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THE BATTALION

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

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University audit's effect on state funding uncertain

A recent state audit may cause problems for A&M during the Texas legislative session.

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

A&M administrators expect the University to be scrutinized during the 1995 Texas legislative session due to the state audit

which blasts A&M for wasting millions of dollars through mismanagement.

The audit, which was released Jan. 6, criticizes A&M management for ignoring policies, procedures and laws.

"This breakdown in controls has contributed to poor decision making, ineffective use of resources, weak oversight of operations and a general lack of accountability," the audit said.

"The results have been increased costs of operations, unlawful activities by some members of executive management, in-

creased risks and liabilities associated with the System and University operations and negative publicity."

Barry Thompson, chancellor of the A&M System, said the audit's findings may cause legislators to closely monitor A&M during the session.

"I expect some negative impact," Thompson said. "We'll have to prove we are good servants of the finances that we're given."

Ray Bowen, president of A&M, said he expects any impact during the session to be minimal.

"It may have no impact," Bowen said. "This information has been available to the public for quite a while."

The audit cites examples of mismanagement over a two-year period, many of which received extensive media coverage when they occurred.

The audit criticizes the actions of Ross Margraves, former chairman of the Board of Regents, and Robert Smith, former vice-president of Finance and Administration, in negotiating a contract for the University's campus bookstore with Barnes & Noble Book-

stores, Inc.

Margraves resigned as board chairman in 1994 while under investigation by the Texas Rangers for illegally purchasing alcohol with state funds. Smith was convicted in November of soliciting gifts as a public servant.

The audit mentions the scrapped cogeneration power plant, which was to cost A&M \$75 to \$120 million, becoming the largest capital project in the University's history.

The audit faults management for beginning the project without knowing how much the plant

would cost or how it would be financed.

The project cost A&M \$15 million before the Board of Regents killed it, unfinished, in July.

The audit criticized management for its inattentiveness to warnings that John Bockris, distinguished professor of chemistry, and his associates were not following University policies in the Philadelphia Project, a research project reportedly attempting to turn base metals into gold.

"They failed to take timely ac-

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Amy Browning/ THE BATTALION

Voices of Praise perform in the MSC for a Martin Luther King Day celebration Monday afternoon.

Feud continues over King Center

ATLANTA (AP) — The nation remembered Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday amid a feud between his family and the National Park Service over who will preserve his memory and how.

At Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King was pastor, Dexter Scott King vowed to continue his father's work through economic opportunity, calling for a \$10 billion investment in the black community.

"My father had a dream. I too have a dream," the 33-year-old said in a Martin Luther King Day address. "My father delivered to his generation political freedom. I would like to deliver to my generation economic freedom."

More than 400 people packed the church, next door to the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change and the crypt that holds the body of the civil rights leader, who would have been 66 on Sunday.

The park service wants to build a museum and visitors center near the King Center. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and children want to create their own interactive museum.

The dispute prompted the

family to halt park service tours of King's birthplace. The service now shepherds tours past the home and presents a slide show at its own facility about a block away. The sides are to meet Saturday and discuss the disagreement.

The feud cropped up Monday in Dexter King's church speech, and in appearances on CNN and NBC by King and Troy Lissimore, the park service's superintendent of the King Historic Site.

Lissimore said he thinks the dispute could be worked out. But King, now president of the King Center, said the park service has falsely accused the family of trying to profit from his father's memory.

"Myself and my family have been accused of protecting our legacy, the King legacy," King said during the service. "Yet we did not wake up one morning and decide to start a company called Martin Luther King Jr. Inc."

Up to 700 marchers walked through downtown Memphis, Tenn., stopping at the Lorraine Motel, now the National Civil Rights Museum, where King was assassinated by a sniper on April 4, 1968.

Students, community reflect on MLK's goals

By Dana Jones
THE BATTALION

A crowd of about 200 gathered Monday night to reflect on the life and teachings of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and agreed that Texas A&M University must strive to attain King's ideals.

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A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen said Texas A&M University plays an active role in King's challenge to improve race relations through genuine care for all students.

"This university affirms the

place of diversity and accepts the challenge to change by Dr. King," Bowen said.

"When speaking on unity, Dr. King often challenged the United States of America, a nation of intelligent human beings, to use the power of our minds to help make this a better place to be," Bowen said.

"Martin Luther King Jr. delivered many messages to audiences across the country," Bowen said. "He believed people could live in communities of brotherly love in service to humanity."

Bowen said King's princi-

ples were centered around four basic ideas: conviction, commitment, unity and a sense of community.

"Dr. King believed that the path to change did not happen through violence but through a genuine understanding of humanity," Bowen said.

Shawn Williams, president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., challenged those who said King was one of their favorite Americans to go back and see what he stood for, what he caused and what change

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Student refuses to remove hat in MSC

By Dana Jones
THE BATTALION

As people all over the country reflected on Martin Luther King's birthday and the progress the United States has made in racial equality, Shawn Williams, president of the A&M chapter of the NAACP, wondered if Texas A&M University has actually made that much progress.

Williams said he believes his rights were violated when he was assaulted in the MSC for not removing his hat.

After walking into the MSC with his hat on

to check his mail, Williams was approached by two men who yelled at him to remove his hat, he said. Williams said that after telling them he would not remove his hat, they proceeded to remove his hat themselves.

Williams said the two men told him to go to a school that wanted him, said they hated him and continued to yell obscenities at him. Following the incident, Williams reported the assault to the University Police Department.

Williams said he believes he is exercising his First Amendment right of freedom of

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Gramm encourages change in America

Sen. Phil Gramm expects the Republican Congress to accomplish great change and discusses plans to run for president.

By Lynn Cook
THE BATTALION

Sen. Phil Gramm told city and county officials Monday that he will officially announce his candidacy for president on Feb. 24 in College Station. Gramm is a former A&M economics professor.

"I think that I'm in a good state of mind about this race. I have wanted to run for president since I first decided to get involved in the public powers and debate because I've always

wanted to change America," Gramm said.

Gramm said that election results prove that Americans know the government is in trouble and needs to change the way it does business. He said that this Republican Congress will try to reverse the 40 year trend of the "government answer."

"For the first time in my political career we have a Congress that has, as its principle pre-occupation, the well being of the people who do the work, pay the taxes

and pull the wagon in America," Gramm said.

Gramm met with officials from Brazos County and the cities of Bryan and College Station to discuss his expectations for the legislative session.

Gramm said that government mandates, a balanced budget, welfare and tax reform

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Robyn Calloway/ THE BATTALION

Sen. Phil Gramm spoke to the B/C/S Chamber of Commerce.

Investigation into A&M's minority funding policies

HOUSTON (AP) — The Justice Department is investigating an American Indian's charge that Texas A&M University unfairly denied her minority benefits at the school.

"We are reviewing the complaint," said Lee Douglass, a Justice Department spokesman.

Justice Department officials told the Houston Chronicle in Monday editions the policy could violate federal civil-rights laws governing educational institutions.

Rose Red Elk Hardman, 40, a senior social science student is challenging a common policy among state universities in Texas, which excludes American Indians and Asians from applying for state-funded minority financial aid.

"Most of them consider Native Americans minorities, but when it comes down to the money or recruiting, forget it," Hardman said.

Texas A&M and other universities point to policy guidelines set up by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as the reason the

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