

# THE BATTALION

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## REVITALIZING NORTHGATE

### Plans for the renovation project should be ready for adoption by September.

revitalization project.

The Northgate Revitalization Project, a \$500,000 plan to redevelop the area, also includes the proposals for creating more pedestrian access, developing an urban mall and improving streets.

Research on the project was done by Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum Inc. of Dallas for the city of College Station. The city presented the information last night in the first step of the revitalization.

City Councilman Hubbard Kennedy said the council ranks Northgate as its No. 1 issue for 1995.

Joe Pobiner, director of planning for

HOK, said that specific plans in response to the research findings have not been formulated yet.

"You can't talk about Northgate as one animal," Pobiner said. "There are several issues at once. We want to understand how Northgate works. We haven't reinvented anything yet."

Northgate is defined as the area bound by College Avenue on the east, University Drive on the south, Wellborn on the west and the Bryan city limits on the north.

One of the difficulties the Northgate area faces is that three of these boundaries are state-owned roads, Pobiner

said. So College Station can't decide, without state approval, to improve or change the surfaces.

Other problem areas identified by research are pedestrian traffic, drainage, promotion of Northgate and the image of Northgate.

HOK researched the historical resources of Northgate and conducted a survey of 22 Northgate merchants in order to understand the dynamics of the area.

The historical resource survey categorizes the structures in Northgate as high priority, medium priority or low priority for preservation based on age, historical

association and architectural integrity.

Kennedy said one incentive for Northgate revitalization is that tourism has outranked oil and gas as the No. 1 industry in Texas.

Building the George Bush Presidential Library Complex at Texas A&M will draw even more tourists, Kennedy said.

He said that when George Bush visits College Station, his hosts avoid Northgate because it is an eyesore.

"It will take time to take our most visible eyesore and turn it into the community treasure that I think it can be—that the council thinks it can be," Kennedy said.

Pobiner said there is not enough parking for businesses on Northgate.

He said the problem is complicated because needs for long-term parking for University students, short-term parking for retail business customers and parking for residents are concentrated in one small area.

Pobiner discovered that parking control signs are often ignored.

"When you get a parking permit from A&M, it's really what you could call a 'hunting license,'" he said. "I've seen cars parked in one-hour spaces all day long."

According to the research, another problem is pedestrian traffic on University Drive.

Solutions to alleviate the problem must be weighed against the effects they would have on the flow of automobile traffic, Pobiner said.

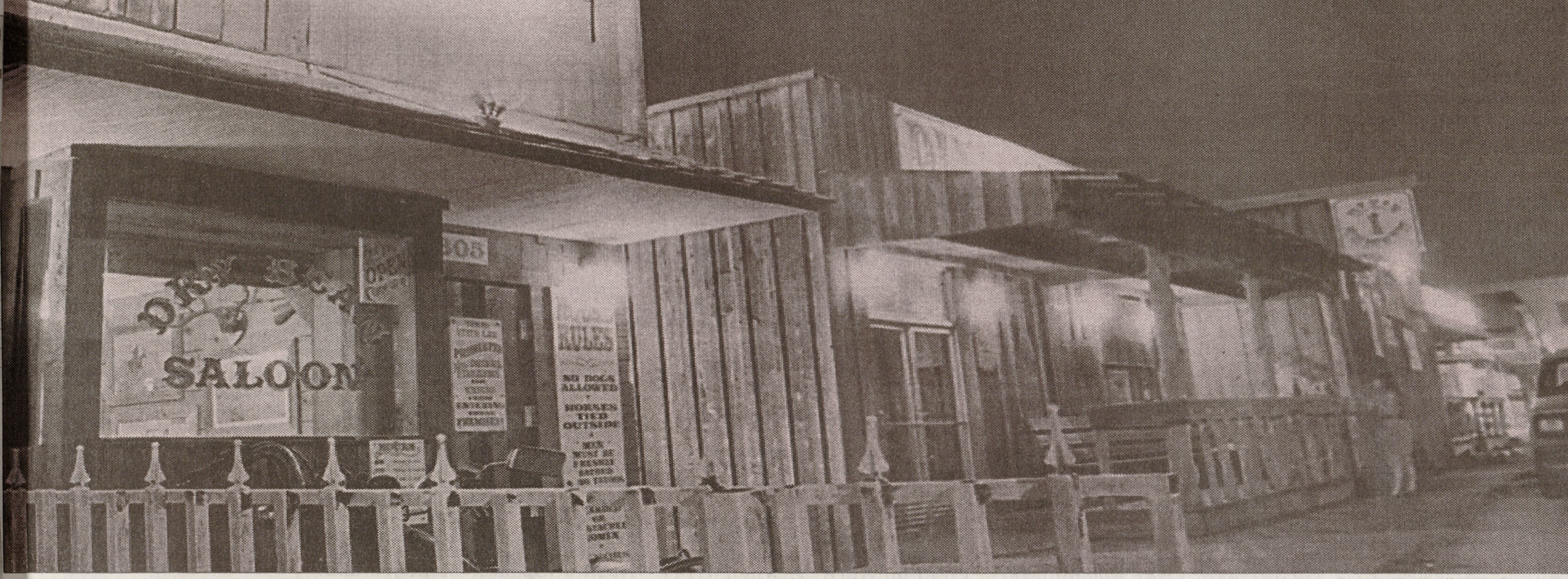
Todd McDaniel, College Station policy analyst and Northgate project coordinator, said the goal is to improve many facets of Northgate while preserving its historical character and downtown atmosphere.

The plans College Station and HOK are developing will be presented at meetings in mid-June, late July and late August.

Pobiner said a final Northgate revitalization plan could be ready for adoption by September.

Tara Wilkinson  
THE BATTALION

Parking is the primary problem faced by Northgate merchants, according to recent studies on the area's



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

### A&M students react to concealed handgun bill

University police say firearms still prohibited from campus.

Michael Simmons  
THE BATTALION

On Jan. 1 it will be legal to carry concealed handguns in Texas, but the state law prohibiting weapons on school property will keep guns off the Texas A&M campus, University Police said.

Bob Wiatt, University Police Department director, said he opposed the passage of the bill that allows licensed Texas residents to carry concealed handguns.

"There will be people who will bring guns on campus, and they will suffer the consequences of that act," Wiatt said.

Wiatt said that new law may also

introduce new problems when concealed handguns are taken to large spectator events, like football games and Bonfire or places where alcoholic beverages are served.

"If someone has had too much to drink, a concealed gun endangers the community," Wiatt said. "Officers are put in a defensive position on routine acts like traffic violations."

Kim Walter, coordinator of student judicial services, said she is also concerned about the possibility of students bringing firearms on campus.

"There have been several instances where concerned parents have called, wanting to know if their daughter or son can bring a gun to school," Walter said. "But under the University regulations, A&M does not allow them on campus."

During the past year, the Student Conflict Resolution Center responded to fewer than 50 instances of firearm violations, she said.

"For the most part, they resulted

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University Police Department

### Twelfth Man Plaza project will raise \$5.4 million

Endowment fund is part of the all-University Capturing the Spirit Campaign.

Tara Wilkinson  
THE BATTALION

The Twelfth Man statue, located outside of Kyle Field is now the central feature of the Twelfth Man Plaza.

Three granite walls, which honor people who contributed money to the Texas A&M football team, are being built near the statue.

John David Crow, director of development for the Athletic Department, said a wall on one side of the statue will list offensive football positions and the name of the person who endowed money for the department.

A defensive line endowment wall is on the other side of the statue, and a smaller wall, behind the statue, represents the head football coach position.

A name on the player position walls requires a contribution of \$100,000. Recognition on the head coach endowment wall requires a contribution of \$3 million.

The entire project, which Crow said

the 12th Man Foundation and the Athletic Department have been developing for more than two years, will raise \$5.4 million. It is part of the all-University Capturing the Spirit Campaign.

Crow said only one individual will be associated with each position on the wall.

"The quarterback position has already been endowed," he said. "So, for example, if Bucky Richardson, A&M former student and quarterback for the Houston Oilers, wants to be a part of the project, I'd hope to talk him into another position."

Ten player-position endowments have been made, Crow said, and one more has been spoken for but has not been finalized.

Crow said the function of the endowment fund is different and separate from the 12th Man Foundation scholarship funds.

"The funds generated are not necessarily scholarship," Crow said. "The money will maintain the position it is designated for and the football team in general. It can go toward things like helmets and pads, or it can be used in the academic arena for things like tutorial services, as the athletic director sees fit."

Crow said he wants to eventually have similar endowment monuments for other A&M sports.



Roger Hsieh, THE BATTALION

The Twelfth Man Plaza is located at the north end of Kyle Field.

The goal to finish the Twelfth Man Plaza is set for the first football game of the season, Crow said.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to have an official unveiling at that time with representatives of everyone who is honored on the wall there," he said.

Crow said the message the plaza will send is clear.

"It will let the world know—and when I say the world, I mean the Aggie world—that there are a number of people out there who are very happy with what's gone on here," he said.

### Bowen looks back on first year in office

A&M's president enjoys working with current and former students.

Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

Dr. Ray Bowen sits quietly in his office in Rudder Tower, the expansive campus stretching behind him in the view of his eighth-floor window. It is a view that Bowen has become quite familiar with.

Bowen said it has been an interesting year since he became Texas A&M president in June 1994.

He walked right into a brewing controversy and has been given a "baptism by fire" in a year filled with constant negative publicity for the third-largest university in the nation, he said.

The controversy started almost immediately, when four Texas A&M Board of Regents employees were indicted for tampering with government documents in an

attempt to disguise alcohol purchases as food and beverage purchases.

The controversy continued in November when the former vice president for finance and administration, Robert Smith, was convicted for soliciting gifts as a public servant, and again in January 1995 when state auditors criticized Texas A&M System administrators for wasting money and violating several policies and laws.

Regardless of the storm of controversy that has surrounded his first year, Bowen said he has never been ready to give up.

"There have been plenty of times when it's hectic and when I wish I didn't have a certain set of problems," Bowen said. "But it seems like every time I almost get to the point that I wonder what a mess I'm in, something funny or exciting happens. It's an interesting mix of highs and lows."

He added that while he has been a key figure in the University's image, he hasn't felt he was under any extra pressure.

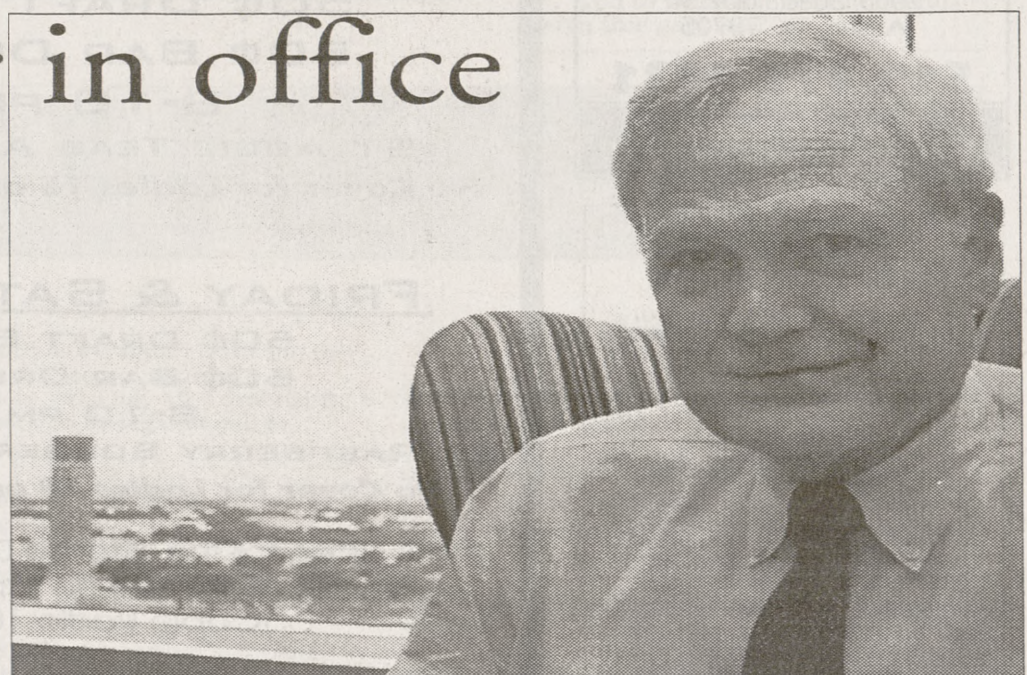
"I think that all university presidents are watched very closely," Bowen said. "We had some relationships with the

media that were difficult, and people were curious about how I would handle and relate to them. I'm not sure it's any worse than it would have been anywhere else, given the contexts under which I came in."

The hectic nature of Bowen's job is evident in his daily schedule. He is routinely in meetings and receives a horde of correspondence every day, which he and his staff try to answer. When out of his office, Bowen is usually out drumming up support for the University with groups like the Development Foundation or former students.

Bowen said that the interaction with former students, as well as current students, is the highlight of his job.

"Current students are always very interested in what you're doing, what's going on and always have a lot of questions," he said. "Former students love the place so much that they like to get around and tell you 'You better not mess this



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Today marks Dr. Ray Bowen's first year as A&M president. Bowen overlooks campus from his office on the eighth floor of Rudder Tower.

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