

## Aggielife

In-line skating is providing a new activity for sports enthusiasts at A&M.

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## Opinion

FRANK STANFORD: Conservatism — an A&M disease that rots the brain. Like liberalism, any extremism is the same as beer. A few beers are OK, but 17 beers are bad for your liver — or in this case — your mind.

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## Sports

Red-shirt freshman Dat Nguyen becomes the first Vietnamese player to join the Texas A&M football team.

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# THE BATTALION

THURSDAY

September 8, 1994

Vol. 101, No. 9 (18 pages)

"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

## Purveyor, Law face demolition Area prepares to meet ADA regulations

### Cost of renovation causes committee's recommendation

By Stephanie Dube  
THE BATTALION

Purveyor and Law residence halls are facing demolition as early as this summer. A recommendation to demolish the two halls was made by an ad hoc committee formed to study the conditions of Law and Purveyor. The committee included residence hall students and representatives from Business Services, Physical Plant, Residence Life and Student Affairs.

Ron Sasse, director of student affairs and chair of the ad hoc committee, said the committee recommended that the halls be completely torn down before Fall 1995.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs, said demolition was the only option.

"The halls are extremely old, and the money to bring them up would be dramatic," Southerland said.

When the residents of Law and Purveyor checked in, they received a memorandum explaining the details of the recommendation.

A forum was held Aug. 31 to answer any questions residents may have had about the



Stacy Cameron/The Battalion

Several students play volleyball in the sand court between the Law and Purveyor residence halls.

demolition. According to the memorandum, the committee recommended demolition because the "cost to renovate and repair the buildings far exceeded the cost of replacement or recovery of investment expenditures."

The committee expects the University to

approve the recommendation. The sub-floor crawlspace areas of the halls contain asbestos, which poses a health hazard for students living in those areas.

Sasse said no formal plans are currently

Please see **Law/Purveyor**, Page 7.

By Susan Owen  
THE BATTALION

Bryan-College Station and the state of Texas are gearing up to meet national regulations mandating equal access to public accommodations for disabled persons.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which became law in 1990, all public buildings (state, city and government buildings, as well as privately-owned businesses) must be made reasonably accessible to disabled persons.

Still, many local businesses have not yet made the architectural modifications specified by the ADA.

"I don't usually take my wheelchair out into the community," said Sarah Mahoney, a senior psychology major. "It's a hassle."

She said that although many buildings are hard to get to because they do not have handicapped ramps, most businesses are very helpful.

"Everyone's really nice, but if you can't get somewhere, you can't get somewhere, and that's

pretty much it," Mahoney said. She said many restaurants are difficult to enter for persons who cannot get out of their wheelchairs, and often getting into clubs like the Stafford Opera House in downtown Bryan can be a problem.

Kyle Kepple, a senior petroleum engineering major, said older buildings often pose access problems, but that large malls and shopping centers are usually very easy to enter in a wheelchair.

"There are a few places, i.e., the Chicken, where it's possible, but just barely," he said. "But there's not anyplace I've run into off campus that you can't get into. You've just got to try."

Joe Brown, public information officer for the city of Bryan, said that although privately-owned businesses are required to comply with the ADA, sometimes offering adequate help instead of modifying the building can be legally accepted.

"If your building isn't accessible and you make a reasonable accommodation, that's acceptable in some cases," Brown said.

Please see **ADA**, Page 12

## Bikes on patrol UPD has bicycle officers

By Katherine Arnold  
THE BATTALION

The University Police Department is pedaling around campus this semester, maintaining order and enforcing bicycle laws.

The bicycle patrol program has two full-time UPD officers in uniform on bicycles 24 hours a day performing duties that car patrols cannot.

"This year we have our officers out in uniform everyday," Elmer Schneider, associate director of UPD, said. "We have had officers on bicycles out at Bonfire for the past two years because of the maneuverability and ability to get where a car cannot."

Officer John Fisher said running stop signs is the most ticketed bicycling violation.

"Each officer has been handing out 30 to 40 warning tickets a day," Fisher said. "The warnings now are going to improve traffic and prevent as many tickets later in the semester."

But when stopped, bicyclists are also reminded that they are supposed to follow the same laws as motor vehicles.

"I tell bicyclists that if you drive your bike the same way you drive a car by obeying all the signs, then traffic will flow much smoother," Fisher said.

Jeff Livingston, a junior electrical engineering major, said he is concerned about the increased enforcement of traffic laws.

"I saw two students on the first day of class getting tickets

Please see **Cycle Cops**, Page 12



Stew Milne/The Battalion

UPD officer John Fisher watches the intersection of Ross and Spence Streets looking for cyclists breaking traffic laws.

## Agricultural producers fight laws affecting property rights

By Tracy Smith  
THE BATTALION

Texas agricultural producers are making a stand for property rights as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes mandates restricting what property owners do on their own land.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to designate 33 counties in Central Texas as critical habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler, a bird native only to Texas.

The mandates would affect brush control fires and the construction of firebreaks, which protect for homes and land from fires.

People concerned with the restrictions have formed several new property rights organizations in Texas to discuss both property rights issues and how to fight against government intervention.

Marshall Kuykendall, who heads Take Back Texas Inc., a property rights group in Austin, said Texans are fed up with government intrusions, and that it is time to draw the line.

"This is our land, our state, our country, and it is simply wrong for the government to attempt to control everything that the citizens do," Kuykendall said.

Ralph Meriweather, president of Trans-Texas Heritage Association, said that making a stand now will let Texans voice their opinions and let

the government know they cannot just be ignored.

"Government will always take from its citizens as much as they allow it to take, and designation of critical habitat marks the limit," Meriweather said.

Rick Perry, Texas agricultural commissioner, said that until now property owners have managed to co-exist on the land for generations without intervention.

"Now some folks, usually from Washington, D.C., want to come tell us how to manage our land," Perry said. "Our private property rights don't belong in the hands of the EPA or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — they belong in the hands of Texans."

"We've had enough, and we are fixin' to take Texas back!" he said.

Dorothy Deas, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said that putting the warbler on the critical habitat list should not really have an effect on property owners.

"Several species in the past have been on this list, and property owners weren't affected," Deas said. "Our service is to protect the property owners, as well as protect wildlife species."

Dr. Keith Arnold, an A&M wildlife science professor, said the response many agricultural

Please see **Property Rights**, Page 7

## Washington memorial to honor 178,000 black Civil War veterans

WASHINGTON (AP) — In this city of monuments, 360 commemorate episodes in American history, a quarter of those honoring events and participants in the Civil War. But not one honors the 178,000 "colored" soldiers who fought in that war.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt pointed that out on Wednesday as he took part in the groundbreaking of an African American Civil War Memorial in one of Washington's oldest black neighborhoods.



Babbitt

Not one, Babbitt said, "makes even a passing reference to the heroism and the role ... of former slaves, the victims of centuries of oppression and injustice."

The memorial will be on a plaza created by construction of an underground subway stop in the Shaw neighborhood, at 10th and U Street, N.W. The area is named after Col. Robert Gould Shaw, commander of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer

Infantry, which figured in the movie "Glory."

"It marks the beginning of a new thrust of tourism beyond the monuments and memorials on the Mall," said Frank Smith Jr., a member of the District of Columbia city council who was the driving force behind the memorial project.

The memorial will be a semi-circular three foot-high curved stone inner wall holding stainless steel plaques with the names of the black Union soldiers and the 7,000 white officers who led them. It was designed by architects Paul S. Devroux Jr. and Edward D. Dunson Jr.

It was a collaborative effort between the District of Columbia, the National Park Service and the Metro transportation system.

This monument will be primarily a tourist attraction, Smith told about 400 people assembled under a tent at the site.

A Family Heritage Center, at a middle school across the street, will be established to educate the public about blacks' role in the Civil War. It will house a library and a computerized database that will make it possible to trace some of the 3 million descendants of the servicemen.

Students at the Garnet-Patter-

son Middle School will be trained to do historical research at the National Archives, including the struggles of the great freedom fighters past and present.

Civil war historian Jack Harr told the audience that 131 years ago the biggest parade in history — with 200,000 marching troops — was held on Pennsylvania Avenue.

"There were no black soldiers in that parade," he said. "The only blacks in that parade were labor battalions with picks and shovels. That was the beginning of our long ignorance about the role of the black soldier in the Civil War."

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## Abortion compromise unravels

### Policy might make abortions right, Vatican officials say

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A hard-fought compromise on abortion unraveled at the U.N. population conference Wednesday under an assault by allies of the Vatican, which drew increasing criticism for its tough stance at the meeting.

Many delegates complained that the fight over abortion-related wording in a single paragraph of a 113-page policy document on slowing the world's population growth has distracted the conference from other important issues.

The policy statement does not require blanket unanimous approval, and the Vatican did not support documents issued by U.N. conferences in 1974 and 1984. Great effort is being made to reach compromise because the United Nations likes consensus when issuing long-term goals.

Whatever statement is finally adopted will not be binding on any nation, but such U.N. docu-

ments influence national and international policies. The Vatican has a delegation because it's a permanent observer at the United Nations.

Hours after the compromise fell apart, the Vatican's chief delegate delivered a tough speech attacking the draft of a plan of action for curbing world population growth over the next 20 years.

Archbishop Renato Martino said that if adopted as is, the text "would endorse pregnancy termination without setting any limits" and might make access to abortions an international right.

Such a right would contradict the laws of many countries and the "sensibilities of vast numbers of persons, believers and unbelievers alike," he said.

The speech continued a months-long campaign by the Vatican and Pope John Paul II to keep abortion rights out of the conference's conclusions. The campaign has put the Holy See at odds with the Clinton administration and others.

Speaking at the opening session Monday, Vice President Al Gore said the draft document did not intend to make abortion an international right and argued it was being misinterpreted.

BATTALION •  
By Alva  
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