

# THE BATTALION

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## Hopwood conference explores options

By JOANNE WHITTEMORE AND WESLEY POSTON  
THE BATTALION

**Hopwood vs. The State of Texas** brought down race-based admissions at Texas universities and brought senators, legislators and education officials to Texas A&M Tuesday to plan the next step for Texas and the nation.

Dr. Kenneth Ashworth, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board commissioner, said the restrictions placed on Texas colleges and universities place the state on an "uneven playing field" with states outside of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling. The 5th Circuit Court's ruling

applies to Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"Other states can raid our schools and skim our best minority students away from us — those with the greatest promise and greatest potentiality," Ashworth said. "We cannot respond with similar financial aid."

Ashworth said the playing field would be level if admission requirements were either relaxed in Texas or tightened in other states.

"This is not just unfair," he said, "but it could be damaging to these minorities."

The purpose of the conference, Ashworth said, is to explore Texas schools' options.

"The real purpose of the conference is to actually explore," Ashworth said. "What are some of the options we have?"

Jay Aguilar, assistant attorney general of Texas, said the defenses against Hopwood revolve around a need for diversity and the challenges presented by Texas' poor record in grade schools. "They (two of the three 5th Circuit Court judges) maintain that diversity was not a compelling state interest," Aguilar said.

The court also ruled that discrimination before college is irrelevant to the case because Hopwood was brought against a university.

Dr. Charles Hines, president of Prairie View A&M, said he grew up in a world full of laws that did not consider his best interests.

The Hopwood decision could return education to a state of "separate and unequal," he said.

"Affirmative action is not about giving me something I

didn't deserve, but providing an opportunity where there was none," Hines said.

Texas Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos suggested using measures other than legislation to improve admissions.

"Everything cannot be solved by legislation," he said.

Barrientos' proposal would improve admission criteria through balancing objectivity, to "address the greater problem and not just the symptoms."

Texas Sen. Teel Bivins said America would be "doomed to failure, turmoil, unless we assimilate minorities into our culture."

"[We need to] do all we can within the law to see to it that

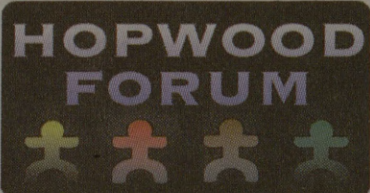
we increase minority enrollment and most importantly, minority graduation rates," Bivins said. "I don't believe the Hopwood decision has ended affirmative action."

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, said the forum was successful in educating attendees about the difficulties facing Texas as a result of Hopwood.

"I believe they learned today it's a very complex issue," he said.

Bowen said the state legislature could take the lead in the issue when it convenes next year, but there are no obvious solutions.

"There's no clear next step," he said.



**Game Boy** Trace Major, a senior management major, plays NHL '95 to qualify for a tournament in the Campus Cup Tour, sponsored by EA Sports. The tour will select eight players out of 40 campuses to compete in the finals.

## Donations make Bonfire possible

By ERICA ROY  
THE BATTALION

Aggie Bonfire costs \$30,000 to \$40,000 to build and is funded primarily by former students. This amount does not include equipment donated.

Joel Foshea, a junior redpot and an agricultural systems management major, said the junior redpots raise money during the spring and summer semesters and the beginning of the fall.

He said a majority of the money raised comes from small donations from former students the junior redpots contact through personal visits or mailers.

"Aggie Bonfire has a good reputation for itself," Foshea said. "When somebody finds out you're with Aggie Bonfire they're willing to help."

Many contributors give money each year to Aggie Bonfire, Foshea said.

He said one of the reasons they donate is to continue the Bonfire tradition.

"I think it's personal pride to see the tradition," Foshea said. "They know the value of Aggie Bonfire from their experiences. They want students today to have the opportunity to build Bonfire." Businesses donate a portion of the funding needed to build Bonfire.

Coastal Oil, Gamma Construction, F.E. Brown (former student), Frank Moreno (former student) and Harris Pappas (former student and owner of Pappadeaux and Pappasitos) are a few of the contributors.

Texas A&M clubs around the state and the Aggie Mom's Club also make donations, and the Association of Former Students gives a partial endowment to Bonfire.

However, not all donations are monetary. Some businesses and former students donate equipment such as cranes and tractors.

H.B. Zachry and the Kirkland Crane Co. provided two cranes; Zachry and Stewart and Stevenson

Co. donated two bulldozers.

Foshea said 10 tractors are needed each weekend. Some of the tractors are used all year, but others are used only once.

Jeff Vinnau, Vincent Neuhaus, Eddie Harris Jr., John Yates and Gus Harris are former students who have donated tractors during the building of Bonfire.

Other tractors have been provided by Prater Equipment and



**"When somebody finds out you're with Aggie Bonfire they're willing to help."**

Joel Foshea  
Junior redpot

## Aggie Band to compete in virtual tournament

By COURTNEY WALKER  
THE BATTALION

Elections were over a week ago, but Aggies still have a vote to cast — this time via the World Wide Web.

The Aggie Band will compete against 16 other college marching bands in ESPN's virtual reality single-elimination tournament. The competition begins today and ends Nov. 26.

Col. Ray Toler, director for the Aggie Band, said if all Aggies vote, the band should do well.

"We have a lot of fans and feel honored to be selected as one of the top bands in the country by ESPN," he said.

The Aggie Band will first face

off against Dartmouth College Marching Band. Votes for this competition may be cast today on the World Wide Web.

ESPN is an electronic version of ESPN, the sports network, on the World Wide Web.

The Aggie Band is the only traditional, military-style marching band in the competition.

Brian Yates, a band member and a sophomore electrical engineering major, said the military marching style is what makes the band different and gives it an advantage.

"Because the military style is unique, it leaves an impression in people's minds," he said.

A summary of each band will be included on the Web along with a picture of each band in for-

mation. Computers with sound can play two songs played by each band.

The Aggie Band will be pictured in a cross-throw formation on Kyle Field. Voters can hear them play "The Spirit of Aggie" and yell their "Hump it."

Shane Tanner, head drum major and a senior community health major, said the competition takes the Aggie Band one step closer to proving they are the "nationally famous Fightin' Texas Aggie Band."

If the band wins its competition against Dartmouth, it will compete against the winner of the Stanford vs. University of Nebraska competition Nov. 20. The semifinals will be Nov. 22 and the finals Nov. 23.

The Starwave Corp. maintains ESPNET in conjunction with ESPN.

Starwave editors selected the bands based on different halftime presentations and suggestions made by ESPN correspondents.

Toler said the competition will be good national exposure for the Aggie Band.

"It will bring in some specific viewers from ESPN and people who use the Internet a lot," he said. "For example, our exposure on the East coast isn't near what it is in the central part of the country."

Votes may be cast at: <http://espn.sportszone.com/editors/fantasy/college/bands.html>. Only one vote per e-mail address is allowed.

### THE BATTALION TODAY

#### Alaska Calling

A Texas A&M student finds his way across the northernmost state using his feet.  
Aggielife, Page 3

#### Enemy Ground

The A&M Volleyball Team travels to Austin to take on Texas in a battle of Big 12 heavyweights.  
Sports, Page 7

#### Paper Flurry

Goodwin: Students quickly learn the easy way out of writing papers.  
Opinion, Page 11

## Student task force to assess usefulness of MSC facilities

By LAURA OLIVEIRA  
THE BATTALION

A task force of Texas A&M students and administrators has been assembled to review and re-evaluate the purposes of MSC facilities.

Headed by Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for student affairs, the committee is reviewing the MSC basement area and adjoining spaces like the craft center, barbershop and Rumours Coffee Haus and Deli.

Kibler said no plans have been made to close these facilities yet.

"We do not have any preconceived notions of getting rid of anything," he said. "We are looking at the usefulness and value the facilities currently have to students."

Kibler said the committee's main goal is to satisfy the needs of A&M students.

"Nearly all the space in the MSC is for the students," he said. "Our whole purpose is to see if that space is benefiting

the students, and if not, how it can."

Erin Mozola, MSC executive student vice president for administration and a senior applied mathematical science major and co-chair of the committee, said a diverse group of directors was chosen for the task force.

"We tried to get a cross-section of the people who are involved in using the space," Mozola said. "We have a neat group of people to work with."

Jack Cahill, division manager for cash operations in the Department of Food Services, said he wants to use past experiences to help the community.

"I have worked with many universities and I think I can be beneficial to the committee in that sense," Cahill said. "We are here to be a service for the community."

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## Services provide online news

Aggie Hotline, Aggie Daily reach readers through World Wide Web

CHRISTIE HUMPHRIES  
THE BATTALION

Online news is now available through the Texas A&M Office of University Relations via two publications, the Aggie Hotline and the Aggie Daily.

The Hotline summarizes on-campus news and is e-mailed to subscribers' accounts. Included is the address for access to the full story in the Daily on the World Wide Web.

Mary Jo Powell, associate director of University Relations, said University Relations does not profit from the publications.

"This is a service we provide to the campus community and basically anyone who wants to subscribe," she said.

The University began seeking a new method of information distribution when it was decided the on-cam-

pus printing press would not remain operational. Previously, faculty and staff received campus news via a biweekly newsletter, Fortnightly.

The campus-wide improvement team, within University Relations, conducted surveys to improve the distribution of campus information.

Lane Stephenson, deputy director of University Relations, said the results of the surveys revealed a desire for an increase in campus news.

"We did focus groups and some polling," he said. "[We] found more information was wanted in a more timely manner, and people want it to be more focused and relevant."

He said the Hotline and the Daily meet the needs of both the faculty and staff.

Powell said she has received positive feedback from people throughout the

University.

The Hotline and the Daily are open to everyone. Almost 1,000 people have subscribed, so far.

Mary Helen Bowers, deputy director of University Relations, organized the publications and manages subscriptions.

Bowers said the publications will soon receive more publicity, which should result in a rapid growth of subscriptions.

Powell said they have one subscriber from New Zealand who stumbled across the Daily while browsing the Web.

Stephenson said he hopes to see continued growth in the number of subscriptions.

"We do want it to grow," he said. "But that, of course, takes time."

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