

7, 1994
male
ER... YOU'RE
... I
A DRINK
'S HIM!
Y JL
T YOU...
OTHER
Y JD
U.S.
ubber,
Party,
e.
t week
handis-
n New
Amer-
scepti-
kids.
offers
boxer
and ties
now —
o that
appeal
up fad
y said
ates.
in the
vision
Bobby
ged by
erence
ti-Bar-
an fall
is do-
te-ups
ington
King
people
someone
seems
ance in
had a
ve him
w much
A&M
thic. I
that if
ment is
we run
y other
s many
aid col-
fession-
e more
e said.
ns."
t ex-
side
der-
file,
eem
p on
Ag-
they
reat
ave
our
else,

Weather

Tuesday and Wednesday, fair at night with sunny and very hot days. Lows in the 70s., highs from 100 to 108.
— National Weather Service

Sports

Slocum gives his opinion about moving The Cotton Bowl.



Opinion

Columnist Stavenhagen says college students tend to overlook the wisdom of age, preferring the familiarity of their own flock.

Page 3

Page 5

THE BATTALION

TUESDAY

June 28, 1994

Vol. 93, No. 164 (6 pages)

"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

NEWS BRIEFS

Bowen names Gaston interim finance and administration vp

Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray Bowen on Monday named Dr. Jerry Gaston as interim vice president for finance and administration.

He replaces Dr. Robert Smith, who was re-assigned two weeks ago to the position of executive director of special operations.

In his new position, Gaston will oversee departments that are responsible for athletic compliance, business services, food services, Physical Plant, parking, human resources, fiscal affairs, procurement and materials services, operations analysis and the University police.

He will evaluate the structure of the finance and administration division for possible reorganization.

Gaston arrived in College Station in 1981 as professor and head of the sociology department. Most recently, he has served as executive associate provost, second-in-command of A&M's academic programs.

"I have spent much of my time in the provost's office promoting planning and cooperation," Gaston said. "I look forward to bringing the same commitment to the Division of Finance and Administration."

A&M greets petition to try teen as adult

Texas A&M's chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity are collecting signatures for a petition to try 15-year-olds as adults.

The petition was started as a result of the May 23 murders of Reginald Broadus and Crystal Miller, two A&M students, in DeSoto. One of the two suspects that were arrested in the case was 15.

The petition can be signed in the Office of Minority Student Services in Harrington 108X on Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A&M prof named leader of TSCPA

Texas CPAs named a Texas A&M University professor as a leader of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA) during a recent annual meeting of the 31,000-member organization.

Larry Gene Pointer will serve as treasurer-elect of the TSCPA Executive Committee.

The committee manages programs and activities designed to strengthen professional and ethical standards of the membership in order to protect the interest of the public.

Pointer, an associate professor in the College of Business Administration, has been a TSCPA member since 1975. He is also a past president of the Brazos Valley Chapter. TSCPA is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting professionalism among CPAs and influencing excellence in education.

With 31,000 members, the TSCPA has the largest in-state membership of any CPA organization in the nation.

Senators set goal for health care coverage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite President Clinton's renewed pressure for a health bill that covers all Americans, senators predicted Monday the Finance Committee would reject employer mandates and adopt a plan that stops short of universal coverage.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., the chairman, said his mind wasn't made up on whether to propose mandates in the bill that the panel will begin voting on Wednesday.

Democrats John Breaux of Louisiana and Kent Conrad of North Dakota predicted the panel would reject a proposal for standby mandates on employers and vote for a plan modeled on the one crafted by their bipartisan group.

"We believe very strongly that when you get up toward 95 percent, it's very close to universal coverage," Chafee said after a private Finance Committee meeting to discuss his proposal.

Today's BATT

Classified	4
Comics	6
Opinion	5
Sports	3
State & Local	2

Not so for 'happy hours' MADD campaigns to ban Texas drink specials

AUSTIN (AP) — The state chairman of Mothers Against Drunk Driving on Monday urged the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to ban "happy hours" in Texas.

"Happy hour in Texas induces people to drink more, turns more drunk drivers out on the road and causes fatalities," said Kirk Brown, who heads the state's MADD chapter.

"It's not a happy situation for the victims or the victims' families."

Officials with the Texas Restaurant Association oppose MADD's efforts and say the current regulations on happy hours are strong enough.

The two sides agreed after a public hearing Monday to meet and discuss a possible compromise. The earliest the TABC is likely to consider any new regulations is in August.

Brown proposed a regulation to the three-person commission aimed at gutting the appeal of happy hours: reduced drink prices.

The proposal requires that bar and

restaurant owners maintain the price of a drink for weeklong intervals, thus wiping out the one-day or even hours-long drink discounts that often attract customers.

"We are asking for a posted price and you can change it weekly," Brown said. "So if the bar has a price for a beer of a penny, they have

MADD

"Happy hour in Texas induces people to drink more, turn more drunk drivers out on the road and causes fatalities."

— Kirk Brown, head of the Texas MADD chapter

to sell it to everybody for a penny all week. They can't afford to do that financially."

Brown said the regulation would help eliminate a preponderance of penny beer specials in college bars across the state.

Randy Yarbrough, assistant administrator of the TABC, said MADD's proposal is based on a law already in effect in Massachusetts.

"It has some merit. This ordinance has worked well in Massachusetts," Yarbrough said. "It's not something that has been thrown together by any means. I am sure the commission will give serious consideration to it."

Richie Jackson, executive vice president of the Texas Restaurant Association, said there is no evidence to show that drunken driving accidents increase during the times of happy hours specials.

Jackson said MADD's recommendation would punish restaurant owners who often create festive themes to attract customers based upon drink discounts.

"We would lose the ability to creatively merchandise our products," he said.

Jackson contends that MADD's underlying effort is to stifle the advertising of alcohol.

"They are prohibitionists who fight to accomplish their purpose of diminishing promotion and merchandising under the guise of trying to diminish consumption," Jackson said.

Grand jury hears Ranger evidence

By Michele Brinkmann
THE BATTALION

A Brazos County grand jury began hearing evidence from the Texas Rangers Monday, marking another phase of a 10-month investigation into allegations of misconduct by Texas A&M officials.

The grand jury is expected to make any decisions about possible indictments Tuesday or Wednesday.

The jury met from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and heard testimony from 10 people, including law enforcement officials.

Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner would not confirm earlier media reports that 23 subpoenas were handed out, nor would he say whether any subpoenas were issued.

Please see Rangers, Page 6

Flying around the world

Former student attempts to break helicopter record

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

A former Texas A&M student will take to the skies today to set a new around-the-world speed record.

Ron Bower, Class of '63, is combining his love of helicopters and flying and is planning stops in 21 countries en route to setting a speed record for an around-the-world flight in a Bell 206B JetRanger helicopter.

Bower was making last minute preparations Monday afternoon and said he would leave Fort Worth shortly after 9:00 a.m. today to begin his journey.

"I'm excited and ready to go," he said. "It's a well-planned trip. It's been a major effort with planning everything and preparing for any emergencies."

Bower said in a recent news release that the thought of making the trip never crossed his mind until last summer.

"If you had told me this time last year that in one year I would be planning a helicopter trip around the world and an attempt to set a new world record, I would have never believed it," he said.

Ross Perot Jr. and Ray Coburn, a professional helicopter pilot, set the only official record-setting helicopter flight around the world in the summer of 1982 using a Bell 206 LongRanger. The two men made the trip in 29 days and 3.1 hours.

The helicopter, owned by Perot, is on display in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Bower said he was influenced by Dick Smith, an Australian helicopter pilot, who made a solo helicopter flight around the world during the summers of 1982 and 1983.

Bower's trip will include stops

in the capital cities of 21 countries in North America, Western Europe, Scandinavia and the former Soviet Union.

About 75 stops are planned for fuel.

Dr. Bob Bower, Ron Bower's brother and president of Texas Digital Systems in College Station, said he is excited about his brother's plans.

"He's got an excellent chance of breaking it if he doesn't face any weather problems or political challenges," Bob Bower said. "I'm glad that he's doing it and not me."

Bob Bower, Class of '61, and Robert Bower, his father and member of the Class of '32, will be among a group of people who will meet Ron Bower today at Easterwood Airport in College Station as he starts his journey.

"I'll be very proud of him," Bob Bower said. "I know how much it means to him. I'm not worried at all because I know he's a good pilot. He has enough experience under his belt to do it."

The trip is scheduled to take just over 200 flight hours, amounting to 27 days.

The former A&M student has been planning the trip for eight months and has undergone ground, flight and instrument training, as well as water survival training.

Ron Bower has experience in international flying. He has flown in 22 countries and flew Bell UH-1B "Huey" gunships in combat during the Vietnam Wars.

He has over 6,000 accident-free hours of flight time.

He is co-founder and vice president for Helicopter Marketing and Operations for Austin Jet International in Austin.



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

A muddy venture!

Sheri Fossler (above), a junior biomedical sciences major, pulls herself along under a wire screen Monday as part of the Venture Dynamics kinesiology class.

Meanwhile, Fossler's classmate Camille Sproul (right), a senior psychology major, crawls through the mud as she makes her way under a wire and wood obstacle.

The class tackled Texas A&M's stamina course Monday. Students crawled through mud puddles, jumped over logs and crawled up creekbeds all in the name of fun. By the end of the morning, the entire class was coated in mud from head to toe.

The Venture Dynamics class emphasizes teaching students communication skills and teamwork while leading them through A&M's challenge course.



A&M study abroad seminar links U.S., Mexican federal agencies

By Craig Lewis
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University broadened future possibilities of research and education this summer through a Faculty Study Abroad Seminar held in Mexico city.

Dr. Gabriel Carranza, director of the program, said interest for continuing the program is strong.

"We had a meeting and the program was such a success that the University wants to continue it," he said.

He said that the program provided A&M faculty with unique experiences and opportunities.

Johanna Roman, assistant director of the program, said the purpose of the seminar was much deeper than its origin as an extracurricular activity.

"Through this, a lot of collaborative programs will develop," she said.

The summer seminar, held May 15 to 24, was the first of its kind and Roman said it was a pioneering effort.

"This was really a pilot program," she said.

Faculty members who enrolled in the seminar were required to include a full report of their goals, basic language training in Spanish and an agreement to expand

their departments towards Mexican researchers.

"They (the participants) are expected to develop programs with their Mexican colleagues within one year from the seminar," Roman said.

Only faculty members with little or no previous contact with Mexican institutions were accepted. The seminar, which used \$12,000 of internal funding by the University, was established to act as a catalyst for future collaboration between the two countries.

Dr. James Gramann, associate professor of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Science, said he established many

contacts through the program.

"The general purpose was to increase the linkages between Texas A&M University and Federal Agencies in Mexico," he said. "We are interested in establishing some sort of exchange program in the area of international tourism in the department."

Gramann said the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was a heavily-discussed topic. "With NAFTA and with the proximity of Mexico to the United States, we really need to put a greater focus on Mexico," he said.

Dr. Karen Snowden, associate professor of veterinary pathobiology, said the trip offered her many

benefits.

"My benefits were in language training, broadened exposure to the Mexican people and the Mexican culture, and some specific research contacts for me to pursue some collaborative research in my area of expertise," she said.

Dr. Maria Barrufet, assistant professor of petroleum engineering, warned that the program will remain beneficial as long as it is maintained.

"They (Texas A&M constituents) need to show that they were really interested and that it wasn't a fleeting or one-time interest," she said. "If not, you're not going to get anything."