

95  
7594  
75

Today

Tomorrow

See extended forecast, Page 2.

Volume 103 • Issue 175 • 6 Pages

College Station, TX

Monday, August 4, 1997

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Physicist to serve as safety program head

Christopher M. Meyer, a certified health physicist, has been named head of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, effective immediately.

Meyer, who has served as interim head since September 1996, graduated from Texas A&M in 1980 with a master's degree in nuclear engineering and completed a master's degree in nuclear engineering at the University and is pursuing a doctoral degree in health physics.

The Environmental Health and Safety Department manages health and safety programs for the University.

## A&amp;M kinesiology names new head

Jack H. Wilmore, the Margie Gurtey Centennial Professor at the University of Texas, has been named head of the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Texas A&M.

Wilmore, the former chair of kinesiology and health education at UT, is president-elect of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education. He has written more than 14 books and contributed more than 53 chapters to other publications on sports training and medicine.

Wilmore replaces Robert A. Armstrong, distinguished professor and director of the Omar Smith endowed chair in Health and Physical Education. Armstrong is returning to a full-time teaching and research position.

## Political Science will move to West Campus

The Texas A&M Department of Political Science is moving to the Academic Building West in the George Bush Presidential Library Center Aug. 15.

The political science department in Bolton Hall but will be closed on Aug. 15. The undergraduate advising office will be in Blocker Building Rm. 303 on that day.

## Cities to observe National Night Out

The cities of Bryan and College Station are participating in "National Night Out" Aug. 4-5.

The Bryan, College Station and University Police Departments and Brazos County Sheriff's Office will meet at the kick-off event at Post Oak from 4 to 8:30 p.m. today. The departments will have displays explaining ways for to secure homes from burglars.

On Aug. 5, community members are asked to turn on their lights, lock their homes and have a block party with neighbors as a message to criminals that neighborhoods are watching crime.

## TODAY IN THE BATTALION

## SPORTS

Money: After the recent loss of the Oilers, Astros fans would be a little more loyal.

See Page 3.

## OPINION

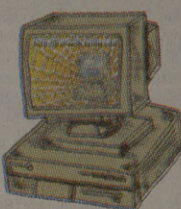
Prize: Miss America contestant adds to society's interest in bellybuttons.

See Page 5.

## ONLINE

http://bat-web.tamu.edu

Check out the Wire, the 24-hour online news service.



## University renames use fee

By JENARA KOCKS  
THE BATTALION

## Public hearing held to clarify change

Texas A&M renamed the General Use Fee as University Authorized Tuition, which increases from \$24 to \$34 per credit hour this fall.

Senate Bill 1907, passed by the state legislature earlier this year, requires that state tuition and the former General Use Fee (GUF) both be billed as tuition.

State tuition will be called State Minimum Tuition on students' billing statements.

The tuition law also requires that universities hold public hearings to discuss any increase in tuition.

Dr. William B. Krumm, vice president for finance and controller, said that a public hearing Friday at the MSC explaining the increase in UAT was a "technicality."

"This hearing was held to explain the change in words," Krumm said.

Krumm said the University held three public

hearings in the past two years about the \$10 increase in the former GUF. The increase was approved in January by the Board of Regents and will be effective September 1.

By law, universities may not raise the former GUF higher than state tuition.

State tuition is also \$34 per credit hour. "If you put tuition and tuition on the bill, parents will think they have been billed twice," Krumm said.

He said the tuition law does not change the purpose of the former GUF. The money is used to finance capital projects, operating costs and faculty and staff salaries.

Krumm said A&M sought input on the name change from Student Body President Curtis Childers and other student government members.

"We were interested in clearly identifying

this for students," Krumm said. "Students are the ones who will read it [on their bills]."

Brandi Mohler, a senior microbiology major, said she did not know about the increase in UAT until she saw her bill for the fall.

"I noticed the fees were substantially larger than last semester on my bill," Mohler said.

She said the hearing helped her understand why UAT had increased and liked that the name "UAT" distinguishes between state tuition and what used to be the GUF.

Krumm said that every student bill will have an insert that explains the change to students and parents who did not attend the meeting or see the notices about the name change on A&M's Web site.

Adam Rudy, a senior industrial distribution major, said he thinks the new name for the GUF will confuse people.

"The University often sends a lot of literature with the fee statement," Rudy said. "I think people will look at the fee statement, but they won't read the extra literature."

Keith Kunkel, a senior animal science major, questioned how students who work on campus and pay their own tuition will be able to afford an increase in UAT.

"Shouldn't they increase wages or give financial aid to students who work on campus and pay their own tuition?" Kunkel said. "Otherwise, these students have to use loans and graduate with debt."

More money has been provided this year in A&M's budget for faculty salaries, Krumm said. He said pay increases for student workers would be up to individual colleges and departments.

Krumm also said that minimum wage will increase September 1.

Krumm said the tuition law and the law that defined the GUF states that universities have the option to raise the UAT \$2 every year along with state tuition until the year 2002.

## Cadets remember fallen Gulf War servicemen

By ROBERT SMITH  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets honored three Aggies who died in the Persian Gulf War at a service Saturday night at Fish Pond.

The deceased Aggies commemorated were Maj. Richard M. Price, Class of '74; Lt. Daniel V. Hull, Class of '81 and Capt. Thomas C. Bland, Class of '86.

The service included a wreath laying, a prayer by a cadet chaplain and the playing of taps.

Steve Pryor, a Gold 4 veteran of the U. S.

Navy and member of the Corps, planned the service.

"Being a patriot does not mean you have to wear a uniform," Pryor said, "it's just that we have to remember who sacrificed for us."

Pryor said the Persian Gulf War proved freedom cannot be taken for granted.

"These three demonstrated that freedom has a price and all should take note," he said.

Saturday, Aug. 2, marked the seventh anniversary of the start of Operation Desert Shield.

A plaque memorializing their sacrifice is at Fish Pond.

## Activists push for resolution of unsolved gay serial killings

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Andrew Cunanan's suicide halted one of the nation's most lurid cases of serial murder. But from New Jersey to Virginia to Texas, the slayings of as many as 30 gay men or transvestites, which activists believe are the work of five serial killers, remain unsolved.

In some cases, investigators have been hindered by lack of resources and, some allege, lack of interest.

"What's the difference between my son and Versace? Money and notoriety. If you've got money and fame, it's going to get solved," says Donna Smith, whose 18-year-old son's strangled body was found 10 years ago in Chesapeake, Va.

Smith, who now lives in Cocoa, Fla., does not believe her son, Charles, was homosexual, although he frequented the gay scene, as did most of the 11 victims who followed him in death.

She watched the Cunanan chase in south Florida with fascination — and with anger that the Virginia serial killer has not been sought with the same fervor as the man suspected in the murders of fashion designer Gianni Versace and four other men.

"All the victims were seen as expendable," Smith says of the murders linked to her son's slaying. "They labeled them as gays and druggies, so nobody cared."

Activists who track violent crimes against gay men and lesbians acknowledge some police departments, even the FBI, are beginning to reach out to the gay community to build trust and understanding.

"On the local level, many of us have seen day-and-night changes in the last five to 10

## TEXAS SERIAL KILLINGS

In 1994, Larry David Allen, 38, Larry Leggett, 43, and Leopoldo Quintanilla Jr., 29, were stabbed to death in Irving. Police believe all were homosexual and frequented the same bars in largely gay Dallas neighborhood.

years," says Jeffrey Montgomery, a spokesman for the Michigan Anti-Violence Project. "In Detroit, for example, there's been a 180-degree change in the way they handle cases, from very, very, very badly to extremely efficient and good."

Other activists, however, remain frustrated and say it still takes pushing to get many officers to take seriously any crimes involving homosexual victims, even homicides.

"Gay-related cases aren't popular cases. And whether it's ignorance or homophobia, it's a big problem," asserts Bea Hanson, director of client services for the Anti-Violence Project in New York.

The possible serial killings include the 1994 stabbing deaths of three homosexual men in Irving, Texas; the shooting deaths, from 1987 to 1992, of six Atlanta men dressed in women's clothing; and the 1992 stabbing deaths of four men who were last seen in Denver gay bars, according to Anti-Violence Project statistics and newspaper accounts.

## Critics of increased tobacco tax doubt it will curb teen smoking

## Money to help pay for new children's health program

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is raising the tobacco tax this year, in part to keep teens from lighting up. But 15-year-old Suzanne Kane, hanging out with friends on a summer evening, laughs it off.

"Whether you're smoking to be cool or you're chain smoking, 15 cents is not going to make a difference," says the Washington teen-ager, reflecting skepticism not only among her peers but among lawmakers who wanted a higher tax but were forced to compromise.

The balanced budget plan President Clinton will sign Tuesday increases cigarette taxes by 10 cents in the year 2000 and another nickel in 2002 — much less than the 43 cents backers originally sought.

The money will help pay for a new children's health program. But the effort's twin goal — to reduce teen-age smoking

by raising prices — may not fare as well.

"Part of the goal was to increase the tobacco tax so significantly that kids would stop buying cigarettes, and we didn't get that this year," said Rep. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., who sponsored the tax in the House.

But Johnson argues that getting any cigarette tax increase through Congress was an important first step nevertheless.

"We've broken through a barrier on this issue," she said. "When we need more money, that's where we're going."

Teen smoking has edged up in recent years after falling during the 1980s. Now, one in five teen-agers smokes and 3,000 teens pick up the habit each day. About nine in 10 adult smokers began smoking as teen-agers.

Please see TAX on Page 2.



PHOTOGRAPH: Rony Ankriwan

**Second Look** Nicole Piper, a senior environmental design major, studies slides for a modern architecture test Sunday.

## Study: Economic upswing triggers influx of immigrants, U.S. workers

DALLAS (AP) — Texas is attracting equal numbers of foreign immigrants and people from other states, a new study of census figures shows.

For almost every foreigner who moved to Texas since 1990, a U.S. resident has moved to Texas from another state, The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday.

"Most of the rest of the country is not attracting both groups," said William Frey, demographer at the University of Michigan Population Studies Center, which produced the report.

From 1990 to 1996, Texas had a net gain of 474,376 foreign immigrants and 426,696 domestic transplants, the report shows.

Nevada leads the nation in the rate of relocating Americans, but only added one foreign immigrant for every 10 "domestic migrants."

California, which leads the country in the rate of new foreigners, lost one American for each foreign immigrant.

"(Texas) gets a mix of the skilled migrants who make up the domestic migrant streams as well as ... people who are unskilled (who) tend to be immigrants," Frey said.

The migration patterns are indicative of Texas' economic upswing, said Steve Murdock of the Texas State Data Center at Texas A&M University.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area is the most balanced major metropolitan area in the nation

in bringing in equal numbers of migrants. In the last six years, DFW had a net gain of 115,000 people from other states and a 110,000 net gain of people from other countries.

The eight counties in the DFW area had a net gain of both types of migrants of 224,000. That was more than any other area in the state.

“Most of the rest of the country is not attracting both groups.”

William Frey  
Demographer

The jobs luring migrants to the area are in health care, telecommunications, and convention tourism, said Bernard Weinstein, director of the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas.

Well-educated workers gravitate to the health care and high-tech industries, while less-skilled employees can find work in the tourism industry.

Please see TEXAS on Page 2.