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**HANDS-ON TRAINING**

**PROFITABLE PRISONS**

**HARD-WORKIN' MAN**



Field study programs help students learn through experience. Eating habits in Mexico targeted.

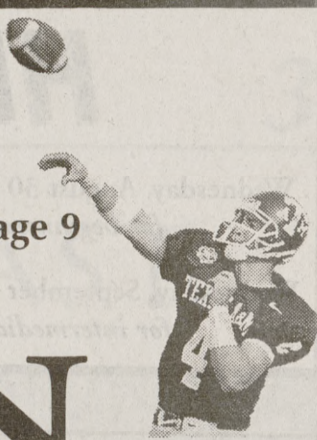
Aggielife, Page 4

Benson: Prisoners should be compensated for the work they perform behind bars.



Opinion, Page 13

Leone: Corey Pullig might not be Bucky, but he just might win a national championship.



Sports, Page 9

# THE BATTALION

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## Dorm overassignment problem improving

An off-campus housing fair is scheduled Friday to offer other housing options for the remaining 400 overassigned students.

By Michelle Lyons  
THE BATTALION

While residents and housing administrators say the overassignment problem in residence halls is improving, 400 students remain living three people to a room. The number is down from the 700

students placed on the waiting list last week. Ron Sasse, director of the Department of Residence Life and Housing, said he attributes the decrease in dorm overcrowding to a number of circumstances, including students going elsewhere for housing.

"It's a variety of things — cancellations and no-shows mostly," Sasse said. Sasse said the situation is becoming more bearable.

"It's starting to get real controllable and manageable from our end," he said. "Hopefully, those on overassignment for the semester will be in a situation they are happy with."

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice presi-

dent for student affairs, said he expects all overassigned students to be placed in other rooms by the end of the semester.

"There is no scenario where students will be an overassignment for the spring semester," Southerland said. "The number of overassignments go down virtually every day."

Southerland also expressed an interest in eliminating as many of the three-person room situations as possible, with the smaller rooms eliminated first.

Scott Harris, a freshman engineering major, said he was not happy about being overassigned in Dunn Hall, but is becoming accustomed to it.

"It's kind of uncomfortable," Harris said. "It's really cramped. Still, I guess

it's not that bad."

Rebel Rainwater, a freshman biomedical science major, expressed her discomfort in her three-person room assignment in Krueger Hall.

"It's a little bit crowded, but it's not as bad as I thought it would be," Rainwater said.

The residence life and housing department is hosting an overassignment housing fair for students interested in exploring other housing options.

The fair is Friday, Sept. 8 from 1:30 p.m. in 110 and 111 John J. Koldus Student Services Building. Representatives from local off-campus housing facilities will answer questions and give information on their properties.

Students who find suitable housing off campus will be released from their contracts with A&M and given refunds, Sasse said.

Southerland said overassigned residents do not have to remain on campus.

"There is no requirement to remain an overassignment," he added. "It's completely by choice."

The Department of Residence Life and Housing is also sponsoring an Adopt-An Overassignment program for students.

On-campus residents can offer to take in an overassignment for the remainder of the semester and in return will receive a 25-percent reduction on their rent.



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

### RUBBING A PIECE OF HISTORY

Freshman Thomas Guerrero and freshman Juan Garza, both general studies majors, do a pencil rubbing of the memorial behind Spence Park Monday afternoon.

## Traffic task force to examine results of shuttle bus program

The Traffic Management Task Force will assess last weekend's game day traffic flow and will make improvements for the next home football game if deemed necessary.

By Javier Hinojosa  
THE BATTALION

Although preliminary reports suggest that traffic during Texas A&M home football games was alleviated, Traffic Management Task Force officials said they will not know if the shuttle bus program reduced congestion until later in the week.

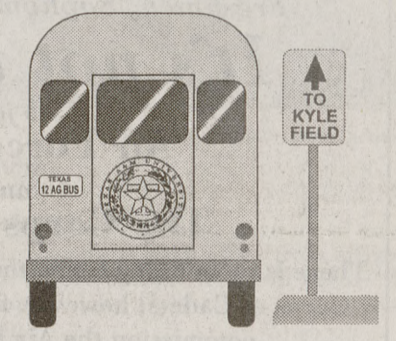
Denise Fischer, public information officer for the Texas Department of Transportation, said the task force will meet on Thursday to make assessments.

"We will figure out what our successes and failures were and discuss what changes will need to be made," Fischer said.

Elmer Schneider, associate director of the University Police Department, said he was encouraged by the efforts made by the task force to create a plan for traffic movement.

"The efforts resulted in an enhancement in traffic flow, which was part of the game plan," Schneider said. "I think it worked well overall."

"The crowd at [this weekend's] football game was pretty close to capacity. It will give us a good gauge for what type of traffic volume to expect in future games, especially the



one with the University of Texas, which will reach a capacity crowd."

The task force, made up of University, city and state officials, produced maps pointing out routes for drivers to use when leaving Kyle Field and gave fans the chance to

See SHUTTLE, Page 8

## New fall hours at health center promote efficiency, save money

Administrators said emergency care hours at the health center were costing one-eighth of the center's budget and were used by only 5 percent of patients.

By Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

Night and weekend medical care at the A.P. Beutel Health Center was dropped to promote efficiency and save money, Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for student affairs, said Monday.

Kibler told student leaders that the after-hours service cost \$500,000, one-eighth of the health center's \$4.25 million budget, and only 5 percent of the health center's 85,000 patients over the past year were treated during nights and weekends.

"We determined that the number of students who used the health center at those hours and the reasons for it did not justify using those funds," he said.

Students often used the health center to seek medical attention for ailments that could wait until normal operating hours, he said.

Kibler said some students who came to the health center during evenings and weekends needed serious medical care. But those students were forwarded to a local emergency room to receive the necessary treatment and can still use the health center's 24-hour ambulance service.

"For the more serious problems, this may actually save time," he said. "We eliminate the middle step."

If students need help after hours, they also can call the health center's new Dial-A-Nurse program at 845-2822. The new phone line will connect callers with a registered nurse who will give students advice on how to seek medical treatment.

Dr. Lucille Isdale, the new health center director, said the A&M nurse line is one of only 25 in the country. A similar program was established at the McKinley Student Health Center at the University of Illinois, where Isdale previously worked, when that health center dropped after-hours care.

The phone program at A&M began last weekend and received 25 calls, Isdale said.

However, Isdale said the nurse program should not be used in place of medical attention.

See HEALTH CENTER, Page 14

## Strganac develops electronic blackboard

An interactive computer classroom is being developed for instructors with disabilities.

By Javier Martinez  
THE BATTALION

Dr. Thomas Strganac, an A&M associate professor of aerospace engineering, is developing an "electronic blackboard" that will allow people with disabilities to use interactive technology while teaching classes.

The blackboard will be developed into an interactive computer classroom where information can be transmitted to the class through individual computer monitors.

Lectures will be complemented by stored computer simulations to bring in additional information.

Strganac began developing the "blackboard" after he was confined to a wheelchair

five years ago by an unknown disorder that left him paralyzed from the neck down.

Missing the ability to interact with students by the use of a conventional blackboard, Strganac wanted to find a way to continue his same teaching style.

"We're hoping to have [the program] up and running sometime in 1996."

— Mike Downey  
Texas Engineering Experiment Station

Strganac said that creating the blackboard would benefit others in the teaching field as well.

"I don't want this classroom just for me," he said. "I want something to improve learning and teaching for all."

Strganac hopes to introduce new courses using the innovative technology and re-

search experience.

Mike Downey, science writer for the Texas Engineering Experiment Station Communications Division, said the H. R. Bright Building is a proposed site of the experimental classroom.

"We are hoping to have [the program] up and running sometime in 1996," Downey said.

The project will be funded by a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program research grant awarded to Strganac in June.

The award is geared toward career development, not only in research, but also in education. The four-year award consists of a base grant of \$200,000 and then \$50,000 a year.

Additional financing will come from corporations and the University, as well as other sources.

Strganac came to A&M in 1989 after 15 years working as an engineer for NASA.

## Silver Taps

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

The campus will be hushed and darkened at 10:20 p.m. in memory of five Texas A&M students who have died since May.

Those being honored in this month's ceremony are Debashis Biswas, a geography graduate student; Brian D. Hazel, a junior electrical engineering major; Daniel A. Long, a senior electrical engineering major; Gregory M. Sandrock, a senior mechanical engineering major; and Craig Douglas Stone, a freshman bioenvironmental science major.

The tradition of Silver Taps dates back almost a century. During the ceremony, the Ross Volunteers will fire a volley salute and buglers will play a special arrangement of "Taps."

