

**BRING IT ON**

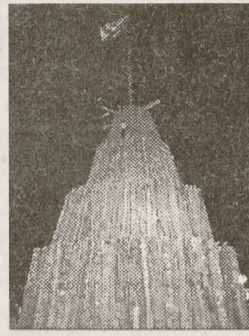
The Battalion and The Daily Texan battle in dueling editorials.

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**FULL STACK**

Bonfire has been through many forms and changes since it began in 1909.

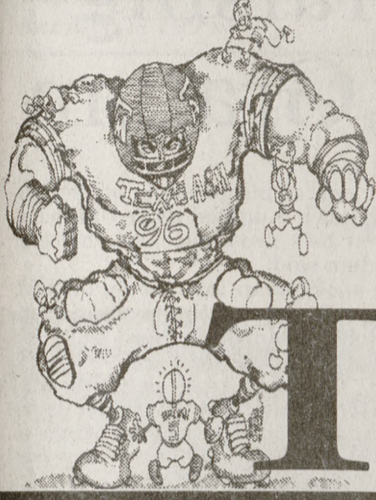
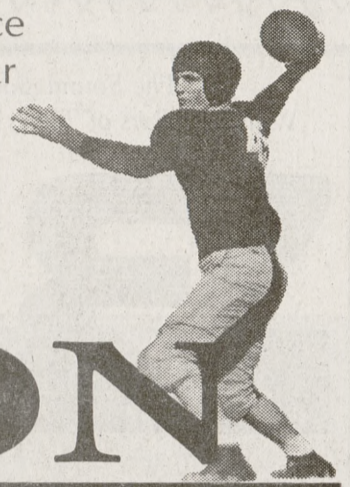
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**SWC FINALE**

The Southwest Conference ends its legendary 80-year history this weekend.

SWC, Section B



**THE BATTALION**

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**Board of Regents to draft cultures course policy**

Texas A&M is the only school in the system that does not have a cultures requirement in the core curriculum.

By Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Board of Regents informally called for a System-wide policy on the cultures requirement Thursday,

less than a week after Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, rejected a Faculty Senate proposal supporting the requirements.

The Board's Academic Campuses Committee, led by Regent M. Guadalupe Rangel of Corpus Christi, recommended that a resolution or policy statement be drafted in time for the January meeting. The resolution would provide a definite stance on the cultures course requirement.

Bowen notified the Senate last week that he could not support its proposal that would require stu-

dents to take three hours of courses focusing on U.S. cultures and three hours of courses focusing on international cultures.

The A&M president defended his decision to the Board Thursday, saying a lack of trust among different members of the A&M community forced him to reject the proposal.

"The issue ... is one of trust, and can we assume that without additional controls that

a proposal that was quite sensible would stay that way," Bowen said. "Given the constraints I was under, quite frankly, I couldn't develop the level of trust among all the stakeholders of the University necessary to further this proposal."

In a letter to Dr. Pierce Cantrell, Faculty Senate speaker, released last week, Bowen said more than 600 people contacted his office. All were concerned that the requirements, while sensible in the Senate's proposal, could be unacceptably altered over time.

Rangel also called on Cantrell, who expressed his sadness at Bowen's decision. "I'm most disappointed that the [proposal] has not been passed," Cantrell said. "I think it would have been good for our students. The faculty of this University are very trustworthy, and I am deeply offended that the stakeholders of the University don't believe that."

Bowen and Cantrell's remarks came after each System university was polled about its cultural course requirements.

Some A&M schools, such as Texas A&M International University in Laredo, have international course requirements that vary from degree to degree. Other schools, such as Prairie View A&M University, require a course specifically devoted to minorities in American society.

Texas A&M has virtually no

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**Students target media, campus racism**

The NAACP adviser said a solution to campus racism is students learning about each other and seeing differences in a positive light.

By Lisa Johnson  
THE BATTALION

Students discussed racism in the media and University traditions and heard a possible solution to these problems during a forum sponsored by Texas A&M's NAACP chapter.

NAACP members and other students at the forum cited the mass media's negative portrayal of African-Americans and other minority groups as a major contributor to the continuance of racist sentiments.

Dr. Vincent Perez explained the views on minority representation in the media that novelist Ishmael Reid put forth in his essay *The Airing of Dirty Laundry*.

"According to Reid, the news media has helped to create an environment of racial fear and animosity," Perez said. "The news media perpetuates a negative image of African-Americans by portraying the social problems of crime, drugs, illegitimacy and

welfare as primarily black problems."

In his essay, Reid said white-on-white crimes are not publicized to the same extent as minority crimes and said crimes that occur in crack houses of predominantly black neighborhoods take media precedence over white-collar crimes of drug cartels and bank scandals.

In addition to their reduced media exposure, Reid also wrote that white criminals are treated less harshly and blacks are often perceived negatively, without their plights considered by the American people.

During the forum's student discussion, Donovan Wheatfall, a sophomore business administration major, said African-Americans are being attacked in the media because of the history of their American heritage.

"Blacks in the media are being exploited to the American public because of circumstances that are largely beyond their control," he said. "Most often, when whites are focused upon by the media, it is because they have chosen to place themselves in the public eye."

Other students offered their views on the media coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial, which some perceived to be over-sensationalized, and Colin Powell's decision not to seek the presidency.

David Washington, Student Government executive vice president of administration

and a senior political science major, said media coverage of Powell's decision did not present race as an issue.

"The coverage of Colin Powell was different from the coverage of other African-Americans," Washington said. "He was idealized by our society because he came from immigrant parents and did some extraordinary things. For these reasons he was seen not so much as black, but as more of an embodiment of the American dream."

Conversation shifted from the negative portrayal of African-Americans in the media to the impact minorities have on campus traditions.

Several African-American students said they felt uncomfortable participating in A&M traditions because of the few minority participants and because attitudes of some white students often made them feel uncomfortable and unsafe.

Lovely Murrell, a junior anthropology major, said she has not attended Bonfire in the past because she did not feel safe.

"I have been here for four and a half years and this is going to my first year to attend Bonfire," Murrell said. "In the past I haven't gone because I felt threatened, and I didn't want to go where I wasn't welcome. This year, though, I'm going to watch

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Texas A&M's chapter of the NAACP publicized its forum by posting fliers that sparked a controversy among African-American and white students.

Students expressed offense at the fliers that made references to the black stereotypes of Sambo and Aunt Jemima and compared the economic structure of America to a system of "white pimps and their million dollar hos."

Freshman Jamol Reynolds said the NAACP could have produced more appropriate fliers.

"Because I know that if we had seen a white organization put something like this up on campus we (African-Americans) would have all raised hell," Reynolds said.

Ferleshare Starks, A&M's NAACP chapter vice president, said the group used the inflammatory fliers purposely as a means of gaining the public's attention.

"We knew when we issued these fliers that we would offend the African-American students on campus," she said. "But we had to ask ourselves who was not coming to awareness meetings. The very people that we need to reach the most are the ones whose attentions these fliers would attract."



Matthew Crawley, SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

**HUMP IT, AGS**

Senior Yell Leader Henry Hewes leads the senior class in a yell during Elephant Walk Thursday afternoon.

**Park and ride locations set up for Bonfire, game**

The city of College Station and the police department created traffic and transit plans for visitors destined for tonight's Bonfire and Saturday's football game.

For Bonfire, residential areas bound by Texas Avenue, Kyle Street, Dominik, Munson and Cooner Street will be blocked off to traffic starting at 5:30 p.m.

In addition, businesses along Texas Avenue and University Drive have been notified of options regarding unauthorized vehicles parking in their driveways.

Park and ride locations to Bonfire are Sam's, Bryan High School and A&M Consolidated High School. Brazos Transit will run shuttles from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. for \$1.

Those attending Saturday's Texas A&M-University of Texas football game can utilize the University or Brazos Transit shuttle services to avoid park-

ing difficulties. University Bus Operations will offer free off-campus shuttle service. Hours of service are two hours before the game and two hours after.

Off-campus pick-up locations include all current shuttle stops, and the on-campus stop is in front of Texas A&M President Ray Bowen's house.

Brazos Transit will offer three shuttles picking up at three locations: the Texas Hall of Fame on FM 2818, Bryan High School on Briarcrest Drive and A&M Consolidated High School on FM 2818. Brazos Transit shuttle service begins at 11:30 and costs \$4 roundtrip per person.

For those who park at Kyle Field, exit routes will be displayed on campus. George Bush Drive between Wellborn Road and FM 2818 will be for west-bound, one-way traffic for an hour after the game.

**Blue lots to close during turf conversion**

A lot will be set up on West Campus to ease the burden of the decreased parking spaces at Kyle Field.

By Michelle Lyons  
THE BATTALION

The parking at Texas A&M's football stadium will change as a result of construction on Kyle field.

Soon students parking in blue lot areas 69 and 91 will be rerouted elsewhere due to the conversion of Kyle Field's artificial turf to natural grass.

Lot 69 is the lot adjacent to the A&M tennis courts, and Lot 91 is the lot located behind the flagpoles of Kyle Field. Both are commuter student lots.

Tom Williams, Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services director, said the majority of these two parking areas will be used during the transformation.

Three contractors working on the field will use the space from the two lots.

"There will be approximately 380 parking spaces taken during the conversion to natural grass," he said. "We are building a temporary parking area on West Campus for the students."

"Because the construction is late in the semester, Williams said the changes in parking will be minimal.

"Our plan is that we won't take up too many spaces before graduation this semester," he

said. "Obviously we've tried our best to develop the project to affect as few students as possible."

Members of a PITTS Student Advisory Board have also discussed how the possible expansion of Kyle Field's horseshoe will affect parking.

Chris Cochran, a board member and a junior industrial engineering major, said the expansion should not cause too many problems.

"My understanding right now

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**Turf demolition set to begin next Monday**

Pieces of turf may be sold to those who donate toward the football stadium's renovations.

By Courtney Walker  
THE BATTALION

The "wrecking crew" will line up to sing the war hymn, and the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets will chase yell leaders on arti-

cial turf for the last time Saturday.

Fences will go up, and demolition of artificial turf on Kyle Field will begin Monday. The projected completion date for the grass on Kyle Field is April 1.

Billy Pickard, Kyle Field associate director of facilities, said students will not be able to get free pieces of turf.

"No way will anyone be allowed to take chunks of the field," Pickard said. "We are going to roll it up, store it and sell it."

Wally Groff, athletic director, said it

has been proposed to start a campaign that would give a plaque, with a piece of turf on it, to people who donate money toward renovations.

"The Athletic Department paid for the turf, not the students, so the athletic department is trying to raise money to pay for renovations," Groff said.

The grass field was approved by the Board of Regents in October as part of a

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