

SIMPLE SOCCER

Junior forward Yvette Okler stresses consistency over flash for Texas A&M.

Sports, Page 7

TALKING TECH

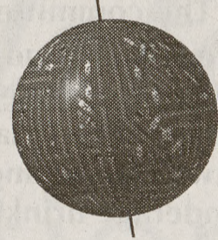
Pawlikowski: Students cease to learn if they rely on technology too heavily.

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BECOMING NORMML

Group works to educate A&M students about marijuana.

Aggielife, Page 3



THE BATTALION

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Gaston gets shot at vice president position

Demske, one of three finalists withdrew from consideration because of family reasons.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vice president for finance and administration, is now in the running for the permanent position because one of the top candidates

withdrew his application.

Edward Demske, the vice president for finance and business affairs and treasurer at Miami University of Ohio, withdrew his name from contention for family reasons.

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, received a letter from Demske Thursday morning saying he is withdrawing as one of three final candidates for the A&M position.

Bowen said the letter suggested that Demske withdrew for personal reasons.

"After he and his wife talked, they decided that they didn't want to move at this time," Bowen said.

Demske was out of the office Tuesday and could not be reached for comment.

Bowen said Demske's decision will not push back the timetable for naming a vice president.

"We were moving pretty slowly already," he said. "I still plan to visit the leading candidate's campus and look at things on the campus and talk to the people he works with."

Since the vice president must be confirmed by the Texas A&M Board of Regents, Bowen said, he would like to have a final candidate by the Board's October meeting.

The other two candidates, Dr. Jennus Burton, associate vice president for administrative services at Arizona State University, and William Krumm, associate vice president for business operations at the University of Michigan, have already visited A&M for on-campus interviews.

As of Tuesday, Bowen had not scheduled an interview with Gaston.

Gaston said he was honored to be named a finalist and is nervous about his interview.

"You're always nervous when you go through an interview process," he said.

A former A&M sociology professor, Gaston said that he thinks his 14 years of experience with the University might just give him an advantage over the other candidates.

However, he said the other

finalists' experience should not be underestimated.

"I think that all the other candidates have a lot of experience, just not local experience," he said. "I think you shouldn't assume that local experience would be more valuable than other kinds of experience."

The position for vice president for finance and administration became vacant when Bowen reassigned Robert Smith to the newly created executive director for special operations position.

Excuses, Excuses

Health center's policy put on examination table this semester

A Faculty Senate subcommittee on student absences will review Beutel's excuse policy. Faculty members and doctors are concerned that students are abusing the system.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students, faculty members and A.P. Beutel Health Center staff members said they are dissatisfied with the existing system through

which students receive excuses from the health center for missing classes and exams.

In response to concerns that students often abuse the health center's excuse policy, University regulations regarding excuses given for missed classes will be examined and clarified this semester by a Faculty Senate subcommittee on student absences.

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Dr. James Carman, associate director of clinical services, said an unnecessary burden is placed on health center staff as a result of a University policy requiring students to provide proof of treatment when they miss an exam or class.

Students who are not sick often make appointments to see

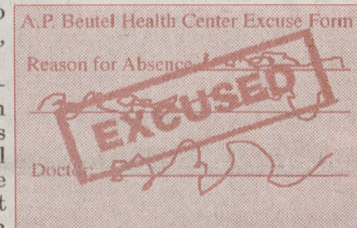
doctors in order to receive an excuse, Carman said.

"You can't always tell them apart (students who are truly ill and those who are not)," he said, "but the main reason they are here is for an excuse."

Dr. Lucille Isdale, recently appointed director of the health center, said she is trying to understand what the practice at the health center has been in the past and how it can be made more efficient for the future.

Isdale said she has heard stories of how the system has been abused.

"There are students who come here with all sorts of pretenses," she said, "and when they get in



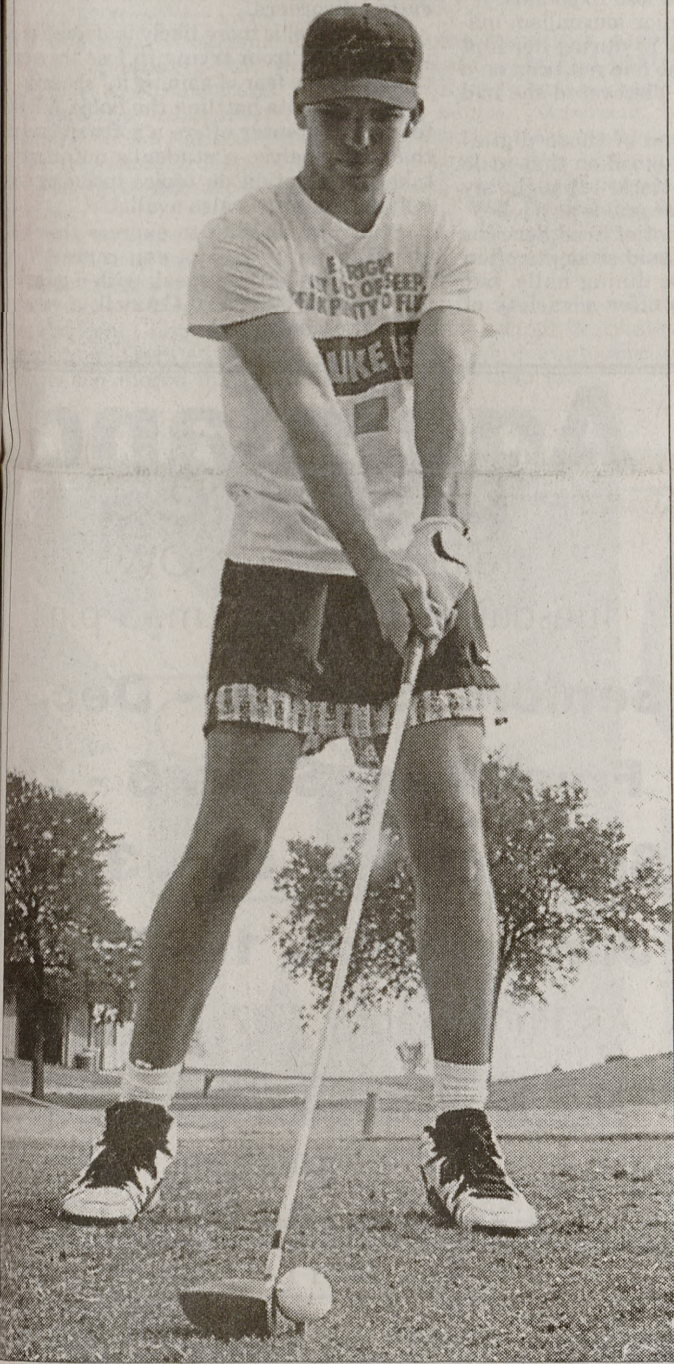
to see the doctor, they say they just need an excuse. I think that's a waste of valuable time."

Even students who are ill can find themselves facing a dilemma when it comes to dealing with the excuse policy.

Dr. Donald Freeman, staff physician, said he thinks alterations should be made to the current policy because it forces students to seek treatment when they do not need it.

Common illnesses such as headaches or stomach viruses, though often severe enough to keep students out of class, he

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Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

GOIN' FOR THE LONG BALL

Zack Farr, an animal science graduate student, tees off A&M's 10th hole Tuesday morning.

Map projects Northgate in 20 years

Possible Revitalization plans include additional married student housing and a three- to five-level parking garage that would facilitate 1,200 to 1,500 vehicles.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

A map depicting the Northgate area as it could be in 20 years was presented last night at the third public meeting of the Northgate Revitalization Project.

The map, architectural firm HOK's preferred concept for the revitalization and development of Northgate, is a compilation of three different concepts HOK designed and presented for community feedback in August.

The preferred concept emphasizes the development of additional student housing and retail businesses.

Joe Pobiner, HOK project coordinator, said modifications will be made to the Northgate plan based on community suggestions and concerns voiced at last night's meeting.

"This is still a draft idea that may need some massaging as we go along," Pobiner said.

Todd McDaniel, Northgate project coordinator, said that although the HOK plan for Northgate will most likely undergo alterations, it has merit.

"I think the overall plan is definitely conducive to the Northgate area," McDaniel said. "It's realistic. Other cities have successfully done the same types of redevelopment projects."

HOK's finalized concept for Northgate will be presented at a fourth community meeting scheduled for the last week of September. The plan will be submitted for ap-

proval to the College Station City Council in October.

If Texas A&M decides to keep the vacant land located on Nagle Street behind Newport Condominiums and North Ramparts Condominiums, Pobiner proposed that the area could be used as married student housing.

If A&M is willing to sell the land, he envisions developing a series of duplexes or houses that would be purchased by students' parents and used by the same students for the duration of their college careers.

Pobiner said the population density of Northgate can logically be increased up to three times by building apartment complexes of 20 to 30 units to replace the smaller, existing eight to 10 unit complexes.

On the Northgate map, a hotel and conference center were placed on University Drive in the area in front of the Albertson's shopping center.

See NORTHGATE, Page 12

New research program opens doors for graduate students

The Program in Foreign Policy Decision Making will hold a series of lectures on international conflict resolution.

By Lori Young
THE BATTALION

A new research program in international conflict resolution with a new computer simulation and experimentation laboratory is this year's initiative for Texas A&M's Program in Foreign Policy Decision Making.

Dr. Alex Mintz, director of the program, said this interna-

tionally recognized program in global decision making allows graduate students to regularly participate in study groups to discuss foreign policy.

"This gives graduate students an opportunity to do research in a more supported context — to be part of the whole thing," Mintz said.

Zeev Maoz, director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel-Aviv University and a distinguished scholar of international relations, presented the first lecture Tuesday.

Maoz spoke on the quantitative study of international relations in a lecture titled "The Strategic Evolution of Enduring Rivalries."

Enduring rivalries are long-term conflicts between two na-

tions, such as the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The past seven to eight years has seen a growing interest in the field of enduring rivalries among graduate students, Maoz said.

Chris Hanson, a Ph.D. candidate in political science and a graduate assistant for the program, said that enduring rivalries account for many major wars and conflicts in the international theater.

Maoz said it is important to realize how the conflicts arise.

"The basic idea is that we want to study how these rivalries develop," he said.

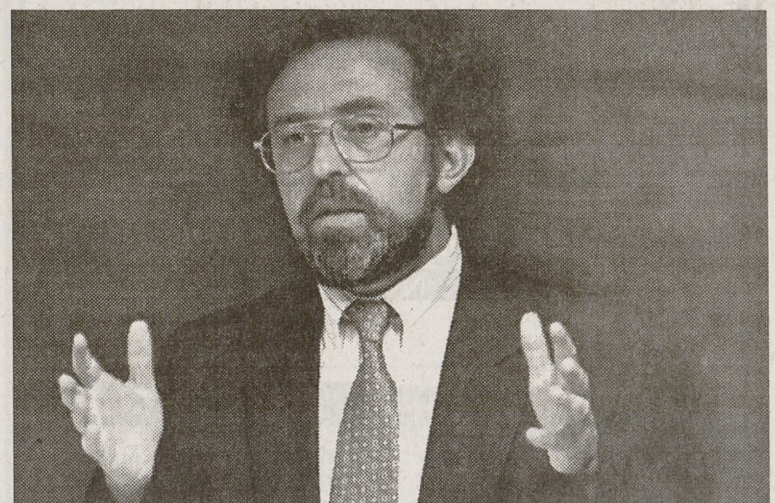
Part of this new research program includes a new computer lab to study mathematical models.

Lyn Reitmeyer, program coordinator, said the lab will help students recognize how international leaders make decisions.

"If you're the President, and you're faced with a crisis like the Persian Gulf War, you need to know how much information is required to make a decision," Reitmeyer said.

The program will send three faculty representatives to Israel Jan. 2 for a conference co-sponsored by the Hammer Foundation, the Jaffee Center and Economists for Peace in the Middle East.

With a grant from the Arab-Jewish Center, the program will also sponsor professor Michelle Taylor for two months of field study in international conflict resolution in the Middle East.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Zeev Maoz, director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel-Aviv University presented the program's first lecture Tuesday.