

THE BATTALION

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NEWS BRIEFS

Palestinians only to get 1/3 of needed aid

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Although poverty appears to be easing violence in the Gaza Strip, the World Bank's top Middle East official told Yasser Arafat on Tuesday that only a third of the international aid pledged to Palestinians is likely to reach them this year.

Of the \$700 million promised by international donors for 1994, only about \$240 million at most was likely to be delivered on schedule, said World Bank Vice-President Caio Koch-Weser.

Arafat was attending a two-day conference in Brussels to appeal to donors to make good on aid pledges so he can relieve the economic hardship that is threatening his 6-month-old administration.

Court blocks acid rain regulations

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Environmental Protection Agency regulation aimed at curbing acid rain was blocked Tuesday by a federal appeals court that said the agency overstepped its authority.

The court decision put into limbo a requirement that electric utilities install tougher pollution control technology to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from about 470 coal-powered boilers. The rule was to have taken effect in January.

Nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide from coal-burning electric power plants are the pollutants that cause acid rain when they mix with the atmosphere. The court decision does not affect EPA programs to reduce sulfur dioxide, the principal acid rain pollutant. Acid rain has been shown by scientists to harm plant and aquatic life, and in some cases human health.

An EPA statement said the court decision "appears to have turned on a narrow technical issue" and that the agency would try "to resolve the issue and protect public health from acid rain-causing chemicals in a common sense way."

Judge: hair length rule unconstitutional

AUSTIN (AP) — A judge ruled Tuesday that the Bastrop school district's hair-length rule is unconstitutional in Zachariah Toungate's long-running battle to wear his ponytail to class.

But Visiting Judge Norman Lanford of Houston refused to order school officials to abolish the rule, saying the dispute didn't rise to the level requiring court intervention.

"We're happy with a win, and we're taking it as such," said attorney Paul Hunn, who represents the Bastrop school board.

But Zach's attorney, Charles Beall, considered the judge's finding a victory.

Man accused in vampire stabbing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A woman says her boyfriend stabbed her and drank her blood two days after they saw the movie "Interview With the Vampire."

Daniel Sterling, 25, was jailed on attempted murder charges in the attack on Lisa Stellanwagen, who suffered seven stab wounds in the chest and back.

Stellanwagen, 23, said the couple saw the vampire movie on Nov. 7, and the next morning she woke up and found Sterling staring at her.

According to the woman, she asked him what was wrong, and he replied, "I'm going to kill you and drink your blood."

The next day, Sterling stabbed her in their bed, police said.

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A&M readies for groundbreaking of Bush Library

Governor-elect, Cabinet members to attend ceremony today at 11:30

By Lisa Messer THE BATTALION

Several thousand people, including foreign dignitaries and former officials in the Bush administration, are expected to gather today on the Texas A&M campus for the groundbreaking of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Former President Bush and Barbara Bush will travel by train to College Station from Houston with 250 guests, including former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Texas Governor-elect George W. Bush, both of whom will speak at the 11:30 a.m. ceremony.

Other guests include Lamar Alexander, former secretary of education, Andrew Card, former secretary of transportation, Edward Derwinski, former secretary of veterans' affairs, Lawrence Eagleburger, former secretary of state; Lynn Martin, former secretary of labor; Brent Scowcroft, former national security adviser; Louis Sullivan, former secretary of health and human services; John Sununu, former chief of staff; and country entertainer Vince Gill.

The Honorable Lu Chao-chung, representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, will attend the ceremony on behalf of the country of Taiwan, which made a recent donation of \$1 million to the library.

Security will be provided by the Secret Service, College Station Police Department, Bryan Police Department, University Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Rangers and State Department.

Special security will be provided by Saudi Arabia be-

cause of the presence of Saudi Prince Bandar. Mary Helen Bowers, deputy director of University Relations, said extensive security is expected anytime a large number of prominent people are together.

"There has been no indication that anyone intends any harm whatsoever," Bowers said. "The security is essentially to help with crowd control, to keep them from being loved to death."

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said UPD will be in charge of security on campus and moving Bush's motorcade of 10 buses and 15 other vehicles to various sites in the city.

"We're playing this extremely low key," Wiatt said. "There will be no searches or magnetometers. There will be an officer presence throughout the day, but we don't expect any problems."

More than 100 media representatives are expected to attend the groundbreaking, from local newspapers and radio stations to the national networks of NBC, CBS, ABC, FOX, CNN and C-SPAN.

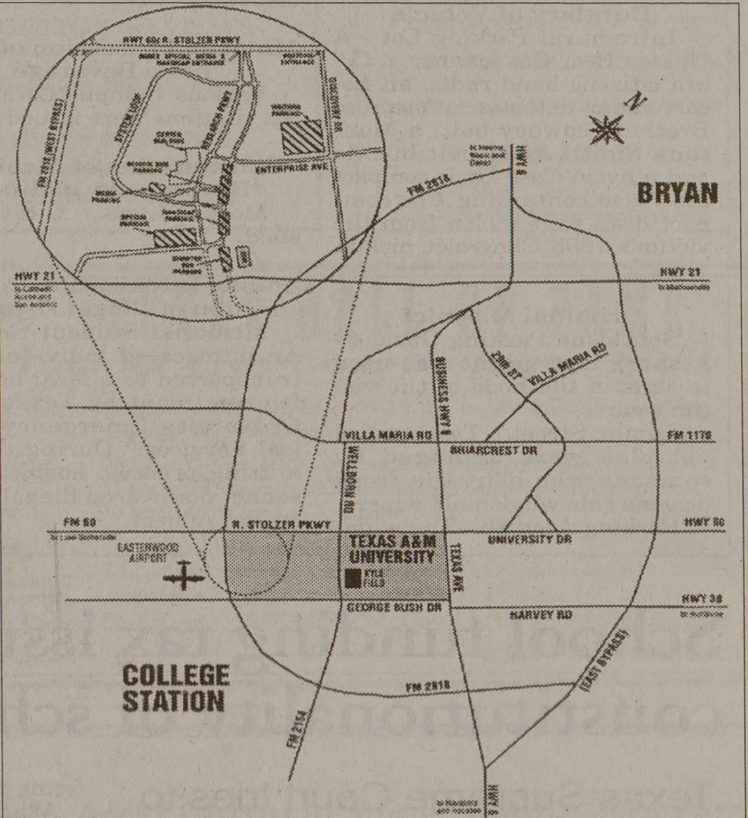
Bowers said camera space on platforms at the site is at a premium with KAMU and KBTX staking out sites early Tuesday morning.

The ceremony, which is being held at the George Bush Presidential Library Site at the intersection of George Bush Drive and FM 2818, is open to the public.

Lane Stephenson, deputy director of University Relations, said all A&M students are invited to attend the groundbreaking.

"We wish everybody in Bryan-College Station, beginning with A&M students, would attend," Stephenson said. "Students are certainly welcome."

Student Body President Brooke Leslie, who is making welcoming remarks at the ceremony with A&M President Ray Bowen, said student attendance at the groundbreaking can help show the University's appreciation for Bush's decision to locate the library on the A&M campus.



Site of the George Bush Presidential Library groundbreaking ceremonies.

Increase in remedial enrollment prompts funding allocation

By Stephanie Dube THE BATTALION

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will have to allocate more money to Texas A&M, following an increase in the school's enrollment for remedial courses.

The University's increase this fall stems from a statewide trend in increased enrollment. Karon Sturdivant, director of the Center for Academic Enhancement, said 170 students were enrolled in remedial courses for the fall of 1993. During the fall of 1994, 342 students were enrolled.

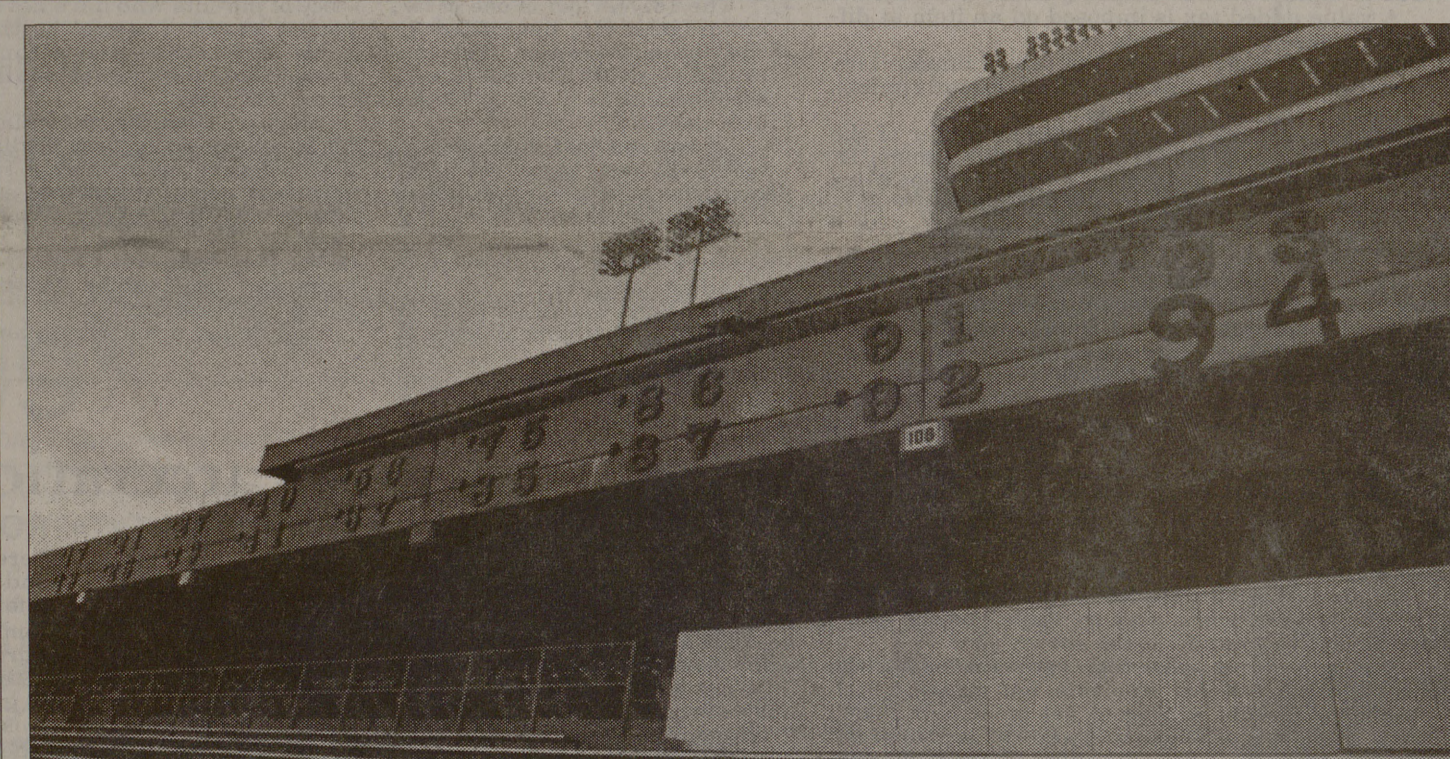
Students at A&M who do not pass the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP), a mandatory placement test, have to take remedial courses, Sturdivant said. However, students have more than one opportunity to take the test.

Remedial courses are basic classes in reading, writing and arithmetic.

"There are several possibilities why enrollment increased," Sturdivant said. "It could be partially due to admissions criteria and the need to diversify enrollment or students' not taking the test when they should. Or, it could just be that students have to take so many standardized tests that they do not take this one seriously."

According to a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board report, the cost of remedial

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Tim Moog/The Battalion

Setting the record straight

An undefeated season on probation left the A&M football team without a championship, but anonymous Aggie fans

set the record straight with this addition to the second deck of Kyle Field sometime Monday night.

Student Senate downs Yell Leader runoff election bill

By Melissa Jacobs THE BATTALION

The Student Senate rejected a bill Tuesday night that would have allowed for runoff elections in the election of Texas A&M's five yell leader positions.

The bill, which was introduced Nov. 9, stated that runoff elections be held for yell leader elections if there are more than four eligible candidates for the three senior yell leader positions and more than three eligible candidates for the two junior leader positions.

Twenty-seven senators voted against the bill, twenty-four voted for the bill and two abstained.

Scott Torn, head yell leader, said the yell leaders stand united against the bill.

"The bottom line is you want the most students voting in this election," he said. Torn said fewer students turn out for runoff elections than general elections.

"If you want 60 percent of the students selecting the yell leaders, vote on the bill," he said. "If you want 100 percent, don't have a runoff."

Patrick Conway, an off-campus senator who introduced the bill, said in a past yell leader election, 53.6 percent of the over 5,000 votes cast were for neither of the winning candidates.

"We owe it to the students of Texas A&M," he said. "Many students have come to me and said they want the

chance to make the final decision of who is going to be their yell leader."

Conway said one of his major concerns was if enough voters would turn out for the runoff elections. He said in the student body president runoff elections, roughly over 50 percent of the voters cast a ballot.

Brooke Leslie, student body president, said there is a big difference between the student body president election and the yell leader election.

"The yell leader election is electing five positions," she said. "Student body president election is only electing one."

Torn said there has to be a winner and a loser.

"We beat t.u. 34-10," he said. "What if we beat them 34-33? We wouldn't want them to play it over. Bottom line is you want the most students coming out to elect yell leaders."

Laurent Therivel, finance committee chair, said yell leaders need to have the mandate of the student body.

"The more number of votes means more students want them in there," he said.

Torn said the sanctity of the yell leader position needs to be preserved and going to runoff elections is a disservice.

"It is a disservice unless you can guarantee the same turn-out for the

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Campus forum held in effort to end stereotypes of organizations

By Amanda Fowle THE BATTALION

Representatives from the Texas A&M Greek system, the Corps of Cadets, residence halls and Bonfire discussed Tuesday night ways to overcome the stereotypes placed on the members of the different organizations.

Lowell Randal, co-adviser of the Order of Omega, an honor and service organization, said the goals of the discussion were to open up communication between groups in order to create an awareness of the other groups.

"This will lead to better campus unity," Randal said.

Part of the programming for the Order of Omega involves facilitating Greek unity, and Randal said the group decided to expand that to the entire campus.

Brooke Leslie, student body president, moderated the forum as the members discussed stereotypes and the reasons their groups use them.

Carrie Beyer, president of the Panhellenic Association, said that she does not fit the typical stereotype of a sorority member and neither do most other sorority members.

"I don't wear bows in my hair," she said. "I don't drive a Porsche. We have a very diverse group represented in our sororities."

Donald Eknoyan, president of the In-

terfraternity Council, said that only about ten percent of Greeks actually fit the stereotype most people have of them.

The stereotype of Greeks' using money to buy friends is portrayed in the "Rent a friend, join a frat" T-shirts sold by one residence hall.

Owen Ross, RHA president, said the shirts are not sold by any official organizations.

"The shirts play on the perception that the Greeks do not add to the uniqueness of A&M," he said. "Many people don't think Greeks participate in any traditions. They are just trying to make us like other universities."

Eknoyan said though the shirts are offensive, they are considered a joke by many Greeks.

"I think it's funny," he said, "because I know it is not true."

Andy Webb, a senior redpot, lives in the hall that sells the shirts.

"We sell a lot of them to the fraternities," he said. "I don't see them wearing them, so I don't know what they're doing with them."

The forum disproved the stereotypes that Greeks do not participate in traditions, that only the residence halls participate in Bonfire and that the Corps

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