

The Texas A&M Battalion

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Governor seeks Regent chairman replacement

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

Although no short list has been submitted for consideration, Gov. Ann Richards has in mind what qualities she wants in the new Texas A&M regent who will replace Ross D. Margraves.

"I have some specific attributes in mind," Richards said. "I'd like for the new regent to have some banking experience. The future of the university often depends on the regents' knowledge of the financial institution."

Richards said she keeps a list of people who are good to serve on boards and committees and hopes to make a decision soon before the regents' May meeting if she finds a qualified candidate.

Margraves resigned Wednesday because he felt it was in the best interest of the University.

"Much to my, and many others' dismay, for the past several months Texas A&M University has been under attack," Margraves said in a statement released Wednesday. "I have fought to the best of

my ability to defend my University and to remove the cloud hanging over it, and will continue to do so.

"Because of the many distractions, I have concluded that I have become too much the focus of attention. In order for this University and System to move forward, and do that which they do with excellence - teach and research - a new approach is needed.

"New blood is needed, someone from outside the Board of Regents, without involvement in the events of past years."

Margraves made headlines in September when an anonymous letter was sent to Gov. Richards accusing him and several other high-ranking University officials of personally benefiting from A&M business deals. Richards forwarded the letter to the Texas Rangers and the FBI who have since begun an investigation.

Margraves and Robert Smith, vice president of finance and administration, were under scrutiny for accepting trips to New York paid for by Barnes and Noble Bookstores while Margraves was negotiating a

contract with the company.

He said there were at least four trips in July 1990 including stays at the Waldorf Astoria and the New York Helmsley Hotel, which are considered two of the city's finest hotels.

However, the Texas Ethics Commission has ruled the trips were not illegal at the time. The law has since changed.

Margraves' integrity has also come under fire since a Brazos County grand jury

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Corps expansion forces Gainer Hall residents to move

By Juli Rhoden
The Battalion

Residents of Gainer Hall have to find a new place to live after the Department of Student Affairs informed them the hall is being reassigned to the Corps of Cadets in the

A letter to residents from Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, told students they could relocate to Kiest Hall or move into another residence hall.

Southerland said the Commandant's office submitted information Monday saying Corps enrollment is growing and they need another dorm.

George Thomas, Corps area coordinator, said there are 750 freshmen entering the Corps next fall.

"We did an evaluation on the growth of the Corps, and the Commandant's office decided to expand living situations," he said. "The University has a long-standing commitment to the Corps of Cadets regarding occupancy of the entire 12-dorm area."

This commitment has been altered in the past only when the expected occupancy by the Corps was down and the demand for housing from other students was present.

Ron Sasse, director of student affairs, said they considered the needs of Gainer residents in the decision.

"We are going to make every effort to either relocate the residents or release them from their contracts," he said.

Gainer residents held a meeting Wednesday night to discuss problems and answer questions about the decision.

Christa Noland, a resident adviser for Gainer Hall, said a majority of the residents were outraged.

"This hall is like a family," she said. "Everyone has already signed contracts to live here in the fall, so the move is unexpected."

Since contracts and room assignments are set for next year, his decision was more difficult, Southerland said.

"Please understand that this decision was not taken lightly and we hope to properly accommodate your (the residents') needs," he said.

Gainer residents will be reassigned to the top three floors in Kiest, and the Corps staff and guard room will be assigned the first floor.

"The University has a long-standing commitment to the Corps of Cadets regarding occupancy of the entire 12-dorm area."

— George Thomas, Corps area coordinator

Noland said residents are not angry with the Corps or with the administration but at the way the situation is being handled.

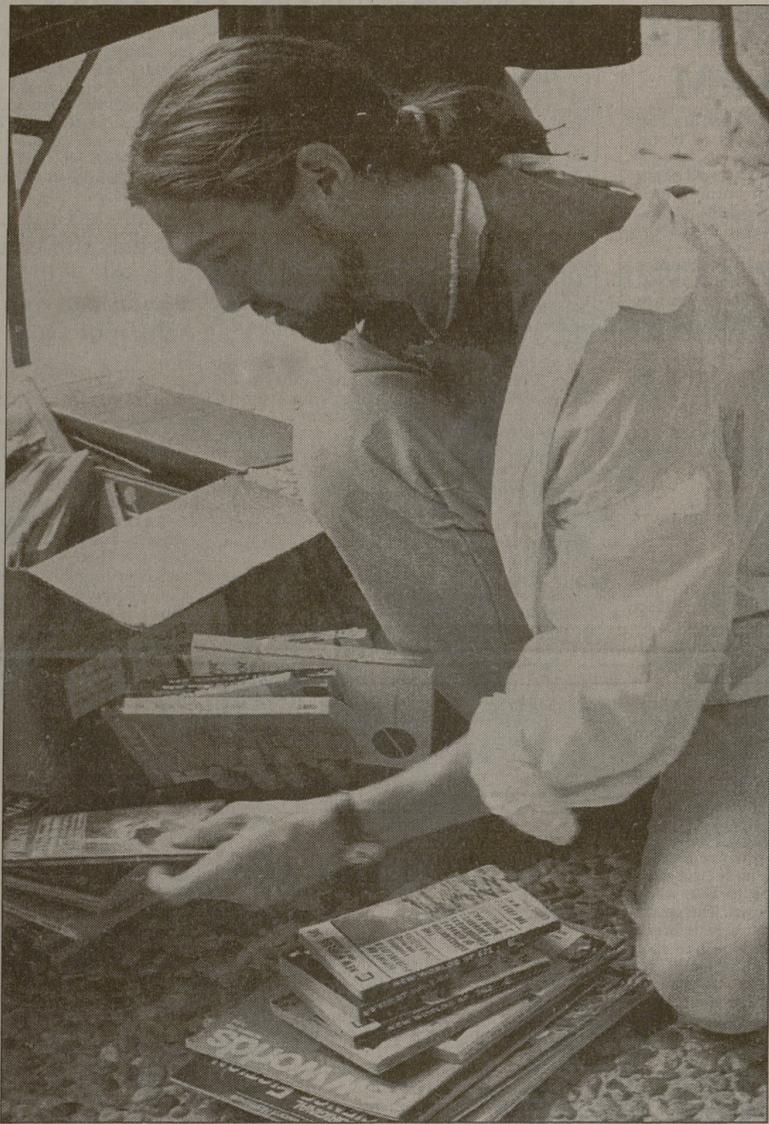
"Everyone wishes they would've been told sooner so they could make other arrangements," she said. "Since all of the paperwork is in place, people assumed they had room in Gainer."

Sasse said they are listening to student concerns and trying to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"The growth of the Corps is positive for everyone at A&M," he said. "And since Gainer is part of the original 12 Corps dorms, we're glad to be reassigned it."

Southerland said there will be a review July 20 to make sure everything is ready for the Corps and the students who are relocating.

A little leisurely reading



Amy Browning/The Battalion

Robert Hobbs, a junior English major, browses through a box of books Thursday afternoon during a used book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

University correctly handles asbestos, health officials say

By Angela Neaves
The Battalion

Texas A&M health and safety officials say the University's procedure for handling asbestos on a pipe in Hotard Hall was not against the law.

Dan Mizer, student development specialist, put duct tape on part of a pipe containing exposed asbestos in the hall's basement laundry room.

Thomas Garney, a training specialist with the Texas Engineering Experiment Station who conducts asbestos handling classes, said this procedure is not against the law.

"Using duct tape is effective if done properly," Garney said.

"It is important that the handling of the asbestos minimize the release of fibers. Duct taping is definitely better than doing nothing until hard casing can occur."

Garney said although licensing is required to handle asbestos, in emergency situations, the licensing can be waived by the state.

"The state wants you to protect the health and safety of the environment," Garney said.

Asbestos does not have to be labeled in community buildings and colleges, Garney said.

However, in public and private schools with students in grades kindergarten through 12, asbestos must be labeled.

The University is also not required to label it, he said.

"There is no specific mandate to inform anyone about asbestos," he said.

"It is a good idea to inform residents, and service personnel are typically informed."

Garney said there is no law requiring that asbestos be removed.

"Asbestos is only required to be removed in demolition and restoration projects," Garney said.

"Even then, it depends upon how much the project will disturb the asbestos."

Garney said asbestos is not as unsafe as people may think.

"As long as asbestos is managed and handled properly, it can be a very usable material," he said.

A regional asbestos inspector visited A&M last week to observe the asbestos in Hotard and in underground tunnels.

According to a work request submitted by Mizer, asbestos in Hotard restrooms was encapsulated in January 1993.

However, asbestos in the basement laundry room has yet to be encapsulated.

An estimate of the cost of encapsulation has been requested from the physical plant, Mizer said.

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Richards hopes to get 'in touch' with community

By James Bernsen
The Battalion

Residents of Bryan-College Station expressed a variety of concerns to Gov. Ann Richards, who brought the heads of most state agencies to the area Thursday night during a Town Hall meeting.

A teacher in the audience expressed concern that the lottery has failed to produce the desired results.

Richards said the lottery was never meant to be a cure-all for the educational system's funding problems.

"The naive assumption is that if public schools had the lottery, then they'd be fine," she said.

Richards said a lottery often earns much money in its first year, and then revenues drop off, and therefore it would not be able to meet the funding needs alone.

"Lottery funding goes into the general revenue fund, she said, and about one half of that goes to the schools.

Another citizen asked what the current state of recycling efforts by the state is.

Garry Mauro, the Texas Land Commissioner, said the goal of the state is to reduce its solid waste by 40 percent by next year.

"We are about half way there," he said. "Unless yard waste is reduced as well, we won't make it though."

Mauro also discussed advances in the state's alternative fuel program.

"If you use natural gas, you create 90 percent

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Police continue search for student's stalker

By Jan Higginbotham
The Battalion

Many crime victims are never able to recover from the effects of the crime, but this is not the case for one Texas A&M University student.

Julie Dalton was the victim of a stalker for about a year and a half. After Kevin Smith, as he called himself, attempted to assault her Feb. 15, she left College Station and the school she loves to get away from him and to be with her family in Houston.

Julie's mother, Wanda Dalton, said Julie seems to be doing much better.

"Things like this cause you to really evaluate what is important to you," Wanda said. "It makes you aware of the importance of each day."

Wanda said Julie has been undergoing counseling to deal with the effects of the stalking, and she has gotten a job in Houston to help occupy her time.

Julie was not available for comment.

Kevin, Julie's stalker, has not been in contact with Julie or her family since the night in February when he attempted to assault her outside a local grocery store.

Local police have been unable to locate the man because they have few leads in the case.

Detective Donnie Andreski, of the College Station Police Department, said there are currently no suspects in the case.

"We have had a couple of calls, but none of them worked," Andreski said. "We don't have any open leads at this time."

Andreski said the case will remain open until Kevin is found.

"The longer you wait, the more the chances of finding him decrease," he said. "But you never know what can happen. Things are going to have to go our way. We need more information."

Wanda said they are still hopeful that Kevin will be found, but they realize their chances of doing so are decreasing.

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Amy Browning/The Battalion

Gov. Ann Richards says the Pledge of Allegiance before a Town Hall meeting with Bryan-College Station residents Thursday night. Richards discussed education, health care and the environment among other issues.