

## TWO IN A ROW

The Lady Aggies look back on another successful season.

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## AMERICANS CAN'T DRIVE 55

Hall: Speed limit on Texas highways and interstates should be increased to 70 miles per hour.

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## WILD SEED—WILD FLOWER

Dionne Farris steps out from the shadows of Arrested Development.

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# THE BATTALION

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

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## Faculty Senate approves pedestrian crossing, library funding

### The proposed walkway will cross Welborn Road and increase pedestrian safety.

By Tracy Smith  
THE BATTALION

In an effort to lessen hazards for West Campus students and faculty walking to and from classes, the Faculty Senate approved Monday the construction of a pedestrian crossing on Welborn Road.

The resolution allows for construction of an aesthetically pleasing and well-lighted underpass at the inter-

section of Welborn Road and Old Main Drive.

Dr. Thomas Craig, veterinary medicine faculty senator, stressed the need for a crossing because of the surge of business students and faculty walking to West Campus every day.

"By nature, anyone who has had to walk across the street at that intersection will understand the need for a pedestrian crossing," Craig said. "It all comes down to safety for our students and our faculty."

The Senate noted that the railroad posed another safety hazard for students and faculty and that more students have been crawling under or between railroad cars lately.

Dr. Pierce Cantrell, deputy speaker of the Faculty Senate, said the Student Senate approved a similar resolution for safer West Campus road crossings.

"The business school brings about

8,000 more students and faculty to West Campus each day," he said. "We need to act now before another 50 years goes by."

Several senators agreed that they need to move quickly with the resolution.

"We need to alleviate this problem by moving ahead with this resolution," one senator said. "College Station and Texas A&M have a history of not solving problems right away."

"I don't want this to be one problem the University is still debating into the next century."

Craig said the planning committee chose an underpass instead of an overpass because more students will use it.

"We have an overpass crossing right now and many people have noticed that it is used mainly by joggers," he said. "There is a trivial difference in cost between the two so we are pushing

for the underpass."

Dr. Arthur Hobbs, an associate mathematics professor, was unable to attend the meeting but previously spoke in favor of an underpass.

**"By nature, anyone who has had to walk across the street at that intersection will understand the need for a pedestrian crossing."**

— Dr. Thomas Craig

Veterinary medicine faculty senator

Craig said the planning committee does not have an estimate for the crossing yet.

The Senate also approved an emergency resolution for additional funding for the Sterling C. Evans Library to let it meet the needs of academic and research programs.

The A&M Student Senate approved a similar resolution Feb. 23 supporting the administration's proposal of a library fee that would be phased in over the next three years beginning Sept. 1.

The fee would start at \$2 per semester hour in 1996 and increase to \$3 per semester hour in 1997 and \$4 per semester hour in 1998.

The resolution stated that Texas A&M, in comparison to its peer institutions, ranks third in student enrollment, seventh in research dollars and 53rd in library expenditures.



Bart Mitchell/THE BATTALION

## JUMP!

Heath Smith, a resident of College Station jumps his skateboard over a brick wall by the H2O fountain near the Chemistry building late Monday afternoon.

## Students volunteer to teach A&M employees to read, write

### Aggie Literacy Volunteers tutor employees in basic English skills.

By Lisa Messer  
THE BATTALION

Through a new program aimed at fighting illiteracy, student volunteers will be teaching A&M staff members how to read and write English.

Aggie Literacy Volunteers, a student chapter of the Brazos Valley Literacy Volunteers of America, will tutor A&M employees in basic English reading and writing skills.

Anya Martin, president of Aggie Literacy Volunteers and a senior agricultural economics major, said volunteers will begin tutoring employees in late March.

Twenty-two students have gone through two eight-hour training sessions.

Mary Elam, the volunteer coordinator with LVA, said their organization had difficulty starting the program on its own.

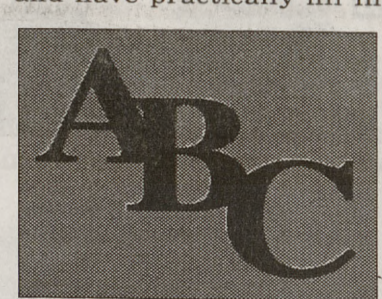
"Our tutors couldn't park on campus," Elam said. "They didn't know their way around and a lot of them just didn't feel comfortable."

"We thought if we created a student group, it would be

really convenient. They would already be on campus and students would have weird schedules just like employees do."

Martin said most of the employees will come to the program to learn English as a second language.

"Most people are going to be Spanish-speaking," Martin said. "Some will have verbal skills in English but won't be able to read English and have practically nil in



writing skills.

"Others won't be able to read or write in English or Spanish."

Martin said most of the employees will be sent to the program through the University's General Education Diploma and Adult Basic Education classes.

"The GED and ABE classes are full, with people on waiting lists," Martin said. "Also, some people can't do the work in those classes because the work is set on a 12th-grade level."

Martin said many of the employees expressing an interest in the classes work in maintenance, the Physical Plant and Food Services.

"There is a stigma attached to certain jobs that a certain level of education isn't needed," Martin said, "but that's not true."

"If you mix two solutions that shouldn't be mixed because you can't read the warning labels, you can come back with burns. A&M is trying to erase that stigma and raise the standard."

Ken Reeves, staff assistant for the Department of food services, said he has received a good response to Aggie Literacy Volunteers from Food Services employees.

"We're still waiting for a specific number, but I assume quite a few will be interested," Reeves said. "We've already had a good number graduate from the GED program."

"We encourage our employees to take advantage of programs like these. They're to benefit themselves and advance themselves in their own careers."

Reeves said he likes the idea of students teaching employees.

"This is one of those things you can do to get involved," Reeves said. "It's a great sacrifice for students to give something back to the people who serve them."

## Improved parking won't come without a price, PTTTS says

### Increased parking fees will pay for campus parking improvements.

By Cheryl Heller  
THE BATTALION

Student requests for improved parking may result in an increase in parking fees.

Tom Williams, director of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, said the department has started improving parking conditions mostly because of students' complaints.

But, Williams said, the only way to get money for the improvements is by increasing parking fees.

Williams said the parking fees have not increased during the six years he has been at Texas A&M.

"Parking fee increases are only asked for when they're needed, and students generally don't mind them if they can see where their money is going," he said. "They'll be able to see the improvements on existing lots and the construction of new garages."

Projects are currently underway to upgrade the lighting in 15 parking areas, most of them on west campus, and to improve faculty and staff parking at the Wehner College of Business Administration Building and the Reynolds Medical Building.

Parking spaces are also being creat-

ed on Agronomy Road for veterinary and biomedical sciences students and 500 spaces are being built at the Recreational Sports Center.

Other plans include expanding Zachry and the veterinary school parking lot. Adding special events center parking, a west campus sports field parking lot, a library parking garage and a west campus parking garage are also included in the plan.

J.D. Cole, Student Senate's student services chairman, is proposing to Student Senate a campus parking improvements bill supporting the proposed fee increases.

"Parking is something that students have registered a lot of complaints about," he said. "We support what

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Roger Hsieh/THE BATTALION

Parking lots next to G. Rollie White and the tennis courts are consistently being packed during school hours.

## Dollar tumbles once again while Fed sits on sidelines

### The Federal Reserve is not expected to raise interest rates.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The dollar plunged to a third straight record low against the Japanese yen Monday and sank against other currencies as well. Despite the global dumping, the Federal Reserve was not expected to raise interest rates.

Private economists said a Fed rate hike in the current

turmoil was extremely unlikely unless the dollar's decline turns into a free fall that roils U.S. stock and bond markets.

"The Fed isn't going to jack up rates just because the dollar is under pressure," said Bruce Steinberg, an economist at Merrill Lynch in New York. "This is not a crisis even though the dollar is going to be searching for a bottom over the

See **Dollar**, Page 8

## Silver Taps

The Silver Taps ceremony will be tonight at 10:30 p.m. in front of the Academic Building.

The ceremony is in memory of two Texas A&M students who have died since the last ceremony.

Those being honored in this month's ceremony are Stephen Mark Brewer, a senior physics major from Nash, and Diana Sharon Stepan, a senior petroleum engineering major from Hempstead.

In keeping with the tradition of Silver Taps, which dates back almost a century, the campus will be hushed and darkened at 10:20 p.m. In memory of the deceased students, the Ross Volunteers will fire a volley salute and buglers will play a special arrangement of "Taps."



## AGGIE BATTERS '95

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**LADY AGGIE SOFTBALL**

**TEXAS AGGIE BASEBALL**

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• Baseball page 11  
Player profiles —  
Chad Alexander, Kristy Bunting, Merry Mapp, Ryan Kopp and others  
Photo highlights —  
pages 6 & 7

## 1995 Season Guide Inside Today

The Texas A&M men's baseball and women's softball teams are gearing up for the 1995 season.