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T E X A S A & M U N I V E R S I T Y THE BATTALION

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Senate investigates impact of ASL classes at A&M

The group will determine costs of offering American Sign Language classes and in which college or department to locate the program.

By Katherine Arnold
THE BATTALION

A study examining the financial impact and feasibility of having American Sign Language (ASL) classes at Texas A&M will be conducted by the Faculty Senate. Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, approved the creation of the classes that will satisfy foreign language requirements for bachelor of arts degrees.

Dr. Steve Oberhelman, head of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and chairman of the Faculty Senate's Academic Affairs Committee, said the study will determine in which department the program should be located and the potential sources of funding for the ASL program.

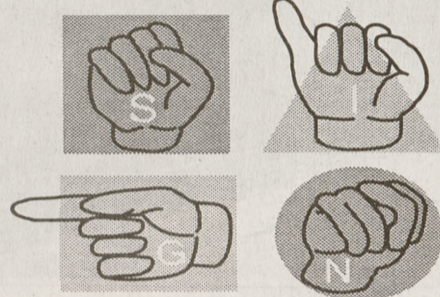
"Right now we need to find the proper place for ASL courses, whether it be in the speech communications department, the College of Education or somewhere else," he said. "We also need to look at how much it will

cost to get a lecturer or create a tenure-track position and get any laboratory equipment necessary."

Transfer students who took ASL courses at other schools were having difficulty in transferring the hours to A&M, Oberhelman said.

The program will allow ASL courses to transfer from other universities and create a four-semester sequence of ASL courses at A&M.

It will also allow the classes to satisfy foreign language requirements for students pursuing their bachelor of arts de-



gauge requirements for students pursuing their bachelor of arts de-

See ASL, Page 6

Faculty tenure changes propose creating a more general list of criteria

The Faculty Senate supports the recommended changes to the faculty tenure and promotion evaluation criteria.

By Katherine Arnold
THE BATTALION

Teaching and international research are the focus of proposed changes to a section of the Texas A&M Policy and Procedures Manual that outlines examples of criteria used in evaluating faculty members for tenure and promotion.

The criteria for evaluating faculty members is separated into three categories: teach-

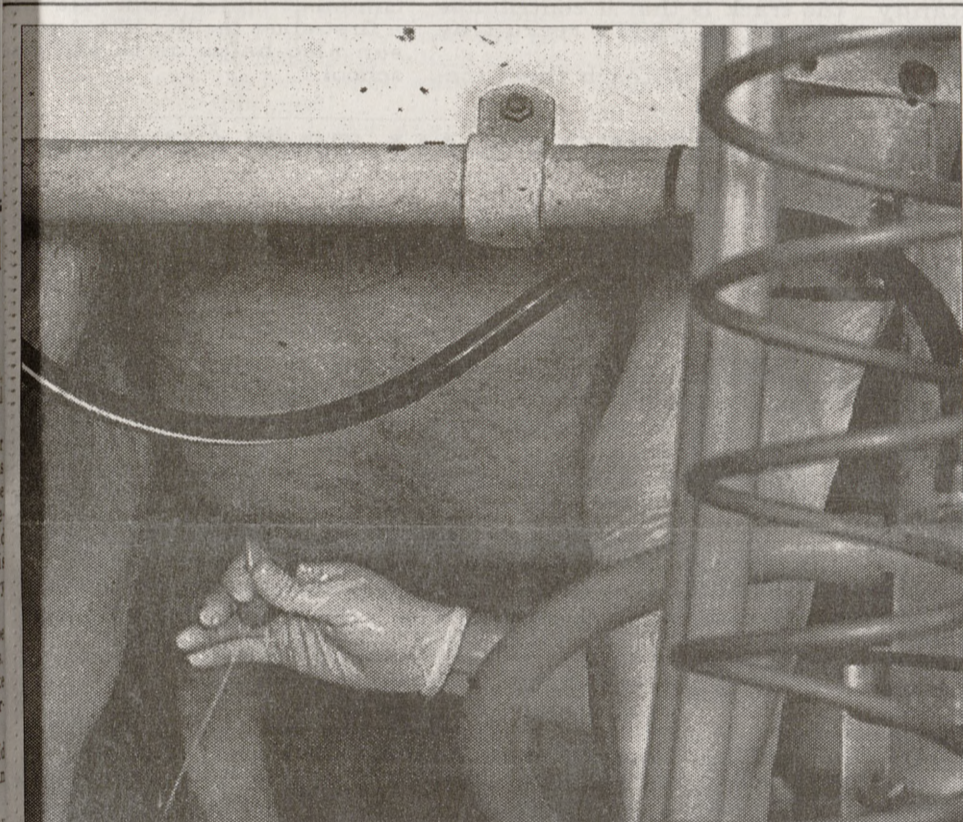
ing, scholarly activities and service. Each category is then separated into indicators of excellence and effectiveness.

Dr. Steve Oberhelman, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, said most of the changes propose creating a more general list of criteria to encompass more colleges.

"The changes will not substantially change the way faculty members are evaluated," he said. "Not all categories fit all individuals anyway, but we wanted to eliminate criteria that were specific to certain colleges."

The changes proposed by the Faculty Senate are to the University's general policy regulating tenure and promotion for all colleges. Each department will continue to maintain specific criteria for evaluating faculty mem-

See TENURE, Page 6



Nick Rodnicki, THE BATTALION

IT DOES A BODY GOOD

Dairy Parlor employee Brian Spittler checks each cow's udder for operation before hooking up the milking machine. Dairy cattle at the Milking Parlor are milked twice daily at 4 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Physical plant completes phase one of parking lot construction

Lots will be closed again for resurfacing through July 21.

By Michael Simmons
THE BATTALION

Parking, Transit and Traffic Services is attempting to minimize the inconvenience of repairs to student and faculty parking lots on campus.

Several campus lots have been under construction since June 26. The repairs are part of an ongoing project to refurbish the campus parking lots and prevent costly resurfacing in the future.

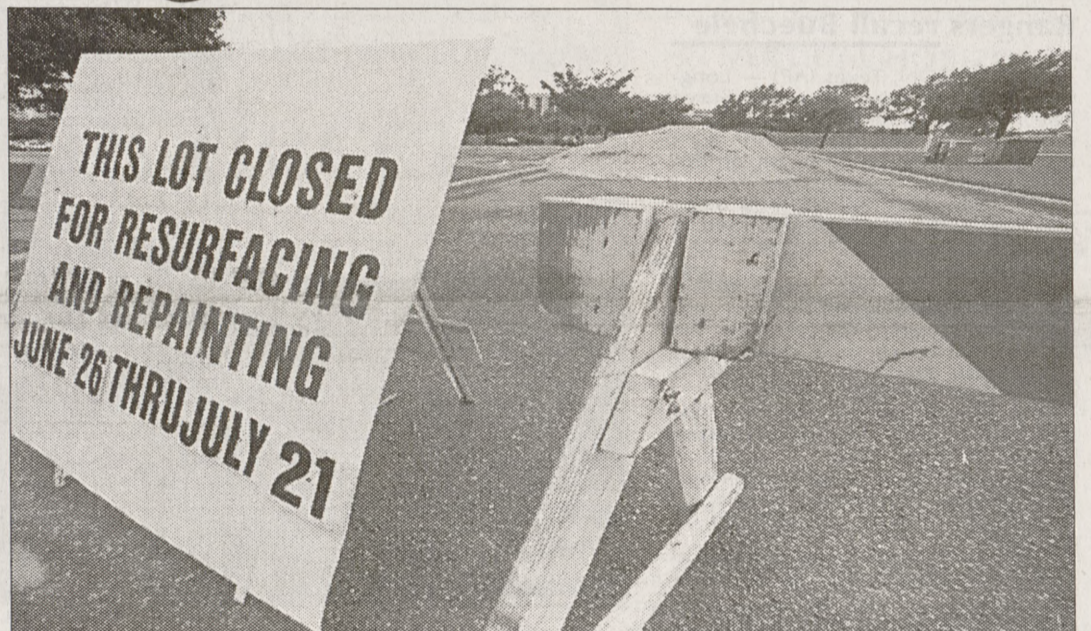
Thomas Williams, PITS director, said the older lots on campus, which are now 8-10 years old, need to be rejuvenated.

"All the central and West Campus parking lots had to be resurfaced," Williams said, "so we are trying to save the other lots before they get out of hand."

The base repairs have been completed on parking lot 50, behind the Zachry Engineering Center and on lot 88, next to Duncan Field.

The next stage of the project, putting a sealant on these lots, began July 17. The sealant, which will help the asphalt last longer, is a mixture of sand, oil, asphalt and rubber and is being used on campus for the first time.

"We are having trouble getting the



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Zachry parking lot is partially closed due to resurfacing and repainting. Williams blamed the slow construc-

tion process on the inability to find a mix that will successfully set on the campus parking lots.

See CONSTRUCTION, Page 6

Students receive Outstanding Teamwork Award at Sunrayce '95

Observers of Sunrayce '95 said A&M's team showed spirit and determination throughout the nine-day trek.

By Javier Hinojosa
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M engineering students received the Outstanding Teamwork Award at Sunrayce '95, a 1,150-mile race for solar-powered vehicles.

Thirty-eight universities from across the United States competed in the race from Indianapolis, Ind. to Golden, Colo.

Work on the Aggiebeamer, one of the cars operated by the A&M team, began a year and a half ago and took the combined effort of more than 150 engineering students to design and build.

A group of A&M marketing students and Dr. Howard Chamberlain, an associate professor of management, were involved in the project's planning and marketing.

Tracy Bates, a senior electrical engineering major and part of the Aggiebeamer crew, said the teamwork award was based on evaluations made by observers who accompanied the team during the race.

"They noticed the way we worked together and how we followed the rules," she said. "When it came down to pick the recipient of the award, they put up a big fight for us."

Dr. Tom Talley, an adjunct associate professor of electrical engineering, said he and Dr. Tim Coppinger, a professor of engineering technology, wanted the students to learn from the competition.

"We left them alone," Talley said. "After three days, they had to weld into a team

that was well-organized and self-directed." The A&M team was able to learn from the race because they hit hard times the second day of the race, Talley said.

"It was tough because they burned all their [solar] energy," Talley said. "They wound up 10 minutes before the finish line with no energy and no time. It broke everybody's heart. You just wanted to cross the finish line so bad you could taste it."

Talley said that at that point, the team was either going to fall apart or come together and pull through.

Talley said there was no sunlight for about 20 to 30 miles the next day. The team sent a scout ahead to find a spot of sun so they could charge the car.

"That required a lot of communication," Talley said. "They came out a team after that."

"Like good Aggies, they didn't quit. It showed a lot of class. The way they performed that day made it possible to win the award."

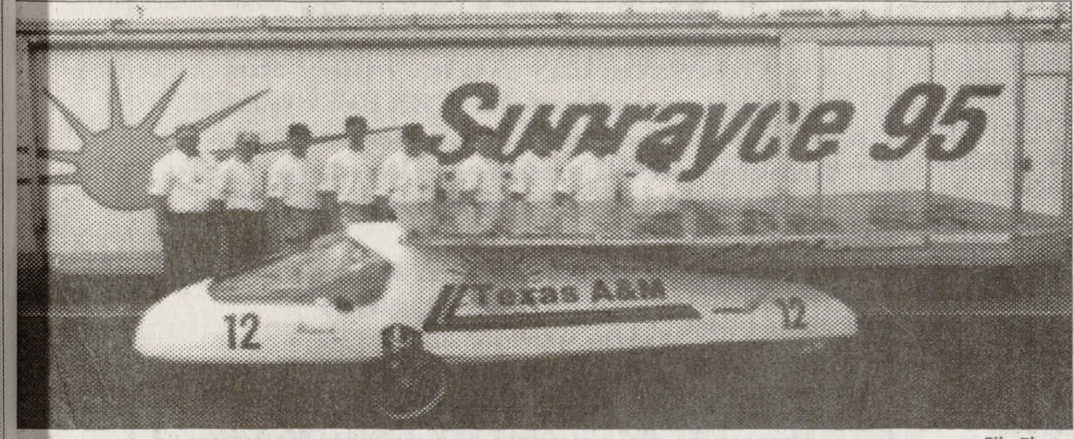
The availability of manpower worked against the A&M team, which consisted of six students, while other top-finishing teams had about 25 members.

Tom Trask, a senior electrical engineering major and member of the team, said despite the crew size, they were able to make decisions quickly and effectively concerning the four vehicles they operated during the race.

"We had a few arguments, but we worked them out," he said.

Trask used his experience with the Sunrayce competition to get a job with Bell Northern Research.

"They [employers] love individuals who work well with others," Trask said. "In the Sunrayce competition, in order to



File Photo

Members of the Aggiebeamer crew stand behind one of the cars operated by the A&M team during Sunrayce '95. A&M was one of 38 universities that competed in the race.

See RACE, Page 6

Serbs continue attacks

Rebels will try to seize all three 'safe areas' to control land to the Serbian border.

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — After eluding rebel Serbs on a hazardous six-day hike through forests and mountains, some 4,000 Muslim men from the fallen "safe area" of Srebrenica reached friendly territory Monday.

In another U.N.-declared "safe area" of Zepa, fellow Bosnian soldiers held out against mortar and infantry attacks by Serbs just 1 mile from the town.

The estimated 4,000 men, mainly soldiers, who arrived in the government-held town of Tuzla said they braved hunger, thirst and Serb attacks.

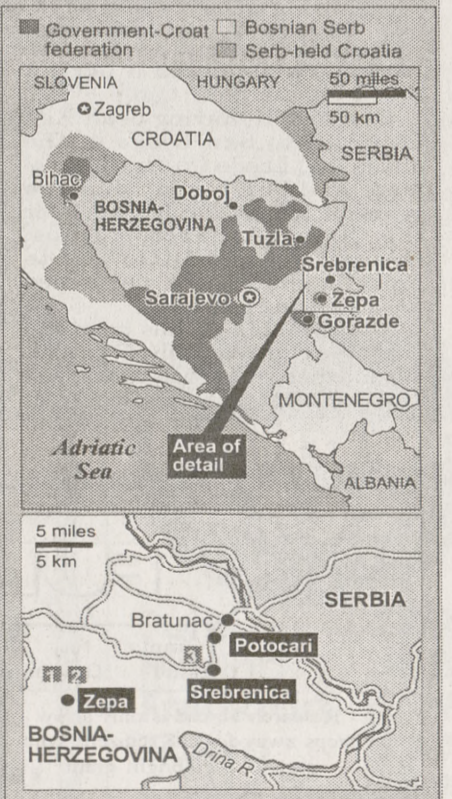
According to Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the men were among up to 19,000 Muslims missing after Srebrenica fell to the Serbs last Tuesday.

Bosnian authorities said the 4,000 were among an estimated 15,000 men, including 6,000 government soldiers, who last Tuesday began a 60-mile trek across Serb-held land, and through front lines to try to reach safety.

Bosnian army spokesman Ekrem Avdic said they started arriving on government territory Sunday night. Some received help from Bosnian army special units who infiltrated Serb-held territory, Avdic said, refusing to elaborate.

Upon reaching Tuzla, many raced to tents on a U.N. airfield where thousands of refugees are housed, frantically searching for their families.

The Red Cross was trying to gain access to thousands more Muslim men believed detained by Serbs who overran Srebrenica.



1 Rebel serbs say they will target peacekeepers in Zepa if NATO planes buzz the town again.
2 Serb forces advanced to within a mile of the town before being stopped by lightly armed government troops.
3 The Red Cross is waiting for permission to visit men and boys missing since Srebrenica's fall. Humanitarian organizations estimate that up to 15,000 people are unaccounted for.

Associated Press