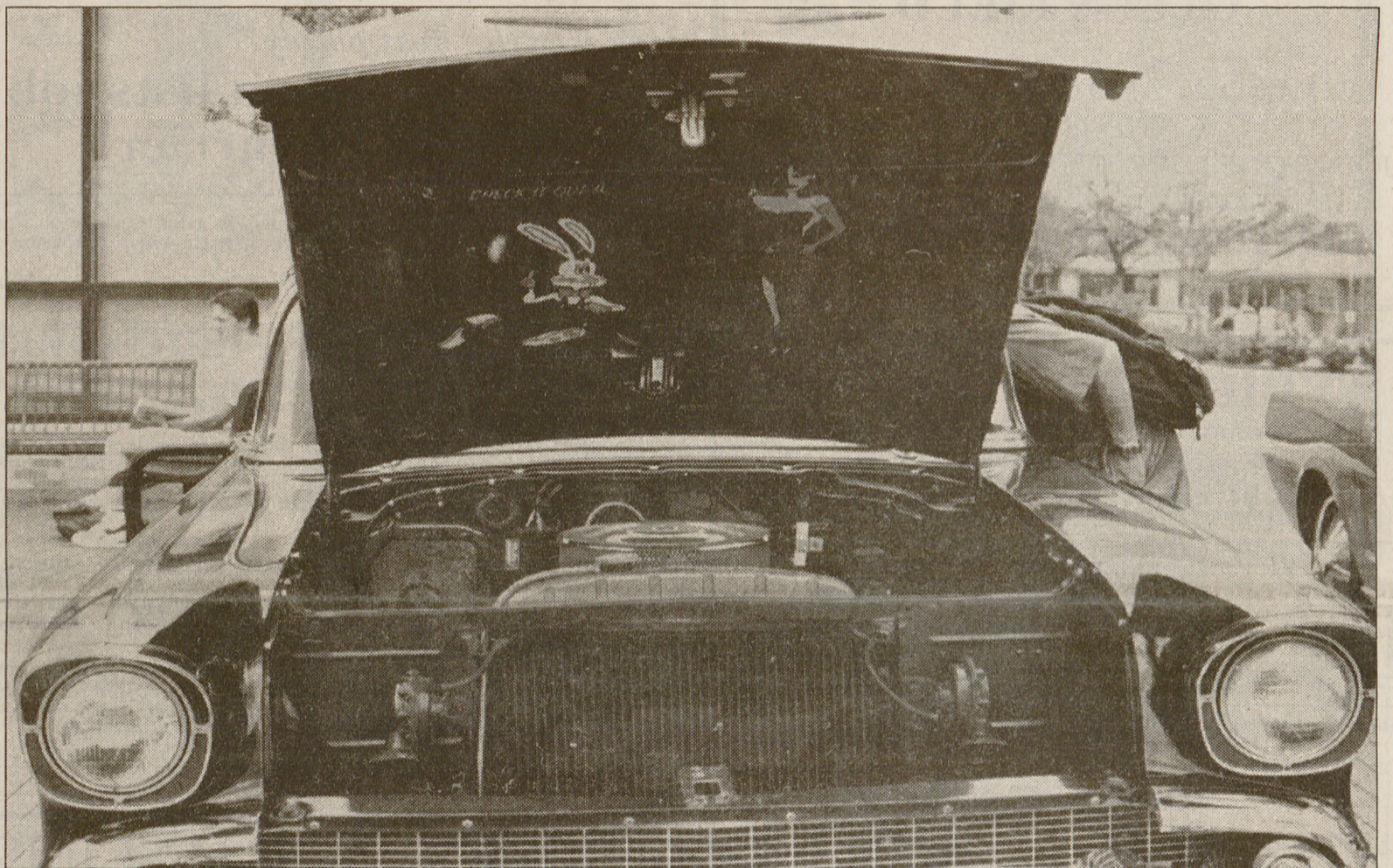
"Clearly, something went wrong, and an investigation will have to determine exactly what did go wrong," said the four-star Army general, who spearheaded the relief effort for the Kurds in 1991.

U.S. warplanes and helicopters normally use electronic identification systems designed to tell friend from foe.

If proper procedures were fol-

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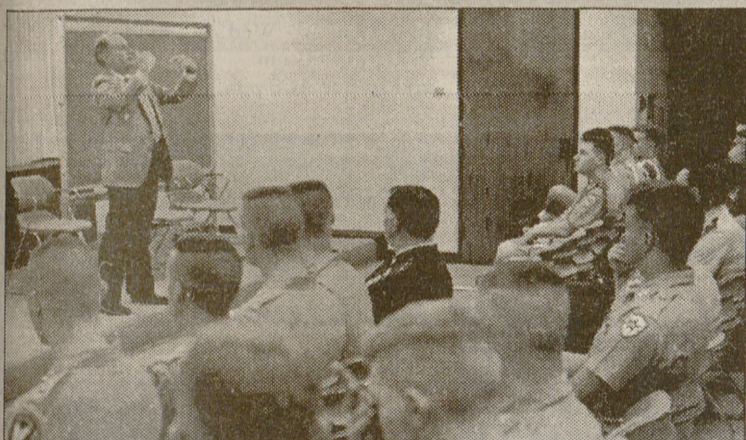
Fun under the hood



Amy Browning/The Battalion

A raised hood displays not only the engine of this 1957 Chevy Bel-Air but also Jessica and Roger Rabbit. The car was on display at the classic car show sponsored by the A&M Classic & Antique Car Club in front of the MSC Thursday afternoon.

Williams: Experience in Corps invaluable



David Birch/The Battalion

Clayton Williams Jr. discusses his leadership experience from the Corps and how it helped him in the real world.

By James Bernsen
The Battalion

Millionaire businessman and former gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams Jr. told a group of cadets to value the experience and leadership the Corps teaches, during his visit to Texas A&M Thursday.

"Without the Corps, we would become just another university," he said. "The training you receive when you can lead men and women into battle is some of the best mankind offers."

"That leadership training became part of my character," he said. "I was always willing to put in that extra work, which you have to do if you own your own business."

Williams said he got where he was in business by adhering to simple principles.

"We offered a better product at a better price, and I built the gas company into the biggest one in the nation," he said. "The basics are still there."

Williams, a member of the Class of '54, is the founder of ClayDesta, a petroleum engineering company in Midland. He later expanded into the communications field in the late 1980s with ClayDesta Communications.

Williams has also invested heavily in cattle and other enterprises,

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Election controversy sparks new regulations

By Jan Higginbotham
The Battalion

With the end of the recent problems surrounding student body elections, members of Texas A&M University's Student Government are now working to prevent controversies in future elections.

Chelsey Ferguson, a member of the election commission, said Student Government will be working with the Student Senate to draw up new election regulations.

"A lot more clarification is going to come into place," Ferguson said. "There are a lot of

things that are going to be looked into. Hopefully, everything will be more clear-cut."

Ferguson said new regulations will be drawn up before any elections are held in the fall.

She said she thinks the Senate should consider expanding the number of students on the election commission. Ferguson said the commission didn't have enough students to handle all the duties.

"Members of the election commission know exactly what should be going on at those polling places," she said. "We may

have to consider keeping an election official at the polling sites at all times. This will all hopefully be in black and white so there are no more questions."

Michael Crain, election commissioner, said making the election commission larger is not as important as making it a stronger group. This would help make the process easier, he said.

"We need people who realize how important their job is," Crain said. "We should

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Stepping up to the plate

Corps, frats gather for baseball game

By Stephanie Dube
The Battalion

Fraternity and Corps of Cadet members will try to settle old rivalries at Olsen Field Saturday during the fifth annual Corps-Fraternity baseball game.

Corps Adjutant Marc Bertamini, general manager for the Corps baseball team and a senior political science major, said the game will

provide entertainment, bring the two organizations closer together and raise money for student scholarships.

"The game helps break down the barriers between the two groups," he said. "It gets the fraternity and Corps members out to enjoy something together. We can have the rivalry in a fun situation."

Doug Mosel, coach for the fra-

ternity team and a senior accounting major, said he hopes the game will change the negative stereotypes about fraternities.

"Fraternities come under a lot of pressure for the stereotype of being an animal house," he said. "We hope this will strengthen the fraternities' image on campus and strengthen the fraternities' relationship with other organizations,

especially the Corps."

Mike Copeland, a senior management major and member of Squadron One, is a coach for the Corps team and also a fraternity member. He said being a member of both groups has not caused him any problems.

"I played the past two years on the Corps side, and next year I

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'Urban survival' defense under scrutiny

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Attorneys for Daimion Osby don't deny their client gunned down a pair of menaces during a confrontation in a tough part of town.

But, they say, the inner-city teen-ager suffered from "urban survival syndrome," an untried and controversial defense that one opponent fears could legalize black-on-black murder in some urban areas.

Others say what's good for white, middle-class

defendants should also be a valid defense in ghetto crimes.

Defense attorney Bill Lane says economics forced his client to live in a high-crime area that lacks adequate police protection. Carrying a gun there, he says, is mere self-preservation.

"It's just like open warfare in areas like Miller (Avenue) and Berry (Street)," Lane said of the southeast Fort Worth parking lot where Osby fired the fatal shots almost a year ago. "And if you're to survive as a young African-American in that neighborhood, you have to take steps necessary to protect yourself."

All three men were black. Prosecutor Steve Marshall says the level of black-on-black crimes is "atrocious," but granting special consideration in the use of deadly force is not the answer.

"It's clearly an area that needs to be addressed," Marshall said, "but the way to address it is not by legalizing black-on-black homicide, which is essentially what the defense is purporting to do in this case."

While the "urban survival" tag is new, similar approaches have met with some success.

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