

NEWS BRIEFS

M names Ethnic Studies Institute head

Mitchell F. Rice, a professor at Louisiana State University, was named director of the Texas A&M Center for Ethnic Studies Institute today.

Rice also will be in the faculty of the George Bush School of Government and Public Administration on Sept. 1. He has done research in international, personal, urban and social policy, and he has published several books, bibliographies and articles.

The Institute, founded in 1991, provides information to policymakers on race, ethnicity, gender and social class in education, economics, environment and health.

Wal-Mart announces store closings

WALTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said Tuesday it will close 48 of its 61 Bud's Discount stores, including five in Texas, because the no-frills outlets fell short of expectations.

The closings will reduce second-quarter earnings at the nation's No. 1 retailer by \$40 million to \$50 million. But Wal-Mart said it remains profitable with projected earnings for the quarter ending July 31.

"We weren't meeting the long-term performance objective that we had in mind as far as growth potential and risk," said Jay Allen, Wal-Mart spokesperson.

The first Bud's store, named after Sam Walton's brother and co-founder of Wal-Mart, opened in 1980. Most Bud's stores are located in buildings left vacant when Wal-Mart stores relocated to larger facilities in a community.

Tremor kills 10 in South Africa mine

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A minor earthquake set off an underground rock slide, killing 10 people and leaving eight missing Tuesday in a South African gold mine.

The 3.7-magnitude tremor rattled the Hartebeestfontein gold mine, 100 miles southwest of Johannesburg, Monday night, said Julian Sim, spokesman for mine operator AngloGold Limited.

Thirty miners were taken to a hospital and another 46 were treated for minor injuries at a mine rescue station, Gwillim said.

Rescue operations are continuing and will not cease until all the missing men have been located," he said Tuesday.

TODAY IN BATTALION

SPORTS

Former Aggie basketball coach Shelby Metcalf reflects on his tenure at A&M.

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OPINION

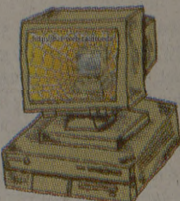
Francis: Termites, other insects deserve more respect from America public.

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ONLINE

<http://bat-web.tamu.edu>

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Regents to accept admissions change

JENARA KOCKS
 THE BATTALION

The Board of Regents will give Texas A&M officials the authority to revise admission requirements for Fall 1998 and hold public meetings to discuss tuition increases Thursday and Friday at West Texas A&M in Canyon.

Texas House Bill 588 says that state universities must give automatic admission to high-school students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class, and Texas Senate Bill 1997 states that any time a university raises tuition above the base state tuition amount, it must hold a

public hearing.

Both bills were passed by the 75th Texas Legislature. The Board's vote will serve as a formality in assuring that the laws are enforced by the University.

A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen said the University is concerned about the new admissions requirements because about 17,000 high-school students graduate in the top 10 percent of their class every year. He said that theoretically, if all these students applied to A&M, the University would have to admit all of them. The University can only accept about 6,300 freshmen every fall.

Bowen said all students in the

top 10 percent of their high school classes in Texas will probably not apply to Texas A&M.

However, he said the University turns down a couple of hundred applicants from the top 10 percent of their class every year.

"Under this legislation, we have to admit all of those students [who are rejected]," he said.

Bowen said that now some students in the lower 90 percent of high school classes will not be accepted

by A&M.

Ronald G. Douglas, provost and executive vice president, said he does not know exactly how these new admissions requirements will affect the University, but he said the legislation was designed to increase minority enrollment at Texas universities.

"We know the goal in passing this bill was to increase diversity of students in Texas universities," Douglas said, "and we hope this is the consequence here."

Stephenie Rhodes, adviser of the Black Awareness Committee, said the new admissions requirement should be positive for minority students.

"I guess this is legislature's only way to offset the Hopwood case," Rhodes said.

Ana Olmedo, an executive officer for MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Culture, said the admissions requirements are detrimental to minority admissions.

Olmedo said the requirements will prevent the University from considering leadership qualities or talents of an applicant.

"Some minority students who are not in the top 10 percent qualify (for admission to A&M) just as well as those who are," she said.

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Bowen

Researchers grow organs for animals

Technique may be used to correct birth defects

BOSTON (AP) — Scientists have grown replacement organs for sheep, rats and rabbits using the animals' own cells and lab molds to help the tissue take shape — a technique that could be used someday to make spare parts for people.

While scientists have already found ways to grow skin and cartilage, two Harvard researchers claim to be the first to have grown animal tissue from a variety of organs, including the heart, kidneys and bladder.

"As surgeons, that's what we dream about — having a shelf full of body parts," said Dr. Anthony Atala, who pioneered the technique with Dario Fauza.

Their new method — to be presented today at a conference of the British Association of Pediatric Surgeons in Istanbul, Turkey — has already been used to build bladders and windpipes for sheep, a kidney for a rat, and leg muscles for a rabbit. The spare organs were built with tissue taken from both grown and fetal animals.

The two doctors said the greatest hope for the technique could be in correcting com-

mon birth defects. They have developed a method for growing replacement organs for newborns while they are still in the womb.

For example, if a fetus has a malformed trachea, surgeons could extract some of those cells from the womb, grow the new windpipe in the lab and have it ready to be transplanted when the baby is born.

"This can save lives," Fauza said. Fetal tests on humans are set to begin within a year, and the researchers hope to get approval from the Food and Drug Administration for routine use within five years.

Cornell University researcher Thomas McDonald, who studies the development of sheep fetuses, said the method appears to be a way around the biggest obstacle to organ transplants — the body's rejection of foreign parts.

Normally, surgeons have been forced to use mismatched tissues to repair defects, like a piece of intestine to patch a hole in the bladder.

"It sounds like a wonderful technique and it sounds very doable," McDonald said. "It's just that nobody has tried it until now."

Greenspan positive on inflation, economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Calling the economy "exceptional," Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan indicated there is no current need to boost interest rates to fight inflation. That was all Wall Street needed to hear to send stocks and bonds soaring.

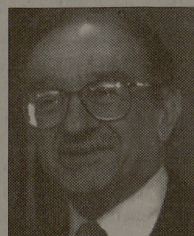
The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 154.93 points to a record high of 8,061.65.

The ever-cautious Greenspan sought Tuesday to strike a balance in delivering his midyear report to Congress. He said while he

saw no evidence of increased inflation, the central bank was on the alert for faster-than-expected economic growth that could require the brake of rate hikes down the road.

But analysts and investors viewed Greenspan's overall views about the economy as upbeat, especially because he gave no signal that any interest rate increase was imminent.

"The fear of Fed tightening has been removed at least for the foreseeable future, and that means the financial market horses can run free and unrestrained," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Northwest Corp. in Minneapolis.



Greenspan

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Former student announces candidacy

Holzheuser will run for railroad commissioner

BY ROBERT SMITH
 THE BATTALION

State representative and former Texas A&M student Steve Holzheuser, R-Victoria, announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Texas Railroad Commissioner Tuesday afternoon at Eastwood Airport.

"I am in this campaign to win," Holzheuser said. "I believe I am the best candidate for the job."

Holzheuser, who is the only candidate for the position, said the railroad commissioner should support the energy industry and ensure that state laws are fair for citizens. "The next railroad commissioner for the state must be dedicated to promoting the energy industry — but not just be there as a regulator — and to be there to loudly articulate what the state needs not only locally but also at the federal level," he said.

Holzheuser said he favors limited government involvement in business.

"The government needs to set fair rules for everyone to play by, and once we've done that we need to get out of the way," Holzheuser said. "Our businesses will flourish whenever they can make the decisions based on what is best for them and

not based on what government tells them is best for them."

Holzheuser spoke for about 14 minutes and concentrated on his credentials in the Texas Legislature.

"As chairman of the House Energy Resource Committees, I have years of experience in dealing with issues that have to do with energy," he said.

Holzheuser said his experience in the Texas Legislature makes him a qualified candidate.

"[Texans] want candidates who have the courage and integrity to discuss real issues," he said. "I believe that I have a legislative background and the leadership to make sure the Railroad Commission is handled properly."

He said he showed commitment to protecting tax income as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

"I passed an amendment last session that makes it harder for local taxing districts to raise taxes just by raising the appraisal value," he said.

Holzheuser said the energy industry is vital to Texas. "One out of every nine jobs in Texas comes directly or indirectly from the energy industry," he said.



PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog

Puddle Break

"Harley" takes a break and cools off in a puddle outside G. Rollie White Colesium Tuesday while owner Nicki Smith, a sophomore general studies major, looks on.

Celebrities mourn Versace in Milan

MILAN, Italy (AP) — A mournful rendition of Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd," performed by Sting and Elton John brought celebrities and other mourners to tears Tuesday at a memorial Mass for Gianni Versace.

More than 2,000 people gathered in Milan's gothic cathedral to honor the fashion designer, who was gunned down July 15 in front of his mansion in Miami Beach, Fla.

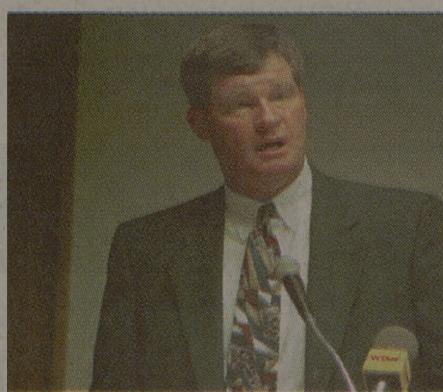
The celebrity-filled service might have resembled a night at the Oscars, except there was no glitz, only grief. Many wept openly.

The mourners included Princess Diana; Carolyn Besette-Kennedy, wife of John Kennedy Jr.; supermodels Naomi Campbell and Eva Herzigova; designers Giorgio Armani and Valentino; choreographer Maurice Bejart and Anna Wintour, editor of Vogue America.

"We are gathered here this evening not for a show, but for an act of faith," the Rev. Angelo Majo, chief priest of the cathedral, said.

Perhaps one of the greatest tributes to Versace was the turnout of so many of his fashion colleagues, despite past rivalries on and off the runway.

Carla Fendi, Karl Lagerfeld, Gianfranco Ferré, Valentino, the Missonis, and archival Armani sat in a row behind the family. They were united in mourning the loss of one of the main contributors to the success of the "Made in Italy" label.



PHOTOGRAPH: Shannon Castle

Steve Holzheuser announced his candidacy for Texas Railroad Commissioner Tuesday at Eastwood Airport.

Holzheuser said the nation also needs a new energy policy that does not rely heavily on foreign oil.

"The Clinton administration is basically 'AWOL' when it comes to a national energy policy," he said. "They have made no efforts to establish a cohesive group of recommendations that will allow us to achieve energy independence."

Holzheuser received a doctorate of veterinary medicine from A&M.