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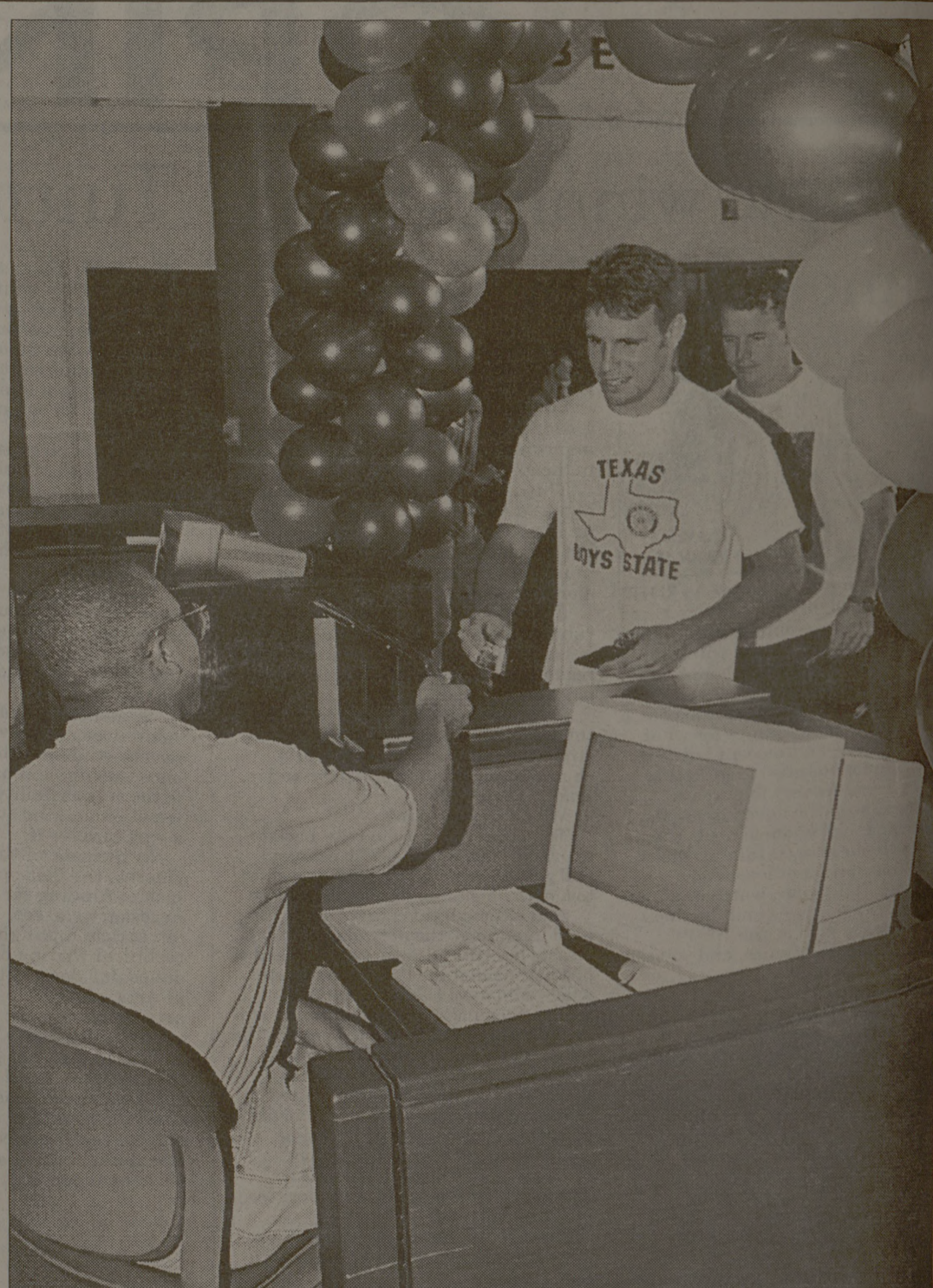
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*For more information, come by the 12th Man Foundation office  
in the Koldus Building, room 109 or call 846-8892*



Pat James, THE BATTALION

## LUCKY CUSTOMER

John Keeler, a junior accounting major, is the millionth person to enter the Student Recreation Center.

## Drought affects residents at their water taps

DALLAS (AP) — As the 1996 drought drags on, drinking water is becoming an increasingly precious commodity in many small North and West Texas cities and rural water systems.

Overworked pumps, falling water tables and water lines broken by parched and shifting soil are forcing customers to cut back on outdoor watering.

About 280 small towns and private water supply companies statewide have reported mandatory or voluntary water restrictions to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, a dramatic increase over most years, commission spokeswoman Linda Fernandez said.

"There are real problems out there," she said. "Brownsville is having water mains break because the soil is so dry. San Antonio is having quadruple the number of water main breaks they normally have."

Ms. Fernandez said the commission anticipates the situation will become worse before it gets better.

"Our best chance for sustaining rains lies in the autumn," he said. "We may be getting some isolated relief from the hurricane season, but not any-

thing enough to replenish rivers and streams and restore underground water supplies."

In the Panhandle, four cities that depend on McKenzie Reservoir in Briscoe County are getting less than 50 percent of their normal supply.

In East Texas, the small town of Edgewood closes coin laundries and car washes and banned all but emergency water use when the town's only source of water dried up.

With help from the state, Edgewood got a 10-inch water line hooked up to bring water from Lake Tawakoni to the Edgewood lake.

Measured by the yardstick that water experts use, this year's long, hot summer doesn't compare to the drought of the 1950s.

Back then, Dallas pumped in brackish water from the Red River to supply thirsty customers.

The long-range effect was rusted-out radiators and hot water heaters, said John Jadrosich of the Trinity River Authority. Over the years since, larger cities have built more reservoirs.

Historically, it would be tough to beat the drought of 1950-56, when rainfall in some parts of the state averaged only 14.05 inches a year.

## Water

Continued from Page 1

turn on the cold water in the sink or shower, it doesn't matter. It comes out warm."

Elliott said high water usage keeps the water hot.

"The longer we can keep the water in detention in the cooling tanks, the cooler it becomes," Elliott said. "But during the summer the water has no time to cool down because people take more showers and wash their cars. ... The city of Bryan averages 19 million gallons of water a day."

Spence said the situation does not only affect him and his roommates.

"We have two big dogs and they cannot drink the water the way it comes out of the tap," Spence said. "I have to take ice cubes out to them and cool [the water] down, or they will just sit out there and dehydrate."

Brown said the city regrets the problems caused by the hot water.

"We, as a city, apologize for any inconvenience that the water is causing," Brown said. "It is disappointing because the water is something Bryan prides itself on, and in this situation it is just a matter of bad timing. ... This wouldn't have been an issue if the heat wasn't here."

Spence, however, has another explanation.

"I think the reason they haven't fixed it is because we have lazy public officials," Spence said. "I can understand a little delay, but two years seems excessive."

Elliott said residents may not understand the effort involved to give citizens water.

"Water is our most precious resource," Elliott said. "People don't realize when you turn on the tap and water flows out, how much work goes into getting the water there."

Brown said despite the rebuilding of the units, the rise in water temperature should not be the point.

"The most important thing is that people have safe and attainable drinking water," he said.

The water cooling units are expected to be completed in September.

## Tenure

Continued from Page 1

abundance of fine educators, and this is evident through the overwhelming amount of applicants who are trying to enter A&M.

The faculty at Texas A&M is one that does excellent work in teaching and research, and our professors are very competent."

Measurement and Research Services at Texas A&M maintains the records of the questionnaires, which are compiled and written by the Faculty and Student senates.

Data from all reports and questionnaires are available as

public record on the Texas A&M home page on the World Wide Web.

Responses to five main questions illustrate that, in general, the student body has evaluated the faculty as being fair, competent and helpful to the students.

Forty-nine percent of students surveyed said they strongly agree they would take another class from the same professor; 25 percent said they agree, and only 6 percent said they strongly disagree. Another 20 percent disagreed or were undecided.

Almost 50 percent of students strongly agreed that the professor was an effective teacher, and 33 percent agreed. Only 2 percent strongly disagreed.

The question receiving the lowest score asked whether the amount of work or reading was reasonable for the credit hours received. Forty-two percent strongly agreed, 38 percent agreed and only 2 percent strongly disagreed.

Amy Zey, a junior education major, said students — who are harmed the most by ineffective or incompetent teaching — should have the right to evaluate professors.

"I think it's only fair to let students evaluate their professors," Zey said. "They are here to teach us and if a large number of people do poorly in the class, something's wrong and it needs to be addressed."

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