

# THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

## Policy revisions limit on-campus vendors

BY WESLEY POSTON  
 THE BATTALION

Campus vendors have been limited in their merchandising activities by revisions to Texas A&M's concessions policy. The revisions, established by the University Concessions Committee, now constrain the partnerships often formed between commercial vendors and Texas A&M student organizations.

Dennis Busch, assistant director for special event facilities, university center manager and a member of the concessions committee, said the revisions limit overzealous vendors.

"The driving force behind it (the revisions) was a number of staff reacting in an abuse by some vendors," he said. "There has been a problem for several years, but we were just now able to put the right back on it."

Some vendors were setting up shop every day with huge inventories, no overhead and no rent, Busch said.

All student organizations are allowed to sell merchandise on campus five days out of a 30-day period.

Busch said some organizations allowed commercial vendors to sell in their place for a share of the profit. Vendors associated with several organizations to sell their goods to students several days each week.

Vendors then had an unfair advantage over University businesses, Busch said.

"In a fair market sense it was not right," he said.

Former policy required a student representative from the organization to be at the merchant's table.

some policy into effect."

At least 15 freshmen will cast their votes today to name this year's leaders of the Class of '00.

Polls open at 8 a.m. at the Memorial Student Center, Sterling Evans Library, Commons Lobby, the Student Recreation Center, the Underground, and Zachry. They close at 6 p.m.

At least 15 freshmen are running for class president, 12 for vice president, nine for treasurer, six for secretary, five for social secretary and three for historian.

Thirty-four freshmen are running to fill seven seats on the Student Senate.

Sammy Mobarak, a member of the student government election commission and junior biomedical science major, said high candidate turnout is common for student elections at A&M.

"This is pretty much normal for freshman elections," Mobarak said. "We are most likely going to have a runoff."

## Freshmen to cast votes

### Class of '00 to select class president, Senate members

BY BRANDON HAUSENFLUCK  
 THE BATTALION

Mobarak said voter turnout for freshman elections has been on the rise at A&M for several years. Currently about 10 percent of freshmen vote, the highest turnout in the nation.

Jason James, election commissioner and a junior computer science major, said freshmen need take advantage of the opportunity to vote.

"We will be posting fliers on campus so freshmen will remember to vote," James said. "We're trying to get the freshman class involved."

Mobarak said the voting process will be quick and easy.

"All they will have to do is fill out a scantron and give their I.D. to the people at the sites," Mobarak said.

"It's going to be a real easy process, and we're going to have enough people manning each site so hopefully it's not going to get too crowded."

Election results will be announced at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Sul Ross Statue in front of the Academic Building.

**Freshman Elections Polling Locations:**



- MSC
- Commons Lobby
- Recreation Center
- Underground
- Zachry
- Evans Library

See VENDORS, Page 5

## Brushy Creek residents, A&M struggle to reach settlement

BY MELISSA NUNNERY  
 THE BATTALION

Negotiations broke down between Texas A&M and residents of the Brushy Creek community Wednesday when both sides realized a settlement would not be reached in the near future.

Dr. Al Schaffer, A&M professor emeritus of sociology and treasurer of Residents Opposed to Pigs and Livestock (ROPL), said attorneys for both sides will meet with a federal district judge in Houston Wednesday.

The parties will identify major issues, he said, and the judge will make recommendations to help bring them closer to a settlement.

"If there's no settlement, the only alternative left is a trial," Schaffer said. "We don't look forward to it. It will postpone settlement into next year, but people out here (Brushy

Creek) are desperate. Our backs are against the wall."

Jim Ashlock, director of University Relations, said the University wants to avoid a trial.

"It's a matter now of reporting the situation back to the judge and explaining we've gone as far as we can go and have been unable to reach a final resolution," Ashlock said.

ROPL filed suit against the University in August 1995 to stop construction on A&M's Animal Science Teaching and Research Center (ASTREC) on Highway 60.

ROPL's originally charged the University with "environmental racism" and violating the Clean Water Act.

Schaffer said residents are concerned with water contamination, the smell of the animals and the flies they and their manure would attract, and the devaluation of neighborhood property.

See SETTLEMENT, Page 5

## A&M ranks 5th in efficiency

BY ANN MARIE HAUSER  
 THE BATTALION

Students are getting their money's worth at Texas A&M.

A&M was ranked the fifth "most efficient" national university by U.S. News and World Report for the second year in a row.

A&M outranked the University of Texas and Baylor University.

Dr. Ray M. Bowen, A&M president, said A&M's tuition and fees are inexpensive when compared to other national universities.

Today's success can be attributed to good planning in the past, Bowen said.

"We're benefiting today from good decisions made over 10, 20, 30 years ago," Bowen said. "I'm a short-termer, and I claim no credit."

Bowen said he is taking steps now to benefit future generations.

Each university's efficiency ranking was based on the relationship between the cost and quality of education.

Bunny Heard, a junior speech communications major, said her education is costworthy.

"I feel like I'm getting a good educa-

tion for the money my parents are paying," Heard said.

Some students feel they are receiving more than an academic education for the money they pay.

Leo Sifuentes, a senior business analysis major, said A&M offers more than a good education.

"I think it (the ranking) is an understatement," Sifuentes said. "Not only are you getting an education, you're getting an environment that induces camaraderie and friendship."

Kelly Liles, a senior management major, said employers will hire A&M graduates because they have a sense of loyalty and togetherness, which does not show up on surveys.

"You can't measure the intangible character and integrity we also learn here," Liles said.

The evaluation is U.S. News and World Report's second in a series of "America's Best Colleges" for 1997.

The magazine provides this survey to give future college students and

**U.S. News and World Report's MOST EFFICIENT SCHOOLS**

Institutions that rank highest in academic quality in relation to what they spend per student on educational programs

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES**

1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2. University of Texas at Austin
3. SUNY College at Binghamton
4. College of William and Mary (Va.)
5. Texas A&M at College Station
6. Baylor University (Texas)
7. Florida State University
8. Pennsylvania State Univ. at Main Campus
9. Miami University at Oxford (Ohio)
10. Auburn University at Main Campus (Ala.)

their families "another perspective on college costs."

Bowen said A&M has a commitment to continue the excellence.

"We are committed to providing our students a high-quality education in a highly cost-effective manner, and that means always striving to be exceptionally good stewards of the resources entrusted to us," Bowen said in a press release.



Pat James, THE BATTALION

### Big Thanks

**Parker Brill**, a junior international studies major, signs a giant thank you card addressed to the Texas A&M faculty. The card is sponsored by MSC Hospitality and will be on display in the MSC Flagroom.

## Directors delete 'GO' from scoreboards

BY WESLEY POSTON  
 THE BATTALION

The new third-deck scoreboards at Kyle Field have lost a word since they were first installed.

On Friday evening of the first yell practice, the panels on either side of the score section read, "ATM GO AGGIES."

By kickoff on Saturday, they read, "ATM AGGIES."

Wally Groff, athletic director, said the panels were delivered with the signs already in place. They were installed before the first yell practice.

When Groff returned and saw the newly installed signs, he said they needed to be corrected.

The panels, he explained, are for advertising and will eventually be sold. Nothing was ordered to fill the spaces.

Groff said he supposes the company put the "GO AGGIES" signs in as a courtesy.

"Instead of calling and asking us, they just made the signs," he said.

Billy Pickard, assistant director for athletic facilities, said the company assumed the common shout "go" would apply to Texas A&M.

"Go" doesn't work," he said. "It was a very simple procedure to get it off there."

The maintenance crew reached over the top of the third-deck wall to get to the signs, Pickard said.

They unscrewed the tops of the signs, slid the panels out, peeled off the adhesive Gs and Os and slid the panels back in.

Groff said the company just did not understand that it is not how Aggies do things.

"If they had asked, we would have told them," he said.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

The panels of the third-deck scoreboards at Kyle Field had to be changed from "ATM GO AGGIES" to "ATM AGGIES."

### Silver Taps

The solemn Silver Taps ceremony will be conducted in front of the Academic Building tonight at 10:30 p.m. in memory of Gregory Christopher White.

White, a sophomore civil engineering major, died Sept. 22 in an automobile accident while returning to campus from the Bonfire cut site.

In keeping with the tradition of Silver Taps, which dates back almost a century, the campus will be hushed and darkened at 10:20 p.m. as students gather in the Academic plaza.

The Ross Volunteers honor guard will march across campus to the plaza, where its members will fire a volley salute.

Buglers from the Aggie Band then will play a special arrangement of "Taps."

The tolling of the Albritton Tower bells signals the end of the ceremony.



**THE BATTALION TODAY**

**Honored Few**  
 Four former students were inducted into the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor.  
 AggieLife, Page 3

**Rejection**  
 Middle blocker Cindy VanderWoude is the A&M Volleyball Team's blocking specialist.  
 Sports, Page 7

**Moving On**  
 Aggie: The Spirit of AggieLand lives on at Bonfire even after tragedy.  
 Opinion, Page 11