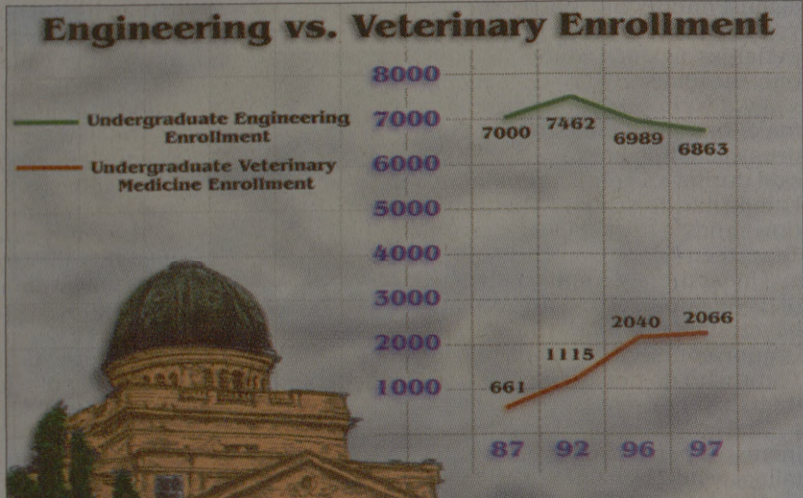


NEWS BRIEFS

Texas A&M engineers receive ASEE awards
Engineers from Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University System will receive six of the 12 awards to be given out by the American Society for Engineering Education June 18.

Enrollment decreases in engineering
College's strict academic requirements contribute to the decline



By ROBERT SMITH
THE BATTALION

The College of Engineering long has been the leading college in student enrollment at Texas A&M University, but a greater percentage of students has pursued degrees in other fields in recent years.

Statistics from the Engineering Workforce Commission reveal the total number of engineering bachelor's degrees awarded in the 1995-96 school year at Texas A&M dropped by 44 from the previous year.

There also has been a trend of decreasing undergraduate enrollment in the College of Engineering at the University. In 1987, 25.7 percent of all undergraduate students at A&M were enrolled in the College of Engi-

neering. In 1992, 24 percent of all undergraduates were engineering majors. This spring, only 21.4 percent of undergraduates could say they were engineering majors.

Dr. John A. Fleming, an electrical engineering senior lecturer, said the engineering college is partly responsible for the decrease in enrollment and graduates in the college.

"There was a deliberate plan to lower the number of students," Fleming said. "The main reason is that the college was just becoming too large to handle."

Jeanne Rierson, director of engineering student programs, said the college's enrollment management program also limits the number of students eligible for enrollment in the college.

The program requires potential engineering majors to maintain a certain GPR after taking first-year classes, including English composition, calculus, introductory chemistry and introductory engineering. Students pursuing civil, electrical and mechanical engineering degrees must maintain a 2.75 GPR after completing these "common body of knowledge" courses. Students studying computer engineering, computer science and chemical engineering must have a 3.0 GPR or higher. Bio-medical Engineering degree candidates must maintain a 3.25 GPR.

For students who scored lower than a 620 on the math portion of the SAT, the road to the engineering school is now a tougher journey.

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Obesity, cholesterol may be unrelated

DALLAS (AP) — A teen-age girl with cholesterol may not solve the problem of losing weight.

That's because girls' cholesterol levels appear to be unrelated to their percentage of body fat, according to findings published in Monday's edition of the American Heart Association journal Circulation.

United States out of running for Olympics

(AP) — The last, slim chance of an American city playing host to the 2008 Olympics died Monday, with hopes instead set on staging two other international sports events.

The U.S. Olympic Committee's board of directors voted against pursuing a bid for 2008, while agreeing to go for the Pan American Games in 2007 and consider a bid for the Olympics in 2012.

The vote by the 107-member board was taken in a mail ballot and followed the recommendations last month of the USOC's executive committee, which said the U.S. chances of winning a fifth Olympics in 28 years were doomed against a large international field of bidders.

"It gives us the direction we had been hoping for," USOC executive director Dick Schultz said. The committee did not release the vote, but Schultz said 90 of the 107 board members responded near unanimously on the Pan Am bid and overwhelmingly on the others.

Eight cities — Baltimore, Cincinnati, Houston, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington — were U.S. candidates for 2008, and are expected to be joined by Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and western New York state in the 2012 race.

Please see OLYMPICS on Page 6.

Cattlemen having cow about Oprah

HARILLO (AP) — Texas cattlemen are a serious beef with Oprah Winfrey. During an "Oprah Winfrey Show" broadcast last year, a guest said that eating ground-up animal parts to cat could spread mad cow disease to humans in the United States. To appease from the studio audience, Ms. Winfrey exclaimed: "It has just stopped from eating another burger!"

Cattle prices began to fall the day after the show and fell for two weeks before rising again.

Amarillo cattle feeder Paul Engler and a dozen cattlemen are now suing under a 1995 Texas law that protects cultural products from slander.

"I couldn't help but be infuriated," Engler, who flipped on the program while visiting Chicago, Winfrey's home, "I sat there and couldn't hardly believe what I was seeing."



Better Shape Up Texas A&M football defensive line coach **Bill Johnson** coaches a group of junior high boys at a football camp on O.R. Simpson Drill Field Monday morning.

Clinton considers apology for slavery
President to focus on repairing 'aftermath of discrimination'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton says he will consider extending a national apology to black Americans for slavery — but not compensation for their ancestors' suffering. "It's been so long and we're so many generations removed," he says.

The idea of an apology came from a white Ohio lawmaker who introduced apology legislation in Congress last week, just as Clinton was preparing to unveil his national initiative on race in a speech in San Diego.

In a radio interview aired Monday, Clinton said the apology proposal caught him off guard. He said he would think about it because "there's still some unfinished business out there among black and white Americans."

"I think it has to be dealt with," Clinton told the American Urban Radio Network. "I think this would be a helpful debate."

Last month, Clinton apologized for the na-

tion to the black men who were unwitting experiment subjects in the government's Tuskegee Syphilis Study, and in January he awarded — 50 years late — the Medal of Honor to seven black World War II soldiers for valor in combat.

But Clinton said he disagrees with the idea of paying reparations to the descendants of slaves, something many black activists have said is needed to begin rectifying more than 200 years of inequality that blacks have experienced.

"What I think we ought to do instead of reparations is to be repairing," he continued. "That is why I don't want to abandon affirmative action without an effective alternative when there's still so many people living at

least with the aftermath of discrimination." The apology was proposed last week by Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio. He said he suggested it because he found no record of one.

"To me, it's a moral issue," Hall said. "We used to count African-Americans as three-fifths of a person. They were not treated as people. "When you've hurt somebody, nothing solves the problem at first like a good, old-fashioned apology," Hall said. "Then we can begin to heal. If you don't say that, the whole issue lingers and lingers."

Hall ran his idea past the Congressional Black Caucus, which cheered it. He began seeking co-sponsors and immediately found 11, all of them white. Four more lawmakers signed on Monday, Hall said. The bill was sent to the House Judiciary Committee.

But Hall, too, has declined to embrace reparations, saying that issue has nothing to do with the apology he is seeking. "This has to do with

something basic and important," Hall said. "Reparations ought to be discussed later."

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., has introduced legislation on reparations in every session of Congress since 1989. Each time his proposal, which would create a commission to study the feasibility, has died in committee.

"I don't know what the problem is," Conyers told CNN on Monday. "We should probably say thank you to Tony Hall ... who has been courageous enough to pick (the issue) up and put it into the dialogue. I think it's time we should be able to talk about this subject without going ballistic."

Slavery was a central theme in the consultations that Clinton made with activists, scholars and other experts in drafting his plan for a national dialogue on race. Their advice was that Clinton first address the lingering wounds of slavery, then try to resolve the array of racial problems that stem from it.



Clinton

TODAY IN BATTALION

LIFESTYLES

Trend: Students enjoy challenging themselves at bars and restaurants.

See Page 3.

OPINION

Mankind confronts computer and discovers harmless nature.

See Page 5.

ONLINE

http://bat-web.tamu.edu

Listen to music
Views on
The Battalion's
web site.

Baptist leader says he'll ask for Disney boycott

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Baptists may vote this week to boycott the Walt Disney Co., contending it has traded its family-values roots for a "gay-friendly environment."

At last year's meeting in New Orleans, the Southern Baptist Convention voted to condemn Disney for what it sees as a departure from family entertainment.

The SBC put the Rev. Richard Land, president of the convention's Christian Life Commission, in charge of monitoring the company for a year to look for improvement. He says because Disney has done nothing to address concerns expressed at last year's SBC meeting, he will recommend a boycott of Disney theme parks and stores.

"We heard complaints, from Disney employees even, that there was a corporate change on top to move Disney from a family-friendly environment to a gay-friendly environment," Land said.

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Killing threatens Irish peace talks



BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — The Irish Republican Army killed two policemen with point-blank shots to the head Monday — slayings that threaten the British government's peacemaking efforts in Northern Ireland.

Britain's new Labor government immediately broke off contacts with the outlawed group's allies, the Sinn Fein party.

Two IRA members shot police officers John Graham, 34, and David Johnston, 30, about noon near an Anglican church in the religiously divided town of Lurgan, 35 miles southwest of Belfast. Both men were married and fathers of young children.

The gunmen abandoned their car a few miles away in Lurgan's biggest Catholic district, Kilwikie, where walls are painted with Sinn Fein slogans and murals of armed IRA figures. The car was then set on fire.

The slayings make street battles all the more likely next month between pro-British

Protestant marchers and Roman Catholic demonstrators determined to block Protestant parades on their turf.

A showdown over the annual Orange Order parade in Portadown, next to Lurgan, caused widespread rioting last summer. The parade, by Northern Ireland's largest Protestant fraternal organization, is scheduled for July 6 this year.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's government had restored contact with Sinn Fein on May 21, three weeks after his victory in a national election in which Sinn Fein also prospered, winning two of Northern Ireland's 18 seats in Britain's Parliament.

"It is difficult to interpret this latest attack as anything but a signal that Sinn Fein and the IRA are not interested in peace and democracy and prefer violence," Blair said at a European Union summit in Amsterdam.