

Bowen

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body president, said she knew the actions of Smith's office were being questioned.

"I know Smith's office has come under a lot of fire this year, but I don't know whether this had anything to do with his re-assignment," Leslie said. "I knew there were a lot of questions going around about what would happen to Robert Smith because he's been ill."

Bowen said he made the decision to re-assign Smith before taking office June 1.

"Smith had some discussions with Interim President E. Dean Gage about this before I took office," Bowen said. "It has just

taken some time to get everything organized."

Smith's re-assignment came just one day after A&M System Chancellor William Mobley announced his Aug. 31 resignation.

Bowen said the two announcements were unrelated.

Margaret Freeman, former Aggie Mother's Club president and current head of a watchdog committee to monitor the A&M administration, said she was surprised about the re-assignment.

"Now that Robert Smith has been re-assigned, we will make a concentrated effort to get the three Food Services administrators who were re-assigned by Smith's office their jobs back," Freeman said.

Smith was unavailable for comment. He is expected to return to work tomorrow in his new position.

Audit

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the State Auditor, said seven auditors will be on campus and they will be working with the chancellor and the president. They will, however, talk to anybody they think is necessary.

Smock said the image problems A&M has faced because of investigations being conducted by the Texas Rangers and the Brazos County District Attorney's office, were a factor in the office deciding to move up the audit.

"We had scheduled to audit A&M next year but state Sen. Parker requested that the date be moved up," she said.

Ogden said Parker had requested the early audit because Parker is defensive of his and others representatives criticism about Lamar University.

He said Lamar University had a state audit over a year ago that was highly critical.

As a member of appropriations, Ogden took the state audit and asked Lamar University what they were going to do about problems that were found.

"There appeared to be a lack of serious effort to correct problems prior to audit," he said. "Senator Parker, in my opinion, is attempting to retaliate for the criticism that I have levied toward Lamar University as a result of the state audit."

Ogden said Lamar University has made some substantial improvements since the audit and he sees no problem with starting the A&M audit early.

"The motive for writing the letter was an attempt to get back at me for poor criticism I said about Lamar," he said. "I am not particularly impressed with his motive, but I do not object to it (the audit) happening."

Smock said having an early audit was an important decision since A&M's budget involves a large amount of state money and because of the investigations.

"That was certainly something we considered when making the decision, we considered the total dollars in the budget and these other issues," he said. "We certainly have concerns with the control aspects happening here, we have found there are risks in the University being able to fulfill its mission."

Smock said the audit will cover all aspects of University operations.

"We will be looking more at the overall programs than individual programs and departments," she said.

Parker could not be reached for comment.

Charley Clark, director of Internal Audit for Texas A&M, said the audit is strictly routine and it was anticipated.

Mobley's memo also explained what the management control audit will be used for.

He said it will determine whether management controls are in place to measure efficiency and economy of operations.

It will review the results of the management system over a period of time and determine to what extent performance has improved over time in a comparison of expected and actual performance.

Imaging

Continued from Page 1

feelings about."

Parrish also said that scientists can use imaging to create accurate representations of the physical world, such as a faculty researcher who created a growth model for a specific type of plant.

The researcher defined the plant, set the parameters for the plant's environment and programmed the computer to develop the dimensions specified. The computer generated the plant's growth from the information.

Bill Jenks, director of the visualization laboratory, said the laboratory has strong ties to the technical world.

"One of the values that we have to the visualization industry is that we solve problems in the integration of computing and imaging systems that the industry comes across," he said.

Jenks said the department works closely with graphics manufacturers, software designers, architecture firms, engineering firms, production companies in Hollywood and other visualization firms.

Parrish said students have great opportunities to showcase their talents.

"We have students doing internships at an architectural firm in Houston," he said. "We also have lots of people working in Hollywood on movies and television commercials and we have several people working at Disney."

The tools that students use in the lab are representative of the best in the world, Jenks said, and broad knowledge in this field is an advantage.

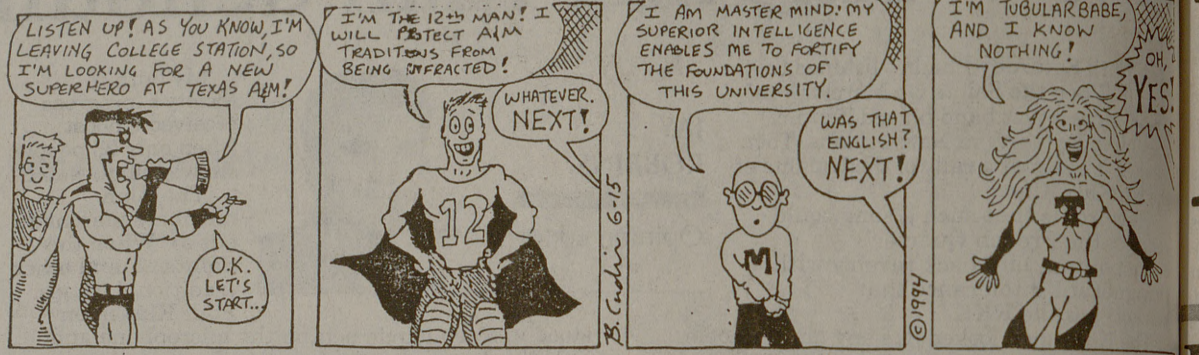
"Employers are looking for well-rounded graduates," he said. "These are people who not only can do animation, but also can understand software and computer programming, a team-oriented person."

The primary users of the computer imaging are 40 graduate science students, a few students in other disciplines, faculty conducting research and professionals in the visualization industry.

The department admits only 10 students in the program each year following a rigorous application process that takes several weeks. The visualization degree is available only for graduate students.

Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



HEATHER

By JL



OUT THERE

By JD



Center

Continued from Page 3

this was a good idea.

"It was very intelligent to scale down," he said. "Twelve thousand-five hundred (seats) is workable for the basketball team."

Even, the College Station City Council passed a resolution supporting the center.

If after all the facts are laid out the board is still unsure whether to approve the center, there will be one reply:

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the horse-drawn carriage was to the 1940's. A has-been, yesterday's news, old and out-dated.

When A&M gets a special events center, many good things will happen.

A&M will be able to draw big names for concerts, national touring attractions, and NBA preseason games. People will find a seat at graduation and Muster.

As far as basketball goes, A&M cannot survive in big-time college athletics without it. Barone agrees.

"We need the center to move to the next level," he said.

Basketball will feel the impact of the center before the ground

breaking. Barone and his staff will be able to use the upcoming center when they are recruiting.

Soon Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri are going to replace Texas Christian, Rice and Southern Methodist on A&M's basketball court. Those schools have great facilities.

If the board and various politicians are still unsure whether A&M needs a special events center, they need to be sent tickets to a graduation. Or show up for Muster three hours early. Then they might understand.

This time, even the people who control the money are going to agree.

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