

THE BATTALION

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Former regent faces misconduct charges

By Melissa Nunnery
THE BATTALION

Former Texas A&M University System regent Bill Margraves, former chairman of the Board of Regents, faces his first pretrial hearing June 25. Margraves, who resigned from the board of Regents in April 1994, was charged with official misconduct on April 30.

The charges involve the use of an A&M name for a personal trip Margraves took to Baton Rouge on Aug. 4, 1993. Official misconduct is a third-degree

felony," Bill Turner, Brazos County District Attorney said.

If convicted, Turner said Margraves' sentence could be between two years of probation and 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Because of the pending hearing and possible trial, Turner could not comment further on the case.

Regent John Lindsey said Margraves was in Baton Rouge on official business.

"The board was aware of the trip before he went," Lindsey said, "and the president of LSU invited him there to sit on the platform at graduation and

address the graduates."

Lindsey said Margraves talked with the LSU Board of Regents about A&M joining the Southeast Conference, since the decision for A&M to go into the Big 12 had not yet been made.

Billy Clayton, former regent, said he believes Margraves is innocent.

"He [Margraves] did inform the board of the trip," Clayton said. "I think it's a vendetta against Margraves. He did nothing wrong and I think this is just something about nothing."

Neither Margraves nor his attorney could be reached for comment.



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

Lines at The Pavilion are traditionally long during drop-add period.

Graduating seniors face scheduling woes

"The section you have requested is full, no other sections of this class are available."

By Christine S. Diamond
THE BATTALION

Students seeking to fill their schedules learn to dread the "rejection line" on telephone registration. For graduating seniors, the dread can become a serious problem when requirements cannot be fulfilled because of full sections.

Seniors with a foreign language requirement can quickly find their graduation plans derailed by high demand for these classes.

The Student Senate tried to deal with the issue this past Spring with the Access to Modern and Classical Languages Act. The bill recommended the department allow any major with degrees requiring 14 or more hours of a foreign language be given preference in force decisions.

Mandy Gomez, a sophomore political science and international studies major, sponsored the bill. After receiving faculty feedback, she said the Department of Modern Languages will work with students needing the classes.

"There was a big problem in lack of communication between the stu-

dents and the department," Gomez said. "Students weren't aware of the agreement [to help them] and the department secretaries didn't explain it to the students."

Gomez felt there has been improvement in the effort of the department to accommodate students, noting the increase in language sections only available to freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

"I asked for a force [in the bill] instead of more sections because I know the money isn't there to staff more sections," Gomez said.

Don Carter, Texas A&M Admissions and Records Registrar, said many departments may hold back a number of seats during early registration, but students needing the classes for graduation should still get in.

"I'm not aware in all my history at this university — 30 years — of a graduating senior in his graduating semester not to be accommodated for that class," Carter said.

"A dean of the student's department will usually make a substitution, it is entirely a department decision."

See Seniors, Page 2



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

BETTER SHAPE UP

Rony Angkriwan, a junior at Southwest High School in San Antonio, runs through drills at an A&M football camp on Simpson Drill Field Wednesday morning. The University holds the camps to train future football hopefuls.

Program aims to help women succeed in engineering field

The new program is a cooperative effort by Texas A&M and Texas Women's University

By Marie Hauser
THE BATTALION

More Texas A&M engineering students may see more women added to their ranks with the start of a new program with A&M system partner Texas Women's University (TWU).

May 9, the engineering department at Texas A&M announced a program in conjunction with Texas Women's University designed to attract more females to this field of study.

The program will combine the strengths of the two universities. The Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M and the College of Arts and Sciences at TWU will administer the dual-degree program.

TWU Vice President for Academic Affairs Shirley Byers-Pevitts and Texas A&M Chancellor and Dean of Engineering C. Haden have signed an agreement establishing the "TWU-TAMU Cooperative Program in Engineering at TWU."

The agreement states that, upon completion of the two education tracks, the students will have earned the proper engineering bachelor's degree from Texas A&M and a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from TWU.

Until now, TWU students had no opportunity to study engineering at TWU. The first three years of the new program will take place at TWU where the women major in mathematics.

A wide range of courses in computer science, humanities and social and natural sciences will also be required in preparation for engineering courses.

The final two years of the five-year plan will be completed at A&M in the Look College of Engineering. During this time, students focus on technical engineering studies.

Texas A&M Executive Associate Dean of Engineering Dr. B. Don Russell said engineering is a male-dominated field.

"This program will help us attract very good female students that we need for diversity in engineering," Russell said.

Some women engineering majors say they possess the ability to succeed in engineering, but the atmosphere makes it more difficult for them.

Dr. Lale Yurttass, a professor of chemical engineering, welcomed the opportunity to attract more women to the field.

"I think it's a good idea," Yurttass said. "Usually females need a lot of encouragement to go into engineering, and this program can create a better environment for them to succeed in."

Yurttass noted that the female/male separate education will be more comfortable for the students because they will have other women/mentors to mentor and advise them.

Janice Rego, a senior chemical engineering major, said some female engineering students feel gender differences may be another obstacle in the way of their engineering degree.

"Women want immediate results and are easily discouraged when they don't succeed in a class," she said.

Rego says she has observed a decrease in the number of women in her engineering classes over her time in college.

"I remember when I was an underclassman and girls in my class who had the same learning capacity as I did were easily discouraged by one class," Rego said. "I think that as females we want immediate results and don't have as high a self-esteem as males to continue the pursuit in another class."

Lawmakers approve proposal to let state schools set own tuition rates

Under the recommendation, public schools could set their tuitions up to two times the state rate

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas public universities and colleges would be allowed to set their own tuition rates under a recommendation approved Wednesday by a panel of state lawmakers.

But the lawmakers said the freedom of setting tuition on a school-by-school basis should come with a requirement that more money be set aside for "need-based" scholarships if schools are going to increase rates beyond those established by the state.

Undergraduate tuition for Texas residents currently is \$30 a credit hour, or \$360 for a 12-hour class load. That is set by the state.

University governing boards already determine graduate student tuitions. Those cannot be more than two times the undergraduate rate.

Under Wednesday's recommendation, approved 6-3 by the Senate Education Committee, public universities and colleges could use the state undergraduate rate as a base and set their tuitions up to two times the state rate.

But those schools setting higher undergraduate rates would have to increase the amount of money they set aside for scholarships for the poor.

That money, 15 percent to 20 percent of each in-state student's tuition, currently stays at the

school level. But the lawmakers said that could change to allow the money to be shared by schools within a university system or by all Texas schools.

Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant and chairman of the Senate Education Committee, pushed the idea.

"If we continue on this road of not raising tuition and not providing adequate funds, I fear we're in jeopardy of having a second-class education system," Ratliff said.

Dr. William Cunningham, chancellor of the University of Texas Systems, said different institutions have different financial needs because they all provide various levels of service. He said those differences should be reflected in tuition rates.

"Different schools have different costs. That's just a fact," he said.

New day care benefits parents, children

By Amy Protas
THE BATTALION

Searching for day care for their one year old son, Caleb, became an extremely frustrating experience for Giancarlo and Heather Newsome. They found day care in the Bryan-College Station area to be lacking in many areas.

Instead of giving up completely, the two decided to open their own day care center.

On May 1, the Newsomes will convert Bright Beginnings Child Development Center into Heaven Sent. They hope Heaven Sent will eliminate the problems they encountered in their search.

Giancarlo, a senior marketing major, said people should not be expected to pay for inadequate day care.

"We went looking for day care and got disgusted," Giancarlo said. "We did some surveying and found out it wasn't just us who felt this way. People have to have day care so they were just settling for what's available. It's also difficult to find a job as college students that will pay for day care. If it was good care, I'd pay for it. But if it wasn't good, I wasn't going to pay for it."

What the Newsomes came up with is a day care pro-

gram that will benefit the parents, children and the center.

Heather said the first problem the Newsomes ran into was parents not being encouraged to get involved with their children's child care.

"We were so shocked," Heather said. "You don't go into day care on a whim because you're dealing with the most emotional thing. We didn't like the fact that the centers were excluding us and not encouraging us to be involved."

One way Heaven Sent will help parents get involved and save money is the cooperative structure of the center.

"We decided on a half-way cooperative structure," Giancarlo said. "The parents will be given the option of volunteering. They can volunteer an hour and then they will get two free hours of child care."

Midge Stark, former owner of Bright Beginnings and director of Heaven Sent, said for security reasons, the parents will be screened.

"Not only is the staff screened," Stark said. "The parents will also be screened if they decide they want to participate in the volunteer program. As the center's

See Day care, Page 2