

The Hispanic Presidents Council is working to promote unity in Texas A&M's hispanic community.

EDITORIAL: Aggie traditions should stand above issues like politics, race, religion and anything else that divides the student body.

The Texas A&M 'Wreckin' Crew' is back in full force.

THE BATTALION



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NEWS BRIEFS

Dallas, A&M team up on proposed center

DALLAS (AP) — The city and Texas A&M University are teaming up on a proposed \$9.6 million plan to transform about 50 acres into an international waste management technology and training center. The project calls for an industrial park, a small-business incubator and classrooms where Texas A&M and the Dallas County Community College District would offer waste management classes. The proposed site is next to the city-owned McCommas Bluff Landfill southeast Oak Cliff. Dallas already owns 70 percent of the land needed for the project, which city officials predict will be funded in large part by federal grants. School and city officials hope to offer classes by fall 1997, with the park completed by 2005.

Talk about TV violence may curb its effects

DALLAS (AP) — Discussing the realities of television violence after a TV program is one way parents can help control its effects on young people. That is a technique the cable television industry and national Parent and Teacher Association are advocating as part of a nationwide initiative announced Thursday to teach parents, teachers and children how to evaluate and analyze what they see on TV. "We think TV viewers should look at the television ... as carefully as they look at the labels on the food they eat," said Decker Anstrom, president of the National Cable Television Association. "If they do, we'll have healthier kids in this country."

Partisanship killing more bills in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — With Republicans swinging the axe, Congress is piling one casualty upon another in a sharply partisan run-up to this fall's elections. A bill to rein in lobbyists became the latest victim on Thursday, joining others on health care, campaign spending and the environment. "We're the ones trying to do things," said Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell said this week as he maneuvered against a series of year-end Republican filibusters. "And they're the ones trying to prevent it."

Police arrest woman for covering face

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — To the police who stopped and questioned her, the woman dressed from head to toe in black, a heavy dark robe and gloves. At first she wouldn't speak to the four or five male officers. Then she got angry when they told her to uncover her face or leave the St. Paul skyway, a maze of public corridors bridging downtown streets and stores. Police then escorted her to a small room, where they gave the Muslim woman a ticket for violating a 1963 state law against concealing one's identity in public. The offense carries up to 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine. Local Muslims complained that Tayyibah Amatullah, a 21-year-old American convert to Islam, has a religious right to wear modest dress. "Where is freedom of religion? ... I mean, I lived here for 25 years. Where is that?" asked Magda Saikali, a Muslim activist. "For God sakes, was she caught in a criminal act? No."

Prairie View alumni upset at Regents

Board's selection of new president cause for disappointment, alumni say

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

Prairie View A&M alumni are disappointed with the selection process used to choose the University's president because they say the Board of Regents ignored the input of the Afro-American community. Dr. William Batts, president of the Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association, said that a group of alumni and students, the Faculty Senate and people from the Prairie View community met with four applicants and chose two as finalists. They expected the regents' choice for president to be one of those two finalists, he said, but instead, a late applicant, Dr. Charles Hines was added to the finalist list and then named president on Sept. 28. Batts said that if the regents were not pleased with the two candidates the alumni had chosen, they should have accepted applications from more candidates.

Batts does not think the regents gave enough consideration to the recommendations of the Afro-American community. "We are dealing with a plantation-type mentality here," he said. "We don't need a few people making decisions for a group, especially when those people were not chosen by the group." The Board of Regents is appointed by the governor, and one of its duties is choosing the A&M University System's presidents. Regent Alison Brisco said that the regents take presidential searches very seriously. "I think it is one of the most important functions we have," she said. "We appreciated the input of the search committee but knew that the final decision was ours." Batts sent letters to Prairie View alumni expressing the alumni association's disappointment with the selection process.

He urged the alumni and friends of Prairie View to take action. "We must begin to put our money, our manpower and our energy where our mouths are if we intend to win this battle," he said in the letter. Batts said that the violation of the selection process could inhibit future qualified applicants from applying. "The Board of Regents has not only insulted the black community," he said, "but also increased the risk of creating a chilling effect on the entire selection process and, thereby, inhibited applications by best qualified applicants for any future vacancy." Batts said Hines had applied early in the search, was eliminated, then reapplied and was chosen to be president. Dr. David Sanchez, vice chancellor for academic affairs and chair of the search advisory committee, said Hines went through the same selection process as the other candidates. "I don't know where he is getting this from," he said. "Every candidate went through the same selection process. It just so happens that one application came in late. There was no difference in this procedure."

Sanchez said there is no deadline for candidates to apply during presidential searches. "We don't put a deadline on it," he said. "Suppose the Board did not like any of the candidates. If there is no deadline, they can just keep taking applications." Batts wants the presidential search to continue, but Regents said this will not happen since Hines has been selected. Regent Raul Fernandez said he asked A&M Chancellor Barry Thompson to develop a more defined process for presidential searches. "I'm sorry this happened," he said. "I want us to try to keep it from happening again." Fernandez said he has great respect for the Prairie View community and that their complaints have some merit. "There are three sides to everything," he said, "and there is some truth to every side of this." The regents appointed Hines on Sept. 28 to replace retiring president Gen. Julius Becton, who announced his resignation in January. Hines, 59, is the director of protection and health services for the Smithsonian Institute.



Blake Griggs/The BATTALION

You can't have Bonfire without Centerpole

One of the Brown Pots is congratulated as Centerpole is erected Thursday.

A&M opens state's largest job training center

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System unveiled the state's largest regional job training center for industrial workers Sept. 29 with assistance from state and Houston officials. Phil Parker, director of the training center, said the center provides craft training in industry skills, such as welding, plumbing, iron works, ventilation, electrical work and masonry. The center is operated by the Texas Engineering Extension Service, which is one of eight state agencies under the umbrella of the A&M System. "Last fall we got a recommendation from the Board of Regents to open a training center in Houston," Parker said. "There are already centers in Arlington, Abilene and San Antonio, but we just had not attempted the Houston market." The center, which is located in east Houston near the ship channel, is providing craft training to 200 workers. "Currently, everyone in the program is already employed," Parker said. "They are in a four-year program to become journeymen craftsmen. They're increasing their skills in building and maintenance. When they leave here, they'll have an increase in pay, responsibilities and knowledge." Parker said the center plans to add training for unemployed people in the next two to three months, or as soon as the center can get the program funded. Brenda Simms, TEEX director of marketing and communication, said providing training to

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Casinos in Texas may not be Caesar's Palace

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas cities willing to gamble on casinos to bolster their economies should steer clear of Caesar's Palace-sized dreams and look at smaller, highly structured gaming facilities with specific revenue goals in mind if they are to succeed. That's the sobering advice to about 100 municipal leaders who huddled Thursday at a workshop on the "Impact of Gaming on Texas." "If someone gets into casino gambling they should know why and what the public goal is in having casino gambling," said William Thompson, a professor at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. "(If) You embrace gambling, you better love gambling. So many states (are) embracing it, they don't want it. New Jersey embraced it, they don't want it." The 1995 Texas Legislature is expected to face a strong push from casino interests to legalize gambling. But state lawmakers alone can't decide the issue. Instead, a constitutional amendment is needed, requiring a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate, plus voter approval in a statewide referendum. Thursday's workshop was spurred in part by growing in-

terest and a three-month study by the University of Houston-Clear Lake's Center for Economic Development. "One of the things we heard and read over and over again is that Texas has got to capture all this money," said Robert Hodgkin, director of the center. "There are some serious fallacies." Cities should realize that they need to attract new money and not just drain the established restaurants and businesses to support a casino. The number of people attracted by a casino also brings a whole host of questions involving infrastructure, law enforcement and employment. "A limited casino can work with money here," Thompson said. "And Texas has a gambling population and I don't think you'll rescue the money that's being gambled in Las Vegas." But Texas could bring back about 75 percent of the revenue going out of Texas to Louisiana tracks and casinos, he said. Thompson and Hodgkin drew an audience of some merely curious civic leaders as well as those from towns like Houston poised to pursue gaming rooms if legalized.

Former students criticize lab

Visualization lab moving away from art aspect, they say

By Katherine Arnold
THE BATTALION

The Walt Disney Company will not be recruiting computer animators from Texas A&M's visualization laboratory program this year, former students employed at Disney said. Michelle Robinson, a former A&M visualization lab student currently employed by the computer generated imagery department at Disney, said she and her former classmates at Disney have several complaints against the department. "I could not honestly recommend that the CGI department spend money recruiting in a department that is ailing," Robinson said. Donald House, coordinator of A&M's visualization sciences, said that Disney never spoke to him about why it would not be recruiting at A&M. "If Disney is intentionally not recruiting here, then they have made that decision based on the



Amy Browning/The BATTALION

Texas A&M's visualization laboratory is under criticism from some former students. Robinson said that the department is taking away the focus on art from the department with classes and requirements. "The lab is solely trying to produce computer animators and take away the art and creativity aspect of a visualization lab," Robinson said. "Art is the whole point of a visualization lab." House said he has no intention of taking the focus on art out of the visualization program. "We have four faculty members in the department, three of which are artists," House said. See Viz-lab/Page 2

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