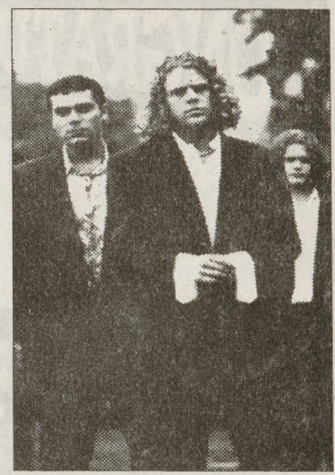




The Best of Barone and more in the Year in Sports. SPORTS, PAGE 13

Nolen: Margraves proves that mistrust of those in power is justified. OPINION, PAGE 17

The Aggie Final End-of-the-semester concert gives students a time to celebrate. AGGIELIFE, PAGE 3



THE BATTALION

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Serving Texas A&M University Since 1893

Friday • May 3, 1996

Low forming in G. Rollie White Coliseum

Senior Colvin
BATTALION

Nearly 4,000 students next will share in one of the most treasured Texas A&M traditions — in one of four commencement ceremonies.

Ceremonies for undergraduate graduate degree candidates in G. Rollie White Coliseum at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. May 11 at 9 a.m. May 11.

Graduation exercises for those earning the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree will be at 10 a.m. May 11 in Rudder Auditorium. Students receiving Medical degrees will be recog-

nized June 1.

Donald Gardner, associate registrar, said the Saturday morning commencement is usually the largest, but about 1,100 students are honored at each ceremony.

Gardner said it is too soon to speculate how many of the estimated 3,925 candidates for graduation will actually participate in the ceremonies. He said almost 3,200 of the 3,800 May 1995 candidates were in attendance.

This year's graduation speakers are Antonio Garza Jr., Texas secretary of state, Katherine J. Harless, GTE regional president for Texas and New Mexico, and Mary Lowe Good, undersecretary

of technology for the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Sheran Riley, an assistant to the University president, said staff members from the Offices of the President and Vice President and other campus officials generate a pool of about 20 to 30 speakers for graduation several months in advance.

Some speakers are invited two or three times, she said, before they are able to accept the invitation.

"Sometimes we invite people more than once," she said, "because it's hard to control all scheduling factors with the caliber of people we strive to invite."

Riley said that when selecting speakers, the committee tries to keep in mind diversity issues and often tries to match speakers with their particular disciplines.

"Most of the speakers we choose from have such a span of experience and background that they cross over into many fields," she said. "That's why we try to plan far in advance, so we can pursue well-known speakers as well as people of different backgrounds and women."

Garza will address graduates of the colleges of agriculture and life sciences and business admin-

istration, as well as the Graduate School of Business and the College of Medicine (excluding medical doctors).

Garza said graduation speeches should be short and should focus on and celebrate students' accomplishments.

His speech will address the importance of embracing technology as students advance into the work force.

"I want them to realize there is a new world awaiting them," he said, "because today technology has made their opportunities limitless."

"But there are other things equally important that they

should be thinking about, such as value and respect. Because regardless of where technology takes us, it is ultimately the people that guide us."

Harless will speak at the ceremony for students in the colleges of architecture, geosciences and maritime studies, veterinary medicine and engineering.

Good will be the speaker for degree candidates of the colleges of education, liberal arts and science.

There is a commissioning ceremony May 11 for members of the Corps of Cadets receiving commissions in the armed services.

Margraves trial set

Former regent could go to jail if convicted

John Johnson
BATTALION

Former Texas A&M University System Regent Ross Margraves will go to trial for allegations of misuse of government property.

The allegations involve the use of the plane to make a personal trip to Baton Rouge, La., in August 1993. Margraves was indicted April 30 in Brazos County by grand jury.

The charges against Margraves are the result of a 1995 state audit that revealed several types of mismanagement at the university, including the funding of the expensive power plant project in the university's history, done without the approval of the Regents.

The actions of several other A&M regents were also scrutinized as a result of the audit.

David Berg, a Houston attorney representing Margraves, could not be reached for comment. But Bill Turner, Brazos County district attorney, said that if Margraves is convicted of official misconduct, the penalty could range from probation to a

prison term and fine.

"His punishment could be between two years probation to 10 years in the penitentiary and a \$10,000 fine," he said. "Official misconduct is considered a third-degree felony."

Terri Parker, spokeswoman for the A&M System, said the district attorney's office has subpoenaed documents relating to the matter.

She could not indicate whether the documents had been used in the indictment or if they would be used in the upcoming trial.

"I really am not sure of the details," she said. "All we are aware of is that the district attorney's office did subpoena some documents relating to air travel for Mr. Margraves."

Turner said Margraves' indictment is in no way an indication of guilt; it simply indicates that enough evidence has been found to conduct a trial.

"In this country, everyone is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt," he said.

Judge J.D. Langley has yet to set a date for the trial to begin.

Senate says 'No'

Hopwood decision not supported by students

Walter Pace
BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate Tuesday recommended that because of the negative effects of the Hopwood case of Texas ruling the University should take action to increase minority enrollment.

Some students said the resolution is crucial because the administration must continue to support diversity.

Curtis Watson, chair of the Senate Judicial Board and senior economics major, said the administration's support would outweigh the effects of the Hopwood case.

"If the TAMU administration is truly determined to increase diversity on campus," Watson said, "I feel the goal of diversity will be achieved."

A major purpose of the recommendation is to change the perception that A&M does not try to attract minorities.

Drew Howard, a senator and junior mathematics major, said discrimination has occurred at A&M in the past, but those incidents do not reflect A&M's current attitude about diversity.

"We want to disassemble the perception that A&M doesn't care about minorities," Howard said.

In other business, the Senate revised the procedures for the Student Service Fee Allocation Board, which has faced problems because of high turnover and criticism for its research methods.

The SSFAB is responsible for determining the distribution of student organization funding.

The bill changed the setup of the Board. It now will consist of 16 members, eight of whom will be selected each year to serve for two years.

The bill decreased the number of people on the SSFAB by 12.

Jill Hayes, a College of Science senator and freshman mathematics major, said the reorganization will increase SSFAB's impact.

"It has become a more centralized and organized committee," Hayes said, "with more focus and greater input than ever before."

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The resolution takes a stance against the Hopwood decision, which made using ethnicity an admissions criterion illegal. The resolution also states the Senate's full support of the stay of the decision, which was pending deliberation of the case by the U.S. Supreme Court.

David Slaughter, an off-campus senator who promotes industrial distribution, said that with this resolution, the Senate is simply asserting its commitment to diversity.

"We're not saying that affirmative action is bad," Slaughter said. "I think that we're saying this University would suffer without it. I don't think there is currently a better way to ensure a diverse university."

For the most part, senators who voted against the resolution either agree with the Hopwood decision or feel the Senate needed a stronger stance.

David Brown, a Northside senator and political science major, did not support the resolution because he supports the Hopwood ruling.

Hopwood is about preferential treatment based on the petty criterion of skin color," Brown said. "The real question is: Do we still believe in preferential treatment? Have we come far enough in race relations to institutionalize colorblindness?"

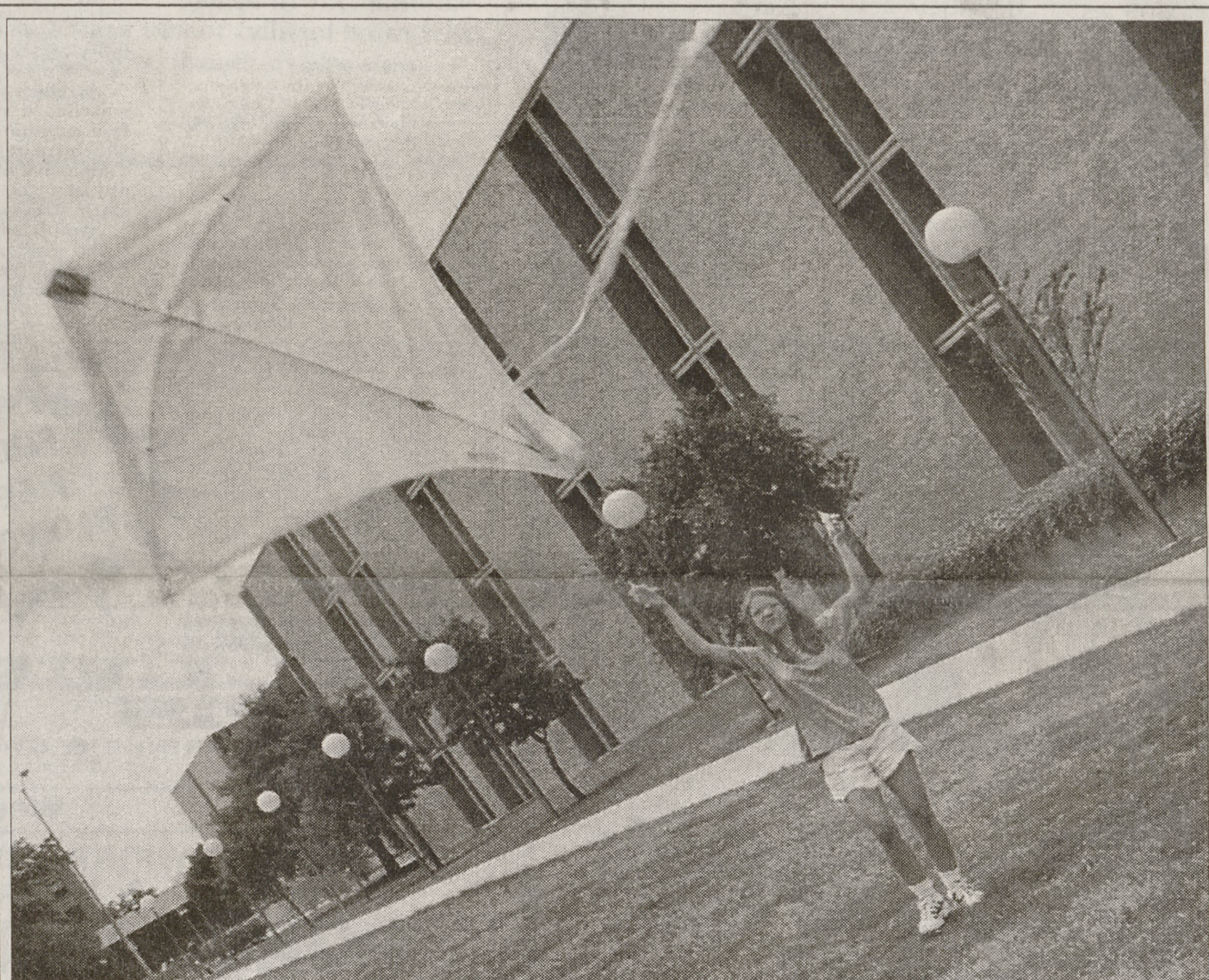
Follow-up for audit begins

The State Auditor's Office has begun a follow-up of a Texas A&M management controls audit that was released in January 1995.

The follow-up will include a review of actions taken by the University to address general fiscal policy improvements recommended in the report. It will focus on management controls in areas such as hu-

man resources, information systems, grants and contracts administration, purchasing and fixed assets.

The auditors will be at A&M during May and June. If anyone has information relevant to the study they are encouraged by the A&M Internal Audit Department to call 1-800-892-8348. The telephone call is electronically answered and anonymous.



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

TIME FOR A BREAK

Carisa Leerkamp, a junior education major, takes a break from studying for finals to fly a kite near southside residence halls on Thursday afternoon.

Student dies on train tracks

By Lily Aguilar
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M senior management major was killed Tuesday night when he was hit by a southbound train on the railroad tracks near the Recreational Student Center and Wellborn Road.

Go Shibata's body was found by another A&M student shortly after

7:15 p.m. The student then alerted a police officer who was stopped at the intersection of George Bush Drive and Wellborn Road.

Shibata, 23, was pronounced dead at the site by University medics.

University Police Department officials are uncertain about the circumstances surrounding Shibata's death.

Shibata was admitted to A&M's branch campus in Koriyama, Japan,

in 1992, and he enrolled at the College Station campus during Summer 1994.

Funeral arrangements are being made by Shibata's family.

A&M Japanese students are invited to meet with representatives of A&M's Office of International Student Services for counseling and other assistance concerning Shibata's death.

Editors prepare for summer, fall

By Kendra S. Rasmussen
THE BATTALION

With this semester's final issue of the Texas A&M student newspaper, The Battalion, complete, Sterling Hayman, editor in chief, will hand his duties over to long-time friend, Stacy Stanton.

Stanton, a senior English major, was chosen by the Student Publications Board to serve as editor in chief of The Battalion this summer.

Following her tenure, Michael Landauer, a junior journalism major, will serve as the Fall 1996 editor in chief.

Hayman, a graduating senior, is leaving his position to Stanton, who will be

working without Hayman for the first time in years.

"When I think about Sterling leaving this semester and my moving into his position, I am both sad and overjoyed at the same time," she said.

Hayman and Stanton met as freshmen at Madisonville High School, where they started their school newspaper together their senior year.

Stanton said she and Hayman applied together to work at The Battalion at the end of their freshman year at A&M.

"When I came to A&M I needed to find my niche,"



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

Michael Landauer, fall 1996 editor in chief, and Stacy Stanton, summer 1996 editor in chief, look over The Battalion as they prepare for summer and fall.

See Editors, Page 12