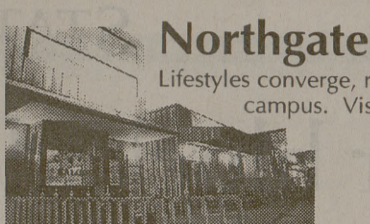


### Opinion

J. Sterling Hayman: We have become a society that searches for humor in almost every tragedy and misfortune.

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### Northgate

Lifestyles converge, right across the street from A&M's campus. Visit two semi-legendary local bars.

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### Weather

Same old thing—sunny and hot for the foreseeable future. Lows in the 70s, highs near 100.

—National Weather Service

# THE BATTALION

THURSDAY

July 28, 1994

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

## MOM: SEND MONEY

### A&M chancellor, officials say state legislature should spend more on higher education

By Craig Lewis  
THE BATTALION

Dr. Barry Thompson, interim chancellor of the Texas A&M System, says the state legislature needs to make changes to its budget and focus more on higher education.

Thompson said other state factions such as the prison system have been mandated higher increases in funding while higher education funding has remained virtually unchanged.

Since 1985, the Texas prison system state funding has increased 195%, almost 70 times the increase in higher education spending.

"Basically the state institutions for education have been operating with the same budget for the past nine years," Thompson said.

"With the money spent on incarcerating some of these criminals, we could send them to Harvard."

Thompson is one of many Texas A&M officials who say the legislature lacks concern for higher education in Texas, which ranks 50th in the nation in per-capita spending for higher education.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vice president for finance and administration, said he sees the coming legislative session as a crucial point in the stability of Texas A&M.

Gaston said that the University has been sent a signal from the Texas Legislative Budget Board that tells it not to ask for more funds than it was allotted last year.

"As a category of funding, higher education has been at the very bottom," Gaston said.

Gaston said a continued lack of state funds will have a dramatic effect on Texas A&M.

The three main needs of a university for state funds are faculty salaries, goods and services, and utilities, Gaston said.

"Research at the University won't be losing funding directly," he said, "but without adequate funds for all these categories, Texas A&M can't be expected to maintain excellence."

Gaston said student intervention could help.

Brooke Leslie, student body president of Texas A&M, said she plans to do what she can to increase funding.

Leslie said the Legislative Study Group, a student organization pioneered by A&M to review legislative activity affecting students, will be used to swing the direction of State funds.

"We've talked to a lot of groups such as Lions Clubs to get them to not only realize the importance of state education, but to voice this opinion to their legislators as well," she said.

Less funding directly affects students, she said, because it can cause problems such as lack of seating and declining quality of professors.

Leslie said A&M is starting to

## Texas ranks 50th in the nation in per-capita spending for higher education.

reach the breaking point in trying to get the funding it requires.

"I think it is a must for our future," Leslie said.

Thompson said that Texas A&M officials plan to take an aggressive stance towards the legislature in asking for more state-allocated funds.

"We have to do a better job of selling what we do to the Texas public," Thompson said. "Departmental operating budgets have really been dead in the water."

Thompson said that although it is illegal for A&M officials to actually lobby in the legislature, they will provide information to the state that should show the importance of state support.

The chances of success or failure are hard to predict, he said. "We'll be in competition with several other state factions trying to do the exact same thing for their causes," he said.

"I think a lot of Texans just don't understand the complexity of Texas A&M," he said.

Thompson said A&M affects all regions of the state, and the public should realize how important funding is.

## Clinton aide faces questioning today

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans get a chance to question a wider range of Clinton officials on Whitewater Thursday, including a top aide of Hillary Rodham Clinton's who asked last winter if the couple's lawyer could be briefed about a federal investigation.

Margaret Ann Williams, Rodham Clinton's chief of staff, will be among the 11 current and former White House officials expected to face questioning on the second day of Banking Committee hearings.

Williams' query about a briefing, at a Feb. 2 White House meeting, goes to the core of the political battle over the administration's handling of Whitewater.

Republicans contend it was improper for Treasury Department officials to brief White House aides on the federal investigation touching on the Clintons' land deal.

Williams sought to go further, asking about a briefing for the Clintons' private lawyer, according to a publicly released chronology given to the House by the White House counsel and to notes of congressional interviews obtained by The Associated Press.

Thursday's witnesses will be 10 senior White House officials and former White House counsel, Bernard Nussbaum. They all were involved in trying to control the public damage for Clinton in Whitewater news stories.

The current counsel, Lloyd N. Cutler, testified Tuesday that briefings for White House officials about the investigation were proper. Cutler also says in the chronology it would have been proper to give private lawyers the same briefing given the White House aides on Feb. 2 by Roger C. Altman, acting chief of the Resolution Trust Corp.

Altman was giving the White House officials a "heads up" about the RTC's pursuit of civil claims against failed thrifts, including Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan.

Madison was owned by the Clintons' Whitewater business partner, and a key question for investigators was whether the land venture caused losses at the S&L.



Stew Milne/The Battalion

## Splashdown

Gina Perez, a freshman on the A&M softball team, demonstrates a figure-four position slide to high school seniors attending softball camp on Wednesday. The camp, offered by A&M's softball coaches and players, lasts through the end of this week.

The camp, offered by A&M's softball coaches and players, lasts through the end of this week.

## Greek system works with A&M for Rush

By Ellie Hudson  
THE BATTALION

Representatives of Texas A&M's Greek system say they plan to work more closely with the University during the 1994 Fall Rush season.

Lanita Hanson has been appointed coordinator of the Panhellenic Greek system, which is a new position created this year by the University.

Hanson said that previously, a community member was hired to handle each organization's Rush activities. Now, she works for the University to coordinate Rush for all sororities.

She said the Greek system wants to place emphasis on what rushees can contribute to their sorority or fraternity rather than place emphasis on who they know.

"We want to bring the Rush procedure more in line with what is being done nationally," she said.

"This doesn't mean the University has any more control over the organization," Hanson said. "There is just more advisement and professional assistance in getting things done."

The sororities have always had rush counselors to assist candidates through Rush, but this year the counselors were removed from their respective sororities all summer to promote objectivity.

"This helps the individual see the global value of becoming part of the Greek society, not just the value of belonging to one certain society," she said. "This helps them be better helpers for new members of sororities."

Jennifer Chavez, Rush chairwoman for the Panhellenic society, said she was grateful and enthusiastic about working with the University.

"I think the University definitely reached out to us this year, and we certainly

appreciate it," she said. "We're doing our part to reach out and meet them halfway."

John Price, Interfraternity Council coordinator, said fraternities promote leadership through their Greek retreat, held the weekend before Rush. The IFC executive board and delegates attend educational workshops dealing with leadership, community contributions, and public relations issues.

"In the past, Rush was something where everybody went and got drunk," he said. "Now, we're trying to focus on management and leadership. The purpose of our organization is not just to party, but to make an impact on the community."

Chris Nelson, Rush chairman for IFC, said the group wants to make people on campus more aware of the Greek system.

"We want people to know that it's OK to be Greek," he said. "I firmly believe in our motto, 'We're Aggies, then Greeks.'"

## Serbs ambush convoy of UN peacekeepers

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnian Serbs ambushed a U.N. convoy Wednesday as it approached a road into Sarajevo that Serbs had just closed.

Two British soldiers were wounded in one of the worst attacks on peacekeepers in recent months.

The attack came the day the Serbs re-established their stranglehold on Sarajevo by closing off the only route open to commercial trucks.

Maj. Rob Annink, a peacekeepers' spokesman, said the Bosnian Serb army sent a letter of apology to the U.N. command several hours after the attack, saying their soldiers mistook the British convoy for a Bosnian government convoy.

Annink said one Bosnian truck was stuck on the stretch of road where the British trucks were.

Col. Hugh Dourtivron, deputy chief of staff for peacekeepers in Sarajevo, said one of the 5,200-gallon British tanker trucks burst into flames when the ambush began in mid-afternoon. Several of the nine other trucks were damaged.

"They were obviously aiming at the oil truck," said Lt. Johnny Mitchell, a British soldier in the convoy.

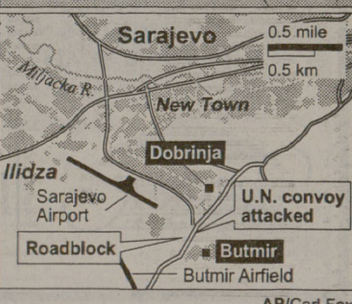
"The vehicles were clearly marked, so it was a direct attack. I was scared."

The tanker was still burning hours after the crash.

Once peacekeepers' headquarters was alerted, French armored vehicles raced to the scene. U.N. officials said NATO airplanes were called in to make overflights, but were not asked to counterattack.

### U.N. convoy attacked

A U.N. convoy came under fire as it neared a road closed by Serbs.



Approximate areas of control:  
Croatia  
Muslim  
Serb

## Student Affairs serves Aggies as surrogate 'parents'

By Amanda Fowle  
THE BATTALION

Students see Texas A&M as a home away from home, and administrators in the Department

of Student Affairs see themselves as responsible for the students' safety.

A&M employees take on the role of parents for students who are suicidal or depressed, abuse alcohol or drugs or have other emotional or psychological problems.

Ron Sasse, director of student affairs, said although most students are adults, Texas A&M is like a family that looks out for them.

"At Texas A&M, we say we are a family," he said. "These parents expect us to take care of their sons and daughters."

Tom Murray, assistant director of student affairs, said when students are having serious problems, the department is usually contacted by roommates or friends of the students.

Student Affairs then contacts the students to offer help or support and refers them to the Student Counseling Center or the Center for Drug Prevention and Education.

Students living on campus have close contact with resident directors and advisors in their residence halls, Murray said, and can be helped more easily by these staff members if they are

having problems.

Student Affairs is aware of off-campus students who have problems only if the Health Center or the students' friends contact the department.

Brent Paterson, interim senior associate director of student affairs, said in cases such as suicide, contact is usually made by the health center after a student has already made an attempt.

"If students make a suicide attempt that they are hospitalized for, we would get the student involved in a psychiatric

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