

TRADITION REALITY

Stidvent: The drunkenness of Bonfire and the messiness of Elephant Walk are a part of the tradition.

Opinion, Page 11

UNLIKELY RETURN

The first new Beatles song in over 20 years was played on ABC during a two-hour TV special last night.

Beatlelife, Page 3

BLOWOUT

Leeland McElroy led the Aggies on to a 56-14 win over MTSU Saturday.

Sports, Page 7



THE BATTALION

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Government reopens after budget standoff

The White House and GOP congressional leaders claimed victory after Clinton signed a continuing resolution Sunday.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration and Republican congressional leaders ended a six-day budget standoff Sunday night, sending federal employees back to work after the White House committed to speedy negotiations to balance the budget in seven years.

"Tomorrow the government will go back to work and now the debate will begin in earnest," President Clinton said, appearing in the White House press room shortly after the deal was announced.

By voice votes, the Senate and House adopted identical one-day measures to

reopen the government. The Senate approved a bill funding the government through Dec. 15 and the House planned to follow on Monday.

President Clinton signed the continuing resolution at 10:10 p.m. The 24-hour measure "permits all government employees to return to work tomorrow," White House spokesman Jim Fetig said.

Both sides declared victory — Republicans because the deal reflected their seven-year timetable and Clinton because it spoke of protecting programs he considers important.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said, "I hope in the next three or four weeks we will produce a balanced budget with the president on board."

In the four-week spending bill, the White House and Republicans agreed

the balanced budget legislation would "protect future generations, secure Medicare solvency, reform welfare, provide adequate funding for Medicaid, education, agriculture, national defense, veterans and the environment."

The bill does not, as the White House had sought, raise the government's \$4.9 trillion borrowing ceiling. However, private experts agree the Treasury Department can avoid the ceiling for months by tapping retirement trust funds set aside for the civil service.

Sunday's agreement followed a long day of negotiating against a backdrop of restlessness among federal employees and the public. Forty percent of the federal work force — nearly 800,000 employees — have been on furlough.

In a compromise that was key to the agreement, the two sides said the Con-

gressional Budget Office will measure whether or not any eventual budget deal eliminates deficits, but only after consulting with the White House and other government and private economists.

The argument over whose technical and economic assumptions are used is important because the White House budget office's forecast would permit nearly \$500 billion more in spending over seven years than the congressional office's prediction.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and their chief deputies held a news conference where they were barely able to contain their euphoria.

"All I can say is, 'Yes!'" House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, said, thrusting two clenched fists in the air. Republicans credited Sen. Trent

Lott, R-Miss., for the CBO compromise that proved key to the agreement.

A reporter asked Dole, "Who blinked?" He responded with two words and a smile, "Seven years."

But Clinton said the agreement "represents the first sign of their (Republicans') willingness to move forward without forcing unacceptable cuts ... on the American people."

Senate Democratic Leader Thomas Daschle and the White House chief of staff, Leon Panetta, said the Democrats would be able to protect Medicare, Medicaid, education, the environment and a tax credit for working poor families. Clinton said he would veto a seven-year budget that failed to provide protections in these areas.

"It preserves all of our options," Daschle, D-S.D., said of the agreement.

Physical Plant to review existing campus recycling

The president of Aggies for a Clean Tomorrow says A&M could take tips from a UT campaign.

By Lisa Johnson
THE BATTALION

During the next year, the Texas A&M Physical Plant, under the direction of new vice president Charles A. Sippial, will commission a detailed study of the existing campus recycling program and appoint a campus recycling coordinator.

In an effort to improve recycling efforts on campus, a recycling hotline has been instituted at 845-RRRR to answer any recycling questions that students and faculty members may have.

Ron Fontenot, maintenance foreman and head of the Physical Plant Department of Solid Waste Management, said the Physical Plant is becoming increasingly involved with on-campus recycling efforts.

"We are now recycling paper, aluminum and some cardboard," Fontenot said. "Currently, we are also accepting old telephone books to be recycled. With the participation of the Physical Plant in the recycling efforts, the programs on campus are definitely growing."

Fontenot said he hopes the University will soon receive help from

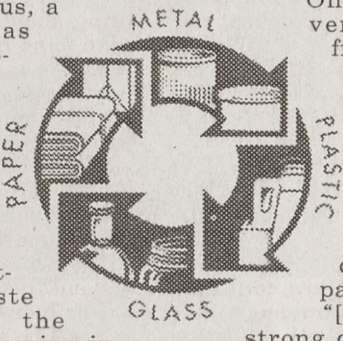
a Dallas-based recycling program to increase the amount of cardboard salvage. The Dallas program's aid will decrease the amount of cardboard that ends up in landfills and is contaminated.

Cassandra DeLarios, a junior geography major, president of the Aggies for a Clean Tomorrow and chairwoman of the Student Government Environmental Issues Committee, serves as a liaison between the Physical Plant recycling efforts and those of A&M students. DeLarios said the University currently recycles only 10 percent of its recyclable paper, 400 of 4,000 recyclable tons each year.

One campaign the University could benefit from, DeLarios said, is the example set by the University of Texas at Austin's "Anything That Tears" campaign. In the campaign, UT has taken out a contract with the Balcones company to recycle its paper waste products.

"[UT's] program has a strong commitment from the president of the university and has been very successful in the first year of its contract with Balcones despite mediocre support from students," she said.

"In the same year, A&M's recycling program didn't break even, although the state is of the opinion that we have a better program in view of the support from our student body."



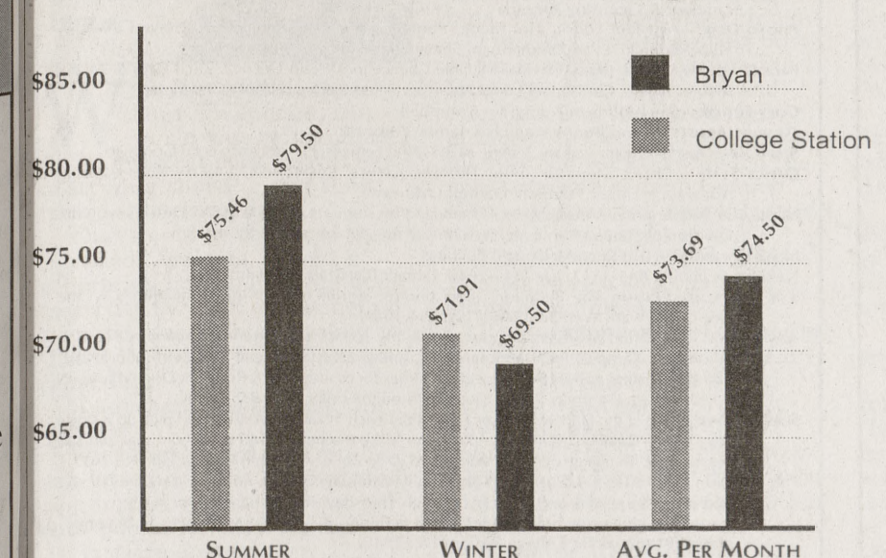
Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

PICTURE PERFECT

Steven Bailey, a freshman cadet in Company F-2 and a parks and recreation major, wires logs onto Bonfire stack Sunday at sunset.

City of CS to conduct free energy audits for students

UTILITY RATES: Bryan vs. College Station



*All information is based on an average residential use of 1000 kilowatts per hour (kwh)

The utility office is currently working to compile a list of energy-efficient apartments.

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

Students shocked by the amount of their electric bills can gain relief through services provided by the City of College Station Energy Conservation Division.

Donna Stryk, a junior marketing major, was surprised by her first utility bill and has since taken measures to save money.

"Our first bill was well over \$100, and we just about flipped out," Stryk said. "Now we don't use the air conditioning and heating as much."

The Energy Conservation Division will conduct free energy audits to help students choose the most energy-efficient apartments. The utility office can provide students with the billing history of apartments they are interested in and is currently trying to compile a list of energy-efficient apartments.

Peggy Calliham, College Station public relations and marketing manager, said many students simply look at the base prices of apartments.

"Many apartments are frequently not well-insulated and energy-efficient," Calliham said. "Students don't take into consideration the cost of utilities."

Students who want more control over their utility bills should choose apartments that do not include utility fees, Calliham said.

"The good thing about paying your own utilities is that you have more control," she said, "and can make adjustments because you know how much you are spending."

Jackie Turner, College Station customer service representative, said students can save money by paying their bills on time.

"Students should pay on or before the due date," Turner said, "because there is a 10 percent penalty."

Turner said students can take several steps before leaving for Christmas break to bring down utility costs.

See UTILITIES, Page 2

Texas A&M loses Pulitzer Prize winner

Charles Gordone, the Texas A&M distinguished English lecturer and the first black playwright to win the Pulitzer Prize, died Saturday of cancer at age 70.

Gordone won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for drama for his play *No Place To Be Somebody*.

The playwright's death ends a 30-year acting, writing and directing career.

Gordone moved to College Station in 1988 and taught at A&M until taking a leave of absence last spring.

At his wife's request, University officials would not comment on Gordone's death.

Gordone is survived by two daughters, Judy McGee of Marino Valley, Calif., and Leah-Carla Gordone of New York city; two sons, David Gordone and Stephen Gordon of Glendale, Calif.; and nine grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were not immediately available.