

THE BATTALION

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Boenig optimistic as condition improves

The former student body president as injured in a rafting accident

By Hayman
BATTALION

Former Student Body President Toby Boenig is in good health while he continues to recover from a rafting accident that left him partially paralyzed two weeks ago.

Boenig is now undergoing physical therapy at Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center in Gonzalez and has regained full control of his right arm and limited movement in his lower body.

Joyce Boenig, Toby's mother, said her son's recovery is progressing fairly rapidly and his legs now respond to reflexive stimuli.

Boenig dislocated his C4 and C5 vertebrae, located in his neck, when he hit his head on a rock while diving headfirst into the Guadalupe River.

Doctors fused the two vertebrae together using a bone graft from Boenig's lower body. However, the injured area around the spinal cord still suffers from

swelling, which prevents Boenig from regaining full mobility.

Doctors expect the swelling to subside within two to three weeks.

Joyce Boenig said the doctors are pleased with Toby's progression and expect him to make a full recovery.

"The physical therapist's prognosis is that Toby will be 100 percent after the therapy," Joyce Boenig said.

Boenig was rafting with friends on the Guadalupe River during the weekend after graduation

when he injured his spinal cord after diving into the river.

Joyce Boenig said Toby dove off the raft to cool off and hit a large rock under the river's surface.

Because of the recent drought, the Guadalupe River has a lower-than-normal water level.

Two of Boenig's friends, both experienced lifeguards, immediately pulled Boenig to shore without moving his neck or spine.

Joyce Boenig said a house near the location of the accident belongs to an emergency room doctor at McKenna Hospital in New Braunfels. The doctor, along with two nurses who were tubing behind his party, provided Boenig with medical care at the scene until hospital officials arrived.

He was then airlifted to North East Baptist Hospital in San Antonio. After recovering from surgery, Toby was transferred to Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center in Gonzalez.

Joyce Boenig said her son remains optimistic despite the seriousness of the injury.

"Toby just believes that whatever happens, God will be there with him," Joyce Boenig said.

"He's really been in good spirits the whole time."

Joyce Boenig said the family has been very appreciative of the support it has received from A&M's students and administration throughout the ordeal.

Texas A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen, Dr. Malon Southerland, vice president for Student Affairs, and many friends have traveled to see Boenig on numerous occasions while he recovers.

Joyce Boenig said Toby has remained strong throughout the experience and constantly looks for the positive side of the accident.

"He feels that he's going to be a stronger person after this is all



BOENIG

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Overassignment policy raises student concerns

By Wiggins
BATTALION

Many Texas A&M students would advise incoming freshmen seeking on-campus housing to apply through early notification.

Early-notification freshmen were among many students who received letters of housing overassignment for Fall 1996.

Chareny Rydl, associate director of Residence Life and Housing, disagreed saying there are many benefits from registering for housing through early notification.

"People often make that assumption, but it's not necessarily true," she said. "Most of our housing spaces are given out to early-notification incoming freshmen and the cut-off dates and percentages differ every year."

Forty-seven percent of total housing space will go to early-notification students in Fall 1996, Sasse said.

Some believe incoming freshmen admitted through early notification should be the first to receive permanent housing.

"If you meet the better requirements, you should get in [to a residence hall]," Saunders said. "If [the University] wants the best

"If 100 people apply through early notification, 80 will receive housing and 20 at the tail-end will be placed on overassignment," Sasse said.

Saunders said that much of his effort was wasted and that he would have fared better by enrolling through the regular program.

"It's a nuisance," Saunders said. "It would have been better for me to not even get in early."

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Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

SUMMER DAYS, DRIFTING AWAY

Brian Guyton, junior kinesiology major, and Meredith Hunt, sophomore speech communication major, enjoy a picnic at Research Park Sunday afternoon.

THE VOICE OF AGGIELAND

Liaison represents student interests in Northgate revitalization project

By Protas
BATTALION

Andrew Pavlinski, a junior environmental design major, will serve as the liaison of Texas A&M students on the Northgate Revitalization Board, which was established in March to monitor revitalization efforts.

Pavlinski said his task is to serve as a liaison between the students and the board.

"My role is first and foremost to represent the views of the students," Pavlinski said. "I act as a link between the views on campus and the city of College Station."

"I'm also a voting member of the community on anything that comes across the table for review like zoning and whatever development will be going on in the area. Changes in facades will have to conform to guidelines that have been set up for Northgate."

The board is made up of Northgate property owners, merchants, churches, an architect and a real estate professional.

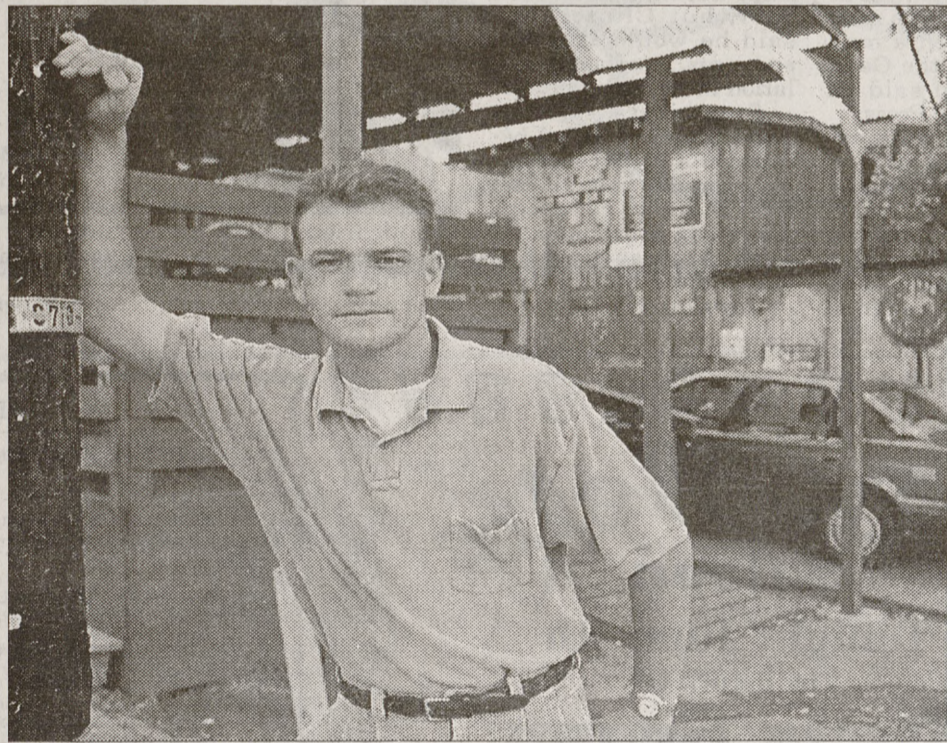
Hub Kennady, City of College Station council member, said a student representative was necessary on the board.

"I think we needed to have the input from people that are affected by decisions that are made there," Kennady said. "The council felt it was important to have representation from the students. There were numerous applications and many qualified students applied."

Because Pavlinski believes that Northgate revitalization is important to students, he would like to elicit more student input.

"I've been fielding ideas with the council on how to get more input," Pavlinski said. "People come up to me and suggest ideas in conversation. I want to find a way to inform people of what's happening and what's not happening."

Pavlinski moved to College Station



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Andrew Pavlinski, the student representative on the Northgate Revitalization Board, will serve as a liaison between A&M students and the board.

with his family 16 years ago. He said the changes taking place in the city prompted him to join the board.

"I've seen College Station changing and I wanted to be involved in that," Pavlinski said. "It's gone from a college town to being really prosperous. Being an environmental design major, we talk about trends in architecture and how the buildings lose their meaning. Northgate is an area of town where College Station's roots actually started."

"I knew it was going to change over time and with this change it doesn't

have to become a commercial area that loses all meaning."

Revitalization of Northgate is the city's second strategic issue of importance.

Joey Dunn, staff planner for development services for the city of College Station, said the plan incorporates several aspects of the Northgate area.

"The board oversees the implementation of the redevelopment plan that was adopted in January," Dunn said. "It is the master plan for future

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A&M student dies in car accident

By Ann Marie Hauser
THE BATTALION

Mother's Day ended in tragedy for the Ibañez family of Falcon Heights, Tx. when Jose "Chema" Ibañez Jr., a fourth-year member of the Aggie Band, died in a head-on collision along with five others.

Ibañez had participated in the Corps of Cadets Final Review the day before.

One of the first things Ibañez did upon his arrival at home in Falcon Heights was display his senior boots in his bedroom. On the evening of May 12, he joined four childhood friends to celebrate their graduation from college.

Shortly before 11 p.m. Ibañez's vehicle was struck head-on by an oncoming car that crossed over into their lane.

The driver of the second car, an acquaintance of Ibañez, was traveling at approximately 120 miles per hour. All six people died on impact.

"He was one of those guys that nobody disliked," 1996 Band Commander Will Koeck, a senior biomedical science major and close friend of Ibañez, said. "He always had a smile on his face and he always had such a



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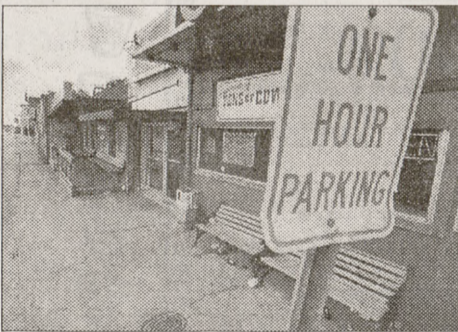
Jose "Chema" Ibañez died in a head-on collision May 12.

positive attitude."

It is unknown whether Ibañez and his friends were wearing their seat belts. Evidence of alcohol and drugs was found in the car of the single driver. Other alcohol involvement has

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Venue's closing frustrates local bands



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Northgate Cafe closed in April and the owner reopened the Cow Hop.

By Amy Protas
THE BATTALION

For three years, Northgate Cafe has served as both a restaurant and a showcase for local bands. In April, however, the owner of the restaurant and bar, Ahmed Moaty, decided it was time

to move on and reopen the Cow Hop.

Moaty said financial concerns as well as mounting responsibilities motivated him to close Northgate Cafe.

"The main reason we closed is because there were too many responsibilities," Moaty said. "I was looking for some other ideas to do. I wish I could keep it, but it's a bar business and it's tough competition. There's not that much money to be made in beer. I didn't see that much income."

The closing of Northgate Cafe has left some local bands wondering where they will have the chance to be seen.

Brett Tohlen, guitarist and vocalist for the band Lewis and a senior biochemistry major, said local bands are sad and frustrated about the closing.

"That's where we played all the time," Tohlen said. "There's no place where we can say 'Hey, we just want to play.' I think everyone was disappointed because it was the hangout for local

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