

## Campus construction runs on schedule

### Companies work to ensure safety

By JENARA KOCKS  
THE BATTALION

With the number of construction areas on the Texas A&M campus, most students cannot escape walking through or seeing these areas while trying to get to class. A common sight this summer is someone walking across campus with a backhoe slowly following. The amount of heavy equipment used in these areas makes some students wonder about their safety during construction.

Marcus Brown, a senior environmental science major, said places where a lot of construction is taking place, such as Spence Street, should not be accessible to pedestrians.

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By JENARA KOCKS  
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Concrete trucks, backhoes and steel poles are becoming as much a part of the Texas A&M campus as the Twelfth Man statue or the Academic Building.

Several areas of campus are under construction. Some of these include the plaza in front of the Blocker Building, roads on Main and West Campuses, George Bush Library, Sterling C. Evans Library complex, Kyle Field and Reed Arena.

Guy Cooke, assistant manager of facilities construction division of A&M's Facilities Planning and Construction, said most projects are on-schedule and are going well.

"We've been doing more work than we've ever done," Cooke said. "We have a good staff, and we've been highly successful. I'd give us an A."

Tom Williams, director of Parking Traffic and Transportation Services, said road construction on West Campus is sched-

uled to be completed before the fall semester starts. Road projects on West Campus include Olsen, John Kimbrough and the roads alongside Reed Arena Special Events Center.

Williams said that Olsen Road from Bush Drive to Joe Routh Blvd. will be enlarged to two lanes each way instead of just one. He said medians and more lighting will be added to this road.

Williams also said that in the fall, students will be able to catch shuttle buses at a regular bus stop with lights, trash cans, benches and covered areas in front of the West Campus Library, instead of waiting at the circular drive.

Cooke said the Bush Library should be completed by November.

Adelle Hedleston, public relations staff assistant at the Evans Library and Class of '88, said renovations and additions to the library should be completed in Summer 1998.

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PHOTOGRAPH: Stew Milne

Construction workers dig up the sidewalk leading to Blocker Building Wednesday morning.

Battscope: Supreme Court Decision

Navigation buttons: Back, Forward, Home, Edit, Reload, Images, Print, Find, Stop

Address bar: http://www.web-browsers.com/

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## A&M responds to Internet ruling

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER  
THE BATTALION

When the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Communications Decency Act on June 26, it ruled that censorship of pornography on the Internet violates the First Amendment. Since this ruling, Texas A&M officials said they are relieved of the responsibility of regulating student activity on the Internet.

However, officials also said they will continue to act in the best interest of A&M students and report any criminal or illegal activities on Web pages to the proper authorities.

Tom Putnam, director of Computer Information Services, said a problem at A&M has occurred with students putting nude pictures or obscene images on their Web pages. He said people outside the University and those who do not understand computer systems sometimes believe the University endorses these displays and demand immediate removal of the offensive material.

"The real problem is trying to restrict people from putting nude images up that could be seen by minors," Putnam said. "A&M could have been held liable for something like this if the Supreme Court ruling went the other way."

The Court said the government cannot limit adults to "seeing only what is fit for children."

John Dinkel, associate provost for Computing Information Services, said the Communications Decency Act (CDA) did not clearly define objectionable speech and that the Court ruling was necessary.

"I think there's a sense of release," Dinkel said. "It (the Court ruling) makes life easier for us at A&M in the electronic field."

Dinkel said a study of student Internet traffic was done in the spring. The study found that students and faculty access the Internet through the A&M server at a rate of 500-600 million times a year. Dinkel said this number is steadily growing.

Putnam said criminal and illegal acts committed by students on Web pages would be handled properly.

"We have to define what obscenity is — what is legal and what is illegal — before we can notify authorities," he said.

**"It (court ruling) makes life easier for us at A&M in the electronic field."**

John Dinkel

Associate provost for computing

Dinkel said A&M has followed the Texas Penal Code to decide what is illegal. The code (paragraph 43.21) defines obscenity as material that depicts or describes "patently offensive" sexual acts, including sexual intercourse, sodomy and sexual bestiality.

The Student Conflict Resolution Services Center handles cases of male and female nudity posted on the Web, copyright infringement and use of a Web site for commercial use.

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## Bush questions Mauro's hiring of convicted felon

AUSTIN (AP) — Land Commissioner Garry Mauro's hiring of a man convicted of bank fraud to oversee a \$52 million state construction program raises questions, Gov. George W. Bush said Wednesday.

"I just believe it's important for all of us (in government) to maintain the highest ethical standards," Bush said.

"I know what my own instincts are. I'm confident this person would not have been appointed in my administration."

The comments were Bush's first on the controversy that surfaced last week after reports that Mauro, a possible Democratic candidate for governor in 1998, hired ex-banker Ruben Johnson to help start a \$52 million program to build assisted-living centers for veterans.

In 1989, Johnson was indicted on charges of bank fraud in taking kickbacks from contractors building a new bank in Austin.

He still owes \$4.6 million in restitution ordered when he was convicted.

Mauro defends the hiring as giving an ex-con a second chance and says that Johnson's fiscal expertise was an asset.

"I just hope this doesn't mean Gov. Bush doesn't believe in giving people a second chance," Mauro spokesman Joe Cutbirth said Wednesday.

It does not, Bush said. But he said there are other ways of providing those opportunities.

"There is doubt about this person's capacity to manage construction bids. That's precisely what the job is," Bush said.

"There's all kinds of ways of giving people a second chance. ... Particularly when all of us must be earning the public trust, it's a mixed message."

Johnson helped fund the 1982 Democratic Party ticket, making more than \$100,000 in contributions and millions of dollars in loans to candidates.

Texas Ethics Commission records show he contributed \$5,000 and his bank loaned \$228,000 to Mauro's campaign in 1982.

While not directly criticizing Mauro, the Republican governor did offer a preview of what could become a campaign issue should Mauro jump into the race.

"I found it interesting he (Johnson) had loaned enormous sums of money to different candidates," Bush said.

"I'm not going to comment on Garry Mauro and his ethics until there's a campaign on. We're not in a campaign," he added. "There'll be an appropriate time."



Mauro

### TODAY IN BATTALION

#### LIFESTYLES

Brick by brick: Red Brick Bakery owner Timothy Vanya discusses improvements.

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#### OPINION

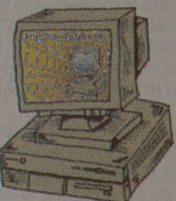
Protests: Campus construction, provocations cause harm to innocent trees; hinders students.

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#### ONLINE

http://bat-web.tamu.edu

Free link to A&M web page for CIS policies.



## Witness: Chief fund-raiser was pushed into job

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House officials from President Clinton on down pushed John Huang for his controversial fund-raising job at Democratic headquarters though party officials had misgivings about Huang's grasp of campaign laws, the first witness at Senate hearings testified Wednesday.

Richard Sullivan, the former Democratic Party finance director, said he was so concerned about Huang's lack of fund-raising experience that he warned him about adhering to federal election laws and insisted he be instructed by a lawyer about prohibitions against accepting money from foreigners.

"I was concerned that John knew the rule," Sullivan told senators.

The party has returned nearly half of the \$3.4 million Huang raised as the Democrats' chief fund-raiser among Asian-Americans last year because of concerns that the money came from improper sources.

In Spain, far from the glare of the hearings, Clinton acknowledged he may have made a pitch to get Huang the fund-raising job.

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PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog

### Roll On

Jared Bayer, standing at the intersection of Hwy 6 and Hwy 21, watches half of a historic two-story Victorian house that is being moved. This is one of five intersections where the street lights had to be removed so the house could pass. The house was bought at an auction and is being moved from Navasota to Bryan.