

# THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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## Cadets deal with change

BY ANN MARIE HAUSER  
THE BATTALION

Students caught an unusual sight on the Quad Thursday as many upperclassmen in the Corps of Cadets ran across the Quad to demonstrate their unhappiness with a decision made by the commandant.

Maj. Gen. Ted Hopgood, commandant of the Corps, issued a memo stating freshmen are not required to run while crossing the Quad if they are on their way to class or have at least one book.

Hopgood said the tradition conflicts with the Corps' top priority — grades.

"I want to send a message loud and clear that academic achievement is the top priority of the Corps of Cadets," Hopgood said.

"I want to cut that out because it cuts into their academic endeavors."

Hopgood also ended the "cutting the Quad" tradition, meaning freshmen can now take shortcuts when leaving the quad. Previously, freshmen cadets were required to leave through the arches on the Quad's north side.

"Having to walk a certain way cuts into time ef-

iciency when we are trying to teach time management," Hopgood said.

Kyle Sparkman, Corps public relations sergeant and a junior biomedical science major, said cadets ran the Quad Thursday to show their disapproval, not their insubordination, to the commandant.

"Officially, there is no protest," he said. "Upperclassmen are running on their own free will. But we are obliged to be fully in support of the commandant."

Some cadets feel the change takes away from the organization's uniqueness and makes it too easy for the freshmen.

Kenny Robertson, a senior mechanical engineering major, said the freshmen will miss out on chances to meet upperclassmen.

"They lose the opportunity to whip out (introduce, themselves to upperclassmen), which builds their confidence and makes them more outgoing," Robertson said. "It sets us apart from someone that just wears a uniform to class."

Not all upperclassmen participated in showing their opposition.

Matt Hauck, a senior geography major, said he does not feel the running

was the best way to handle the situation.

"There's a professional way of doing things and an unprofessional way of doing things," Hauck said. "In a military organization, you follow orders whether you agree with them or not."

Steve Foster, Corps commander and a senior political science major, explained the conflict with a quote by British officer, Capt. Sir Basil Liddell Hart: "The only thing harder than getting a new idea into the military mind is to get an old one out."

Foster emphasized that change is one of the hardest things to manage.

Col. Donald Johnson, deputy commandant, said running the Quad is new to the Corps.

"I never ran the Quad," Johnson said. "It doesn't contribute a great deal to the development of leadership abilities and grades."

Although the freshmen are no longer required to run the Quad, many still want to impress their upperclassmen by doing so.

Daniel Price, a freshman political science major, said he plans on continuing the tradition.

"I came to A&M for all of the traditions and to be in the Corps of Cadets," Price said. "Running the Quad is all part of it."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Squadron 5 senior **Brighten Miller**, a computer science major, runs on the Quad in his senior boots.

Freshmen in the Corps have the choice to run on the Quad on their way to classes.

## Designate a Bus Transit begins this weekend

BY BRANDON HAUSENFLUCK  
THE BATTALION

Matthew Kenyon saw a dream come true Thursday. A ribbon-cutting ceremony kicked off the Designate a Bus Transit shuttle bus program designed to keep drunken drivers from endangering other drivers on Bryan-College Station streets and provide nighttime public transportation.

Kenyon, defensive driving instructor and a senior biomedical science major, created DAB because Bryan-College Station lacks evening public transportation system, encouraging people to drive after drinking.

DAB, Kenyon said, will be successful if people decide to use it.

"We want people to know we're running so they will use it," Kenyon said. "We've worked very hard on this and all we need is for people to give it a chance."

Brazos Transit will supply

buses, which run Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m.

A fleet of eight to 10 buses will run on a designated route with several feeder routes servicing locations not on the main route. The buses will service popular Bryan-College Station night spots including Hollywood USA movie theater, Northgate, The Tap, Hurricane Harry's, Carney's Pub, downtown Bryan and others.

DAB has received support from bar owners and their employees.

Willie Bennett, manager of the 3rd Floor Cantina and Dixie Theatre in Bryan, said DAB is a good idea and people should use it.

"I think it (DAB) is going to be an immediate success," Bennett said. "He's (Kenyon) going to be directly responsible for saving

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**DAB TRANSIT**  
A Nighttime Shuttle Service for Bryan-College Station

Pass Valid  
8:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.  
Thursday - Saturday

Drunk Driving Could Cost You...  
**A \$2,000 Fine**  
**Up to 2 Years Jail Time**  
**60 Days Loss of License**  
Use Your Pass!

Semester Pass  
Fall 1996

## TAMU System expands

BY KENDRA S. RASMUSSEN  
THE BATTALION

Three academic institutions joined the Texas A&M University System Saturday, expanding the System to include 10 schools.

The state Legislature approved the merger with the Baylor College of Dentistry and East Texas State University, which has campuses in Commerce and Texarkana, Texas.

The two ETSU campuses split into two separate universities and will be known as Texas A&M University-Commerce and Texas A&M University-Texarkana.

BCD will take the A&M name but will retain its original name as well. The school will officially be known as The Texas A&M University System Baylor College of Dentistry.

Dr. Barry Thompson, System chancellor, said the merger benefits the A&M System, the state of Texas and the acquired institutions.

The System will experience both economic and political gains, he said.

Economies of scale, Thompson said, lessen the growing System's expenses. The System's size also increases its purchasing power.

Thompson said all 31 state senators and 150 members of the House of Representatives are assigned to represent a

which expands into every county in the state.

"[The merger] allows us to serve public schools all over Texas in a better way," he said.

Thompson said students at all of the System's schools will benefit from the joint programs being developed.

Kathy Harris, communications specialist for the System, said the acquisition of the dental school rounds out A&M's health care program.

"Baylor College of Dentistry offers A&M a top-rated dental school, which it did not have before," she said.

Stephen LaDuque, Class of '92 and a fourth-year BCD student, said the schools will offer the System many advantages.

"I think the System benefits because it is building itself as an all-encompassing educational complex," he said. "Baylor College of Dentistry has a very good name in the dental community."

The acquisition of it for A&M really furthers the credibility of A&M."

Not only will the merger

strengthen the System, LaDuque said, but BCD will benefit as well.

"A&M has a huge influx of research dollars," he said. "[BCD] sought the merger because it wanted to secure the future of the dental school for the next 100 years."

LaDuque expects the merger to yield upgraded facilities and more state-of-the-art equipment for the dental school.

But it's not just the money that will improve the school, LaDuque said.

"[The merger] will give the dental school more clout in the state Legislature," he said.

LaDuque and his fellow dental school Aggies are excited about their degrees coming from A&M.

"We think it is even that much more of an asset," he said. "We feel that A&M adds clout to the Baylor College of Dentistry."

New educational programs are being planned for the new institutions.

Sterlin McGruder,

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**"When they are all together under the A&M System, it gives us a political strength."**

Dr. Barry Thompson  
System chancellor

university. When an institution merges with the A&M System, that university's legislative representatives come with it.

"When they are all together under the A&M System, it gives us a political strength," he said.

The merger, Thompson said, serves the state by expanding A&M's outreach,

## THE BATTALION TODAY

### Music Biz

Two A&M student entrepreneurs start company to bring more music to town. Agglife, Page 3

### Forever Young

Cross Country Team redshirts four seniors in a rebuilding season for Aggies. Sports, Page 11

### Freshman 15

Howard: Worrying about gaining weight as a freshman can cause eating disorders. Opinion, Page 15

## Czelusta ready for last year at A&M

BY CARLA RENE MARSH  
THE BATTALION

With excitement and bittersweet anticipation, Jesse Czelusta approaches his final year at Texas A&M and kicks off his term as Residence Hall Association president.

Most seniors look forward to graduating and starting a new journey away from college, but Czelusta, a senior agricultural economics major, sees his May graduation date as a closing door to a lifetime of memories.

A&M, Czelusta said, has given him the opportunity to grow as a person and learn about the "other education."

Besides academics, Czelusta said getting involved in different organizations and community services provides a training ground for the future.

"I encourage every student to get involved — it's worthwhile," Czelusta said.

Czelusta has been a resident assistant, a Northside senator and has served on Residence Hall Council.

When asked how he handles classes and extracurricular activities, Czelusta said it's like combining a 15-hour course load with a 40-hour per week job.

Service projects are his primary interests as RHA president. He kicked off the fall semester with A&M's first Welcome Bash, which was a chance for students to learn more about RHA and its service projects.

He is also planning a Campus Crimestoppers program, a crime tip hotline that will work with the local Crimestoppers program.

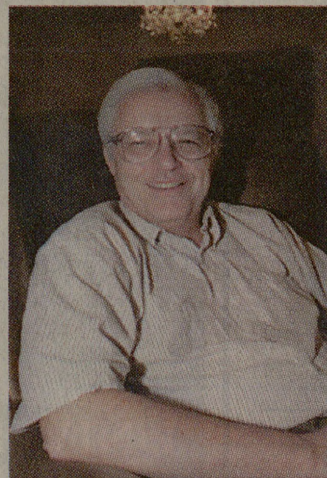
RHA will also start a designated bus program that will provide bus transportation throughout Bryan-College Station and will be

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## LEADERS ON CAMPUS



Pat James, THE BATTALION  
**Jesse Czelusta**, RHA president, is focusing on service projects.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION  
**Dr. Jerry Gaston**, vice president for administration, works with many departments.

## Gaston oversees campus services

BY ERICA ROY  
THE BATTALION

You may not know who Dr. Jerry Gaston is, but chances are you're familiar with a lot of what he does.

As vice president for administration, Gaston is responsible for such services as airport operations, Research Park, Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, and the University Police Department, as well as many others. Gaston also oversees facility planning on campus.

"I assist (the directors of such departments) in carrying out their individual missions, which are quite varied," Gaston said. "It's that variety which makes this division so enjoyable."

"The program we are working on is to help the directors establish an efficient and well-functioning department that will have service as

its No.1 goal every day."

Gaston is a native Texan, but had been away from Texas for 16 years when the opportunity arose to come to A&M.

"I welcomed the opportunity to come back to Texas because during those years my family and I had decided we'd really like to be in Texas for the future," Gaston said.

Gaston arrived at A&M from Southern Illinois University in 1981 as a sociology professor and later served as a department head.

Gaston served as an executive associate provost from 1986 to 1994. He then took the position of interim vice president for finance and administration.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said the relationship between Gaston and the UPD is positive, and Gaston

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