

THE BATTALION

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Mike Friend, THE BATTALION

The Animal Science Beef Center is located on FM 60 adjacent to the Brazos River. Brushy Creek residents fear further development may cause water contamination and air pollution.

Brushy Creek residents fight research complex

Residents look to raise an additional \$2,000 to file an injunction against the University.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

Brushy Creek residents have planned fundraisers to pay for an injunction against the building of Texas A&M's Animal Science Teaching, Research and Extension Complex.

Residents will hold a garage sale July 29 and a barbecue August 26.

Thirty-five members of Residents Opposed to Pigs and Livestock raised \$3000 last month toward an injunction against the University's

plans to build the 1,600-animal teaching and research complex in Brushy Creek because they are concerned about water contamination and air pollution.

The cost of filing an injunction is \$5,000. If a judge decides the injunction merits a hearing, residents estimate legal costs could reach \$15,000.

Dr. Ruth Schaffer, Texas A&M professor emeritus of sociology and resident of Brushy Creek, said all money raised from a garage sale and barbecue will be used in the fight against the building of the complex.

Grover Hankins, professor at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, is providing legal counsel to the Brushy Creek residents.

"We would like to negotiate a rea-

sonable settlement between the University and Brushy Creek residents," he said.

Residents want University officials to prove it is safe to build the animal complex in Brushy Creek, Hankins said, or agree not to build.

"If we seek an injunction, I'm sure a judge would consider it," Hankins said. "The community has been encroached upon because of a permitting process that is ruthless."

Hankins said University activity in Brushy Creek, including an operating Beef Industry Center, already has left deep wells and sand mines that "look like the Grand Canyon."

Although Brushy Creek residents are concerned about the additional mess and heavy traffic the complex would bring to the area, they said a

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Faculty Senate

Group proposes adding credit hours to education certification

Changes must be approved by Dr. Ray Bowen and the Commission on Teaching Standards

By Katherine Arnold
THE BATTALION

The Faculty Senate recommended changes in the secondary education teacher certification program yesterday, which would give students more experience for teaching in a changing society.

The changes involve redesigning the required courses for certification, changing the prefixes and course descriptions on five 400-level teacher education classes, and changing the course credit for student teaching from 12 hours to nine-12 hours.

Overall, three credit hours have been added to the current course requirements.

Stan Carpenter, a faculty senator for the College of Education, said the changes will help the education system adapt to a changing society.

"We have to develop our curriculum in ways different from other colleges," Carpenter said. "It's a new ball game in education, and we need to train our teachers in different ways."

William Peters, professor of ed-

ucation, said the reforms in teacher certification came after three years of deliberation.

"We have worked with each of the academic departments, faculty members and secondary education teachers to come up with this plan," he said. "We have a good program now, but this program will be the only one of its nature in the state."



Bowen

The program is outlined in four phases. In the first phase, students seeking teacher certification become familiar with working with adolescents by working with youth groups. In the second phase, students

learn about teaching in today's society.

The last two phases involve developing problem-solving and decision-making skills to devise methods to meet the educational demands of society.

The new course outline will involve much more work in the field, Peters said. Students will begin working with adolescents as early as their freshman year.

Diane Kaplan, deputy speaker of the Senate, said the reforms

will create a better balance in the certification process.

"We are trying to provide a better balance between becoming an expert in the subject material and helping future teachers be able to communicate and interact with their students," she said.

The reforms now must be approved by Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president. The plan will also be considered Thursday by the Commission on Teaching Standards, the state agency that must approve the plan.

The Faculty Senate approved the following other actions for Bowen's approval.

- Creating eight new graduate courses.

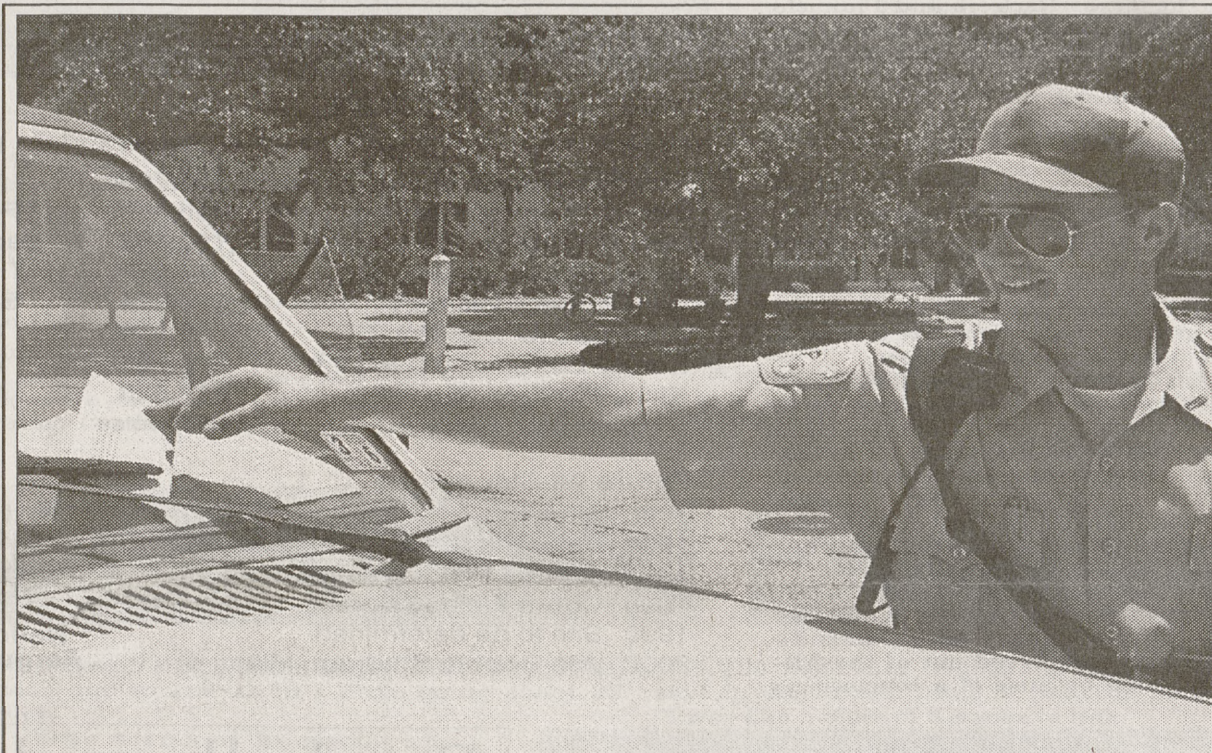
- Creating one new undergraduate course.

- Changing the Genetics 320 course name from Human Genetics to Biomedical Genetics, and changing the course description to focus on genetics as applied to biomedical science.

- Changing the Vocational Education Program within the Department of Educational Psychology to Career Development Education.

- Changing the name for the Department of Marine Engineering to Department of Marine Engineering Technology.

- Revising the criteria for tenure and promotion consideration for faculty members.



Nick Rodnicki, THE BATTALION

LOOK FAMILIAR?

PTTS officer and animal science student Jon Peters kept busy Monday issuing tickets to parking violators. This vehicle was illegally parked on Spence Street in front of the Agriculture Building.

International Student Services ensures quality of academic life

The program helps international students adjust to student life in the United States and at Texas A&M.

By Javier Hinojosa
THE BATTALION

International students have help available to them with any problems they encounter. That friend is International Student Services.

Suzanne Drolesky, director of International Student Services, said the program is responsible for making sure the quality of life for international students at A&M meets or beats the students' expectations.

As non-immigrant visa holders, international students must comply with a broad range of government regulations.

Those regulations become difficult to deal with because the rules are complicated, change frequently and are interpreted differently by separate agencies.

"It's like swimming in a pool full of things you're not sure are out there," Drolesky said. "There may be sharks in the water, or places so deep you can drown. There are people out here, sitting in a boat who can say, 'Hop in the boat and let us explain to you how to get through this uncertain territory.'"

International students have many documents such as visas and passports they must keep up-to-date.

"It is not a difficult thing to forget," she said. "It's easy for someone to wake up a couple of months after one of the expiration dates and

say 'Oh no!'"

There are many mechanisms out there that are designed to keep international students' visas in status.

"We are about to change over to a system where we can actually send international students notices when, according to our records, their passports are about to expire or their status has been breached," she said.

Victoria Saha, immigration specialist, said a computer database is being developed that will handle all the notifications. The database could be ready to use as early as this fall.

"We are currently working on [the database] with Computing Information Services, but we're not exactly sure how long it will be before we can use it," Saha said.

Drolesky said international students work hard to understand the regulations.

"It can be very complicated," Drolesky said. "An international student is faced with having to understand all the University regulations that apply to everyone and the many immigration regulations that have an impact on their lives. Sometimes those two things are almost working against each other."

International students must be full-time students and have special immigration permission to enroll. They can jeopardize their immigration status by dropping below 12 hours at any point during the semester.

International students who fall out of status are not eligible for a broad number of benefits offered by the immigration program. This includes practical training experiences, in which the students work for six months before return-

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Texas Legislature grants A&M's College of Medicine \$1 million

Funds will be used to increase the college's yearly enrollment, allowing more students to train for family medicine.

By Javier Hinojosa
THE BATTALION

A \$1 million grant from the Texas Legislature will allow the Texas A&M College of Medicine to increase the college's yearly student enrollment and expand the Texas A&M Health Science Center in Temple.

The current size of each class is 48 students. Over the next four years, the college will admit freshmen classes of 64 students.

Enrollment in the College of Medicine will be 256 in the Fall of 1999.

Janice Mauren, director of public affairs for the College of Medicine, said the college's administrators felt an enrollment increase was important for the college's future.

The College of Medicine's facilities originally were made to accommodate class sizes of 100.

Because of the increase in class size, microscopes and other laboratory equipment will be purchased, and the gross anatomy lab will be upgraded.

Dr. Kelly Hester, associate dean for the College of Medicine's academic affairs, said the increase will allow the college to train more physicians for family medicine, which is a primary need of the

state and nation.

"We have a history of producing a large number of students that go into primary care specialties," Hester said.

"By increasing the class size, you increase the number of students that choose those areas just by the nature of our curriculum."

More than 55 percent of A&M medical students chose to specialize in primary care in 1995, and 25 percent went into family medicine.

The College of Medicine provides students with the opportunity to interact with general practitioners, internal specialists and pediatricians.

Hester said faculty members specializing in clinical medicine will be hired so the college can maintain its small student-to-faculty ratio.

Medical students study at the Temple campus after their second year and complete their clinical studies at Darnell Army Community Hospital, Scott & White Memorial Hospital and Clinic and Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center.

During this time they integrate what is learned in the classroom and what is learned working in hospital wards.

Despite the growth in enrollment, Hester said the College of Medicine will not change its mission.

"We're just going to have the opportunity to better what we're doing now," he said. "When the school was first started, the initial thought was that there was going to be 96 to 100 students when we reached our maximum."

There is no specific plan. However, I think that a lot of what is going to happen in the future is going to depend on our continued success and what we do now."

CAMPUS PROGRAMS

