

The Battalion

Texas A&M

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House approves assault-style weapons ban

Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — The House voted Thursday to ban 19 types of assault-style weapons, a major victory for President Clinton and law enforcement groups lobbying for the bill. The 216-214 vote had a dramatic ending as one lawmaker — Rep. Andrew Jacobs Jr., D-Ind. — switched in favor of the bill. The vote was a crushing defeat for the National Rifle Association. The vote means that both houses now have passed similar weapons bans. The fi-

nal language must be worked out in a House-Senate conference. Only last week, backers of the ban were 15-20 votes behind. By the start of this week, the number dwindled to under a dozen. And as the vote neared, even as lawmakers confronted each other in floor debate, a parade of ban supporters stepped forward to announce their new positions. The measure would stop future production and sale of the 19 weapons, but would not affect legally owned guns on the list. Clinton gave convert Rep. Stephen Neal, D-N.C., a starring role in a joint Rose Gar-

den appearance. The president called Neal's change in position "an act of conviction and courage," as he called for "a dramatic strike against these deadly weapons." On the House floor Rep. Tim Roemer, D-Ind., said he voted against a 1991 attempt to impose a similar ban, which failed 247-177. "This bill ... is very different," Roemer argued. "It does not take guns away from anybody in this country. It does not retroactively go after the guns owned by legitimate gun owners of this country." Debate was punctuated with sharp ex-

changes, especially one between ban opponent and the sponsor of the ban, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., held up a mug shot of a man he identified as Russell Obremski, who Hunter's staff said was from Oregon. "Let me show you an assault weapon," Hunter said, reciting a list of crimes that included statutory rape, murder and sodomy against a 4-year-old girl. "You're not going to get a phone call from Russell Obremski and his colleagues ... saying we saw that legislation pass and we're ready to turn our guns in." Rep. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., shot

back, "The whole idea of our bill ... is very simple — to prevent people like Mr. Obremski from getting assault weapons. He should be locked up, but if he's not and people like him are not, they will not have assault weapons." "Mark my words, this will turn out to be a centipede of shoes dropping," with gun control bills coming up every six months to a year, Rep. Gerald B. H. Solomon told the House. The New York Republican cited FBI figures that rifles are used in only 3 percent of homicides while knives are used in 15 percent.

Construction causes parking, traffic problems

Melissa Jacobs
The Battalion
 The expansion of Texas A&M's normal utility distribution capacity, which provides heating and cooling to campus buildings, has caused parking and traffic problems for many residents of north-side halls. The construction will continue into July, and various parking and traffic changes will be made throughout the period of construction. On May 1, Parking Area 77, which provides staff parking, was closed and staff members were instructed to park in the Wellborn head portion of Parking Area 30, which is a residence hall parking area. This will continue through June 30 and students are not to park in this area during business hours. In a letter to The Battalion's Mail Call, 104 signatures accompanied a letter from Ed Williams, Class of '96, complaining about the changes. Blaine Holbrook, parking counselor at Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, said students are being slightly inconvenienced, but they aren't had too many students call and complain about the changes. "Staff members are being moved to Parking Area 30," Holbrook said. "Unfortunately a lot of students are having to move because of this."

Night privileges will be available for residents with hall parking permits Monday through Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. and all day Saturday and Sunday. Vehicles parked in the restricted area will be relocated or removed at the owner's expense. The reserved areas will be strictly enforced. "Unfortunately cars are going to be towed," Holbrook said. "We've already had some complaints about cars that have been towed." For the duration of the construction, the University Drive entrance to Parking Area 77 will be closed. Parking Area 2 and 3 entrances on University Drive should be used instead. Left turns from Wellborn into Parking Area 77 will be prohibited, and cars exiting Parking Area 77 will not be able to turn left onto Old Main. Drivers on Wellborn Road wanting to enter Parking Area 77 will have to circle the Bell Tower and return to the entrance. PTTS officials suggest that during peak traffic times, drivers leaving campus use Clark Street and Joe Routt to alleviate traffic congestion. Asbury will be closed from May 16 through June 24 at Hogg Street. New Street will be closed at Ireland, which means traffic for North Side Garage will be unable

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Alas poor Fido! I knew him, Horatio



Tim Moog/The Battalion

Matt Carpenter, a junior biomedical science major from San Antonio, reviews the bones of a dog's head at Research Park as he prepares for his anatomy final exam.

Student candidate for city council reaches end of campaign trail

By Angela Neves
The Battalion
 Texas A&M student Jimmy Stathatos's campaign for the College Station City Council will come to an end at the polls Saturday. Stathatos, a senior political science major, said students and non-students had been receptive to his candidacy. "The campaign is moving along steadily," Stathatos said. "We got a lot of people registered to vote by setting up booths in the MSC and handing out registration cards on the quad." Stathatos said he has registered about 1,500 students to vote, but he cannot be sure of the number because citizens mail in their own registration cards. Stathatos said community members also are showing support. "A letter from a College Station citizen was published in the Eagle supporting me," he said. "It made me really hopeful because it showed that I am making an impression on the community." Ron Going, a sophomore political science major and member of Aggie Democrats, said having a student on the city council is logical and needs to happen. "Students don't get the respect they should as residents and citizens," Going said. "We don't need preferential treatment, but we do need a voice. Some students stay here much longer than four years. They deserve a voice." Going said although Stathatos is a strong candidate, the odds are against him because of student apathy. "Student apathy is a problem not only on the local level but also on the national level," Going said. "The Battalion's mail call shows that students are disgruntled with the community, but they may not get out and vote. It is both sad and ironic." Stathatos is not running as a student, Going said, but as a resident who happens to be a student. "Jimmy is not going to only represent the students," Going said. "What is unique about him is that he will equally represent students and other members of the community. He will keep all citizens in mind." Jim Gardner, a former city council member and a candidate in the election, said having a student on the council is a good idea as long as they are not the majority. "A good mix of citizens is a good idea," Gardner said. "However, students don't usually make College Station their permanent home, so they should not compose the council." Connie Hooks, of the College Station City Council office, said 30,764 citizens are registered to vote in the election.

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Eateries sign on with A&M for underground food court

Texas A&M signed licensing agreements with Chick-Fil-A, Whataburger, Taco Bueno and Alonti's Deli that will enable construction of the food court to begin as early as the end of August. In a statement released by University Relations, Dr. Rick Floyd, associate vice president for finance and administration and interim director of food services, said Texas A&M's Food Services Department will operate the branded food court. The licensing agreements, which were signed last week, allow the Food Services Department to use the names, products, preparation techniques, signage, menus and pricing structure of the four nationally and regionally known fast food chains. Floyd said renovations of the food court, which will be located in the basement of Sbis Dining Center, will begin shortly. "We plan to have the food court up and running by the time the students return for the start of the fall semester," he said.

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SPRING 1994 FINALS SCHEDULE

Friday	
7:30-9:30 a.m.	Classes meeting MW 5:45-7 or later
10 a.m. - noon	Classes meeting MWF 8 a.m.
12:30-2:30 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 9:35-10:50
3-5 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 11:10-12:25
Monday	
8-10 a.m.	Classes meeting MWF 9:10-10
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MWF 12:40-1:30
1-3 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 3:55-5:15
3:30-5:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MW 4:10-5:25
Tuesday	
8-10 a.m.	Classes meeting MWF 10:20:11:10
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MWF 3-3:50
1-3 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 3:55-5:10
3:30-5:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MWF 1:50-2:40
Wednesday	
8-10 a.m.	Classes meeting TR 12:45-2
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MWF 11:30-12:20
1-3 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 2:20-3:35
3:30-5:30 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 5:30-6:45 or later

Protecting the environment

Texas Forest Service operates through A&M to help timber industry

By Mary Kujawa
The Battalion
 From timber harvest to urban forestation to wild land fires, the Texas Forest Service serves as a guardian of the timber industry in Texas. The state agency operates in the Texas A&M University System. "There are only six forestry agencies associated with a university in some way in the United States," said Bruce R. Miles, director of the Texas Forest Service. "This provides us an opportunity to have interaction with the forestry service on campus. It's good for our agency and the University." The agency was created in 1915 because of concerns of the amount of timber being harvested in East Texas. At the turn of the century, tremendous amounts of timber were being harvested as major cities, such as Houston and Dallas, were being built. Construction of railroads also was using large amounts of timber.

"We're in our fourth forest today in East Texas," Miles said. Today, Texas harvests \$300 million standing trees annually. This amount increases to \$5 billion as the timber progresses through the industry. "Our role is to protect the environment as well as the economy of East Texas," Miles said. A major part of protecting the environment includes education for those in the timber industry. Part of that education includes proper cutting methods to protect water quality. If timber is not cut properly, erosion occurs and allows sediments to flow downstream. The Texas Forest Service also encourages private landowners to leave tree seeds when harvesting their timber. If tree seeds are left on the land, replanting is not necessary. Last year, 37,000 acres were harvested by private landowners. "We need to be planting twice that to keep up with the demand," Miles said. "The Texas Forest Service has a responsibility to do that. The United States does the best job of replanting." At the Forest Service's nursery in Alto, Texas, 25,000,000 seedlings for trees are provided to private landowners.

"The industry is moving towards education," Miles said. "Texas has no forest practices act. The educational process will educate landowners in order not to restrict them in their timber practices." The Texas Forest Service received recognition last year from the Environmental Protection Agency for their work in educating landowners in proper methods of timber harvest. Another important and fast-growing aspect of the Texas Forest Service is urban forestation. Urban forestry now exists in all the major cities of Texas. "We have volunteer tree planting groups in all cities," Miles said. An urban forester is usually employed to help volunteer groups generate a tree planting program. Trees in the urban forest have to live in a harsh environment. The Urban Tree Program allows nurseries to take seedlings and plant them in test areas. The Texas Forest Service also provides all the seeds for 400 Christmas tree farms in Texas. These farms generate a million dollars in sales each year. The Forest Service also addresses problems

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