

BIG MAC ATTACK

A&M's Leeland McElroy earns first-team All-American honors.

Sports, Page 9

ON THE MAPS

Kenneth Tramm and the Maps has grown into a team effort.

Aggielife, Page 3

DOWN TO EARTH

Guest column: A&M English professor Charles Gordone will be missed.

Opinion, Page 13

THE BATTALION

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New speed limits not yet effective everywhere

Law enforcement officers said the higher speed limit could result in more fatalities during highway traffic accidents.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

Although the law eliminating the national speed limit takes effect today, Texas A&M students will not be able to utilize the 70-mph speed limit while driving home for the holidays.

The 55-mph limit replaced a 70-mph limit in 1974 by a national mandate. Today, interstate highways and four-lane divided highways across the state will return to the higher speed limit.

Denise Fischer, Texas Department of Transportation public information officer, said reverting to the 70-mph limit will be delayed because TxDOT does not

have enough signs to replace the current speed limit signs.

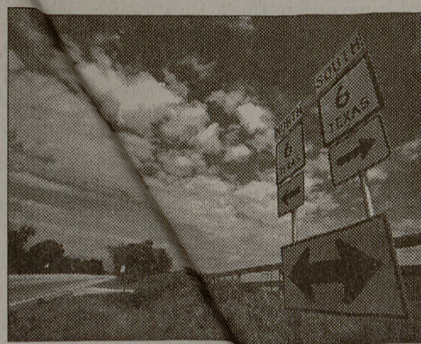
Four signs will replace the 55-mph limit signs: a 70-mph day limit sign, a 65-mph night limit sign, a 60-mph day limit sign for trucks and a 55-mph night limit sign for trucks.

Fischer said the change will take place as soon as TxDOT receives all materials.

"People should not make a blanket assumption that they can drive 70 if they are on a 55 mph limit road," she said. "It will take us months to change over all the state roads [that are applicable to the law]."

The new speed limit, which is a result of the National Highway System bill signed Nov. 28 by President Clinton, will be implemented on State Highway 6 through Bryan and College Station from Old San Antonio Road to Navasota.

Other local roads initially affected are State Highway 21 from Caldwell to Bryan, Interstate Highway 45 from Freestone County through Walker County, United States Highway 290 through



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Although the speed limit was raised to 70 mph, the speed limit on highway 6 will remain 55 mph until signs are posted.

Washington County and State Highway 19 from Hunstville to Riverside.

The higher speed limits have some law enforcement officers concerned about increases in accident fatalities. The

See SPEED, Page 6

Records show higher speeds kill more drivers

Through last Friday, 2,573 people were killed this year in traffic accidents on Texas roads.

AUSTIN (AP) — Even with safer vehicles on safer roads, state accident records show faster speed limits kill more Texas motorists.

The annual Texas Motor Vehicle Traffic Accident Report shows that when legal speed limits are lowered, total deaths drop. Deaths increase with faster limits.

The legal speed limit on parts of

Texas interstate highways and large, divided roads increased Friday morning to 70 mph. That came after federal lawmakers voted last month to abolish the national limit to allow states to set their own.

After President Clinton signed the law, Texas officials took quick steps to allow the state's previous 70 mph speed limit to take effect in some areas.

They also moved to allow the 65 mph limit to remain in effect on parts of interstates and four-lane and larger divided roadways and to maintain 55 mph and 60 mph zones on other sections.

See RECORDS, Page 6



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

ROLLING UP A PIECE OF HISTORY

W. M. Klunkert, Inc. workers remove Kyle Field's turf Thursday morning. The company will have grass ready for the stadium Feb. 15, 1996.

New Batt editor aims to improve newspaper's quality, coverage



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

The new Battalion editor-in-chief plans to increase interaction with student organizations and improve the reader-Battalion relationship.

By Lily Aguilar
THE BATTALION

Sterling Hayman will lead The Battalion next spring as editor-in-chief. Hayman was approved Nov. 30 by Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Sallie Sheppard.

Hayman, a senior political science major, said he is ready to face the challenges that go with being The Battalion editor. He has worked for the paper since Summer 1994, holding positions as copy editor, page designer, assistant opinion editor, opinion editor and, most recently, managing editor.

Hayman said he plans to make The Battalion more inclusive by working closely with student representatives and organizations. Readers can look for changes in appearance, he said, as well as content.

"I think readers will notice an increased quality in writing and coverage," he said. "Hopefully, they will [see] an increased effort to make The Battalion represent the students."

"We can cover the A&M administration until we're blue in the face, and many people don't care. Readers want more information about the 42,000 students who attend A&M."

See EDITOR, Page 8

A final farewell

Seniors ready for graduation

Ceremonies next weekend will honor graduates and those being commissioned.

By Courtney Walker
THE BATTALION

Next weekend, 3,200 students will say farewell to their college days at Texas A&M.

Graduation ceremonies begin Friday, Dec. 15 in G. Rollie White Coliseum at 2 p.m. with the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Liberal Arts and Medicine. Ceremonies will resume at 7 p.m. with the Colleges of Architecture, Engineering, Geosciences and Maritime Studies and Science.

Students from the Colleges of Business Administration and the Graduate School of Business, Education and Veterinary Medicine will receive their diplomas Saturday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. Commissioning ceremonies will also be held Saturday.

Guest speakers for Friday's ceremonies are Burl Osborne, The Dallas Morning News editor and publisher, at 2 p.m. and former student Michel T. Halbouty, a geologist and petroleum engineer, at 7 p.m.

See SENIORS, Page 7

Limited seating raises concerns

Graduation is split into three ceremonies to allow seniors up to six guests.

By Lisa Johnson
THE BATTALION

Seniors are limited to six guests during the graduation ceremonies because of a lack of seating available in G. Rollie White Coliseum. This problem should be alleviated Fall 1997, when graduation will be

held in the then newly completed Reed Arena.

Steve Hodge, special events facilities director, said the arena was originally scheduled to open Spring 1997, but because of construction delays, it has been pushed back.

"As of now, the arena is scheduled to be opened in the Fall of '97," he said. "We may be able to use it for the August graduation ceremony, but that is not a guarantee."

"It will definitely be ready for the December graduation ceremonies. Once it opens, students

should be allowed to invite as many people as they want."

The new arena will be able to seat 10,500 people, in addition to the graduating students. G. Rollie White seats 6500 spectators. This semester's three ceremonies will graduate about 1,000 students each.

Don Gardner, associate registrar, said the number of graduates in each ceremony is limited primarily due to time constraints on the ceremony.

"It's all about how many

See SEATING, Page 7

Seniors anticipate future success

A recent survey reported that 66 percent of the nation's college seniors expect financial success after graduation.

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

As graduating seniors prepare to leave Texas A&M this December, they are faced with feelings of sadness, nostalgia and doubt about entering the "real world."

Some seniors said their doubt is focused on fear of finding jobs and being completely independent for the first time.

Like many seniors, Matthew Barrier, an accounting major, is worried about finding a job.

"It will take time to get a job," Barrier said,

"It isn't A&M's fault. It is the economy's fault."

Cyndi Gonzales, a psychology major, is worried about finding a job, but said A&M has provided her with the necessary skills.

"They have taught me a lot here as far as other people and education skills," Gonzales said.

Seniors worried about finding a job can seek comfort in the fact that companies such as Anderson Consulting find A&M graduates to be well-prepared.

Randi Mays-Knapp of Andersen Consulting said A&M students learn through academics and extracurricular involvement.

"Texas A&M graduates have a 'can-do' attitude," Mays-Knapp said, "that enables them to be successful and have learned valuable lessons in the classroom."

According to a recent Gallup poll, graduating

See SUCCESS, Page 8