



ONE LAST TIME

Five seniors play their last game at G. Rollie White tonight.

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TIME FOR A NEW PROPOSAL

Elchanan: Competing agendas on campus have prompted the creation of a more plausible plan.

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ART AT A&M

Three art galleries in the MSC give artists exposure on campus.

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THE BATTALION

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Law enforcement officials look to reduce accidents, increase tickets

The College Station Police Department will monitor areas where speeding is a problem.

By Kasie Byers
THE BATTALION

The College Station Police Department will begin cracking down on speeders today as part of program to reduce traffic accidents.

Last year 1,657 traffic accidents occurred in the College Station area.

The Speed Selective Traffic Enforcement Program will monitor four areas in College Station where speeding is a major problem.

The areas involved are Highway 6, the 100 through the 600 blocks of University Drive, FM 2818 from Dowling Road to the north city limits and FM 2818 from Highway 6 to Texas Avenue.

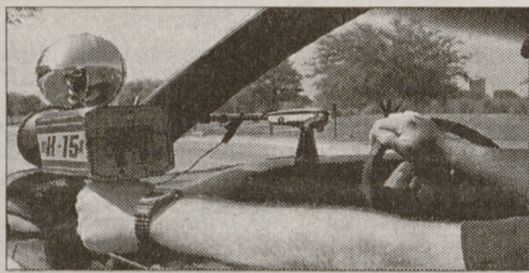
Speed STEP, which grants each city \$25,000, is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and ad-

ministered through the Texas Department of Transportation.

The program's goals are to reduce the number of speeding vehicles by five percent and to increase the number of citations and warnings given to speeders by 35 percent.

Lt. Scott McCollum of the College Station Police Department said Speed STEP will change how officers handle speeding violations.

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Bart Mitchell/THE BATTALION

A local police officer uses a radar gun to monitor motorists' speed.

Food court's success challenges dining facilities, local restaurants

The Underground Food Court has decreased business at other dining facilities and restaurants.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

The Underground Food Court's success has decreased business at some nearby restaurants and other on-campus dining facilities.

The food court opened Feb. 20, after more than a year of construction, with four fast-food restaurants: Whataburger, Chick-Fil-A, Alonti Deli and Taco Bueno.

Ron Beard, interim director of food services, said the response to the food court has been good.

"We are very encouraged," Beard said. "We're just delighted with the response from the students, faculty and staff."

Beard said the food court attracted students from everywhere on campus.

"There were a lot of people who said 'Let's go see the new place,'" Beard said. "I've talked to several people from Southside dorms that have come to the food court at least once."

Beard said the food court sales have caused a noticeable drop in business at some on-campus restaurants.

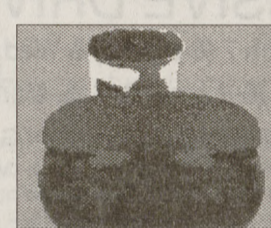
"We did see an affect in sales in the MSC, especially in Hullabaloo," Beard said. "There was also a dip in Sbisla, since some students opted to use their meal credits. The Bus Stop Snack Bar was also affected because it's only three blocks away."

But the new food court has some off-campus restaurants' attention too.

Nasser Hamdan, owner and manager of the M&M Grill, said the food court has had a large effect on his restaurant's sales.

"Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday business was not good," he said.

George Sopasakas, owner and manager of Burger Boy, said his business was affected slightly, but he expected the food court will have a greater effect on the on-campus restaurants.



"It has affected us a little," Sopasakas said. "I came to the conclusion that the University is really just redirecting their own traffic. We don't really worry about it."

Some restaurants are not affected at all.

Ahmed Motay, manager of the Northgate Cafe, said his restaurant has not been changed.

"It's had little or no effect," Motay said. "It's taken some business."

Bowen, Southerland hold open forums with students

A&M students can voice their concerns to University officials today.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

The president of Texas A&M and the vice president of student affairs are opening their doors to students today in an effort to find out what is on students' minds.

Students can meet with Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, and Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, today without an appointment to talk or ask questions.

Bowen's Open House is in his office on the eighth floor of Rudder from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Southerland's third Open Forum starts at 3 p.m. today and lasts approximately an hour and a half. It is in Rudder 404.

Bowen said he hopes students take advantage of the Open House and voice their concerns.

"I hope they are interested in the state budget and how we are going to support the library," he said, "and maybe even talk about baseball and basketball."

Jeff Wilson, student body vice president, said the Open House is an example of Bowen's openness to the student body.

"The new restructured administration has been so much better," Wilson said. "This Open House is something that is unheard of in higher education."

Bowen said he hosted a similar Open House at Oklahoma State and had a well-represented showing of students. There were 19,000 students at Oklahoma State and 300 showed for Open House, he said.

He said he hopes there is also a good showing at A&M today.

"I don't want to sit up here all by myself," Bowen said.

Southerland said he will not be concerned if many students do not attend his forum today.

"It's not my agenda," Southerland said. "They may not have any questions, but I want to be available if they do."

There have been two other open forums in the past. Last Fall, the open forum had to be rescheduled because Bonfire fell the day it was planned. About four or five people showed during the rescheduled event.

Wilson said not as many students attend as should.

"Who better to talk to than the vice president for student affairs or the president of A&M," he said.

Southerland's third Open Forum starts at 3 p.m. today and lasts approximately an hour and a half. It is in Rudder 404.

Southerland said the two events are on the same day by coincidence, but he will be attending Bowen's Open House before his own forum begins. The events have the same purpose of finding out more about students' concerns.

"It all relates together when you're at a school this size," Southerland said. "We're doing Open Forum and Chat and Chew and the president is doing Open House."

The Open Forum will be more formal than the Chat and Chew, Southerland said, and may be represented more by groups and organizations than individual students. However, anyone is welcome to come, he said.

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Nick Rodnicki/THE BATTALION

Celebrating culture

Brad Wilson, a junior political science major and Deven Rohrer, a sophomore geology major pose after being dressed in kimono, the tradi-

tional Japanese dress, at the Japan Club's booth in the MSC during International Week Tuesday afternoon.

Democrats hold out on balanced-budget amendment

Republicans make concessions to gain Democratic support but still come up short.

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a tense drama blending constitutional principle with raw politics, the Senate moved toward a show-down Tuesday on a balanced-budget amendment designed to end chronic federal deficits.

Republicans coughed up a last-minute concession barring federal judges from ordering tax hikes or spending cuts to balance the

budget, and pocketed two Democrat votes in return. Still short of the support necessary to prevail, they negotiated with other Democrats over companion legislation that would leave Social Security trust funds off-limits to budget-cutters.

"It's a cliffhanger," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, a leading supporter.

The centerpiece of the Republican revolution in Congress, the proposed amendment to the Constitution is designed to end the run-up in federal debt that exceeds \$4.8 trillion. It calls for a balanced budget by 2002 and re-

quires a three-fifths vote of both houses to run a deficit in future years. A similar measure cleared the GOP-controlled House in January. Senate passage would mean the House would have to vote on the newly modified version before submitting it to the states for ratification.

At the White House, President Clinton renewed his objections. Pressed on whether Clinton would campaign to defeat ratification in the states, press secretary Mike McCurry said the president would make sure state legislators "have the information they need to judge the merits."

Beutel discontinues overnight care

Officials say they offer many valuable services for students.

By Cheryl Heller
THE BATTALION

A&M students no longer have the option of staying overnight at the A.P. Beutel Health Center.

Until this semester, the health center provided overnight care for students who needed it, but the services were discontinued for financial reasons, Dr. Kenneth Dirks, director of the health center, said.

"We used to keep some students several days depending on how sick they were, but the service wasn't being utilized enough," he said. "We had on the average of zero to three students using the overnight services at a time and it was not cost-effective to have a full-time nurse to care for only a few students."

The center does have an observatory room where students can rest for several hours and remain under a

nurse's watch. Students needing overnight care must go to a hospital.

Sharon Arnold, assistant director of nursing services, said the health center, which receives funding from part of the student services fee, still offers a wide range of services for students for minimal charges.

"I don't think a lot of students realize the amount of services we actually provide for them," she said. "We have excellent facilities compared to what I've seen at other colleges and I think we provide an excellent level of care to students."

The center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and provides general care for sore throats, sprains, fractures and minor sutures, Arnold said.

An urgent care clinic, which provides services for students from 4 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. and on weekends, usually sees between 40 and 50 students a night, Arnold said.

"We won't turn anyone away," she said, "but we ask that students try to limit

themselves to urgent problems because we get really busy and sometimes we only have one doctor working."

The center also provides allergy injections to more than 300 students a week, Arnold said.

"They bring their orders, extracts and syringes and receive the injections for free, which is a really good arrangement for them," she said.

The center provides workman's compensation benefits for employees who suffer minor injuries on campus and provides courtesy care to visitors who are in sports tournaments on campus, Arnold said.

"We charge them what we charge our own students," she said.

The center also provides counseling services for students suffering from stress or eating disorders, Arnold said, and refers them to the counseling center or outpatient services.

The health education department provides peer education and classes on various

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