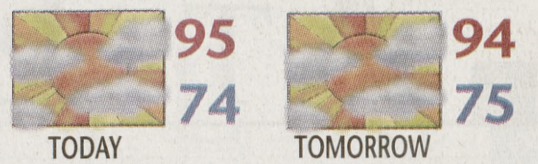


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BATTALION

Texas A&M University



See extended forecast, Page 2.

4TH YEAR • ISSUE 14 • 14 PAGES

COLLEGE STATION • TX

THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 18 • 1997

BRIEFS

Speaker to discuss

HIV-positive life

Steve Sawyer, a Christian speaker who is HIV-positive, will speak about his life and his struggle with the disease tonight at 7 p.m. at the Rudder Theater. Sawyer, a hemophiliac, contracted the virus from a blood transfusion when he was eight years old. Campus Crusade for Christ is sponsoring the speech.

A&M professor honored by SPE

Dr. Michael J. Economides, an A&M professor of petroleum engineering, has been chosen by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) to receive its Production Engineering Award at the annual meeting Oct. 5-8 in San Antonio. The award is given annually in recognition of achievements in and contributions to the field of formation evaluation technology.

Whiting awarded annual meeting

Robert L. (Bob) Whiting, A&M professor emeritus and former head of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, will be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for contributions both to the SPE and the petroleum engineering field. Also, he will be named to the SPE Legion of Honor in recognition of his 50 consecutive years of membership to the SPE.

1997 Farm Aid concert canceled

DALLAS (AP) — The Oct. 4 Farm Aid '97 fund-raising concert has been canceled because of lagging ticket sales and a lack of corporate support. "What we do is just look at our lists vs. the sales of tickets. It wasn't there in Dallas," Harry Smith, program director for Austin-based Farm Aid, said Wednesday. "We don't have an explanation. We just know we didn't get the support that we needed." Last year, about 40,000 attended the Farm Aid concert at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, S.C. Two weeks ago, Willie Nelson and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones announced that this year's concert to benefit family farmers would be at Texas Stadium in Irving. Headliners were to include John Mellencamp, Neil Young, John Fogerty, the Dave Matthews Band and Nelson. Tickets ranged from \$17.50 to \$50. Since Nelson, Mellencamp and Fogerty founded Farm Aid in 1985, the benefits have been staged, including two others in Texas. This year's cancellation was a first, Smith said.

INSIDE

Lifestyles

Schaub: Rockin' country music is not what it used to be — true to its roots.

See Page 3

sports

A&M volleyball player Kristie Medsrud closes in on the record books in her final year.

See Page 9

opinion

Berguson: Baseball caps on campus reflect lack of student sanitation cares.

See Page 13

online

<http://bat-web.tamu.edu>
Check out The Battalion online for additional Mail Call letters, access to The Wire and past articles.

A&M to release enrollment figures

By JOE JEANETTE SCHLUETER
Staff writer

Texas A&M's final enrollment figures for the 1997-98 academic year will be in today, and with them the effect the Hopwood decision on minority enrollment.

Other universities across Texas have announced enrollment figures, and have not seen a major decrease in minority enrollment this fall.

Some universities predicted a decline as a result of the Hopwood decision, which outlawed race-based admissions and scholarships at Texas universities.

The University of Texas reported a final enrollment of 48,866 for the fall, 858 more students than last fall. Of those, 6,645 are freshmen, an increase of 1,116 from last year's numbers.

Of the 6,645 freshmen, 807 are

Hispanic and 163 are African-American, an increase from last year's 772 Hispanic and 162 African-American freshmen.

Stephen Monti, interim provost of admissions for UT, said the university is unsure of the cause of the increase in minority freshmen.

He said the university sent 400 more acceptance letters to students of all ethnicities than it has in previous years.

However, the UT Law School had a drop in minority enrollment. The school enrolled four blacks and 26 Hispanics as first-time law students this year. Last year, the law school saw 31 blacks and 42 Hispanics enrolled.

The University of Houston saw a rise in its minority freshman enrollment also. Last year UH had 456 black and 494 Hispanic freshmen enrolled. This year, there are 524 black and 646 Hispanic freshmen.

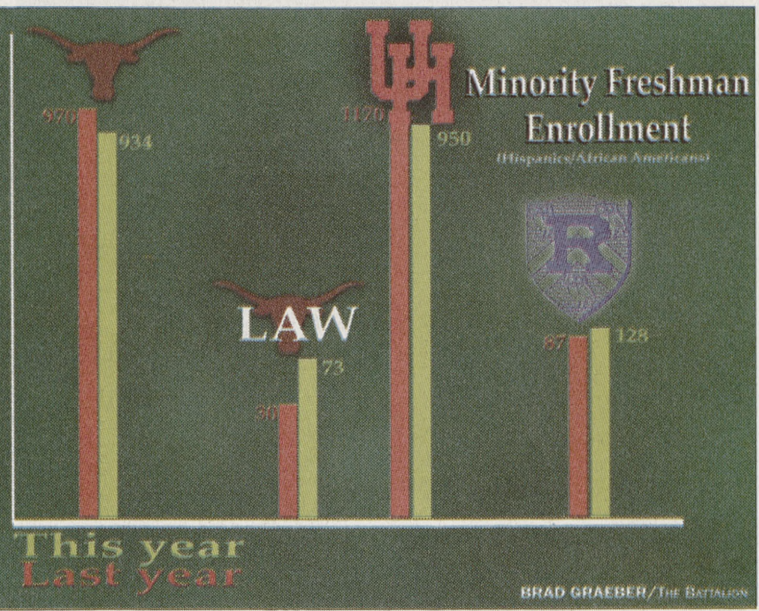
In contrast, minority enrollment figures for Texas private universities dropped in some cases.

Rice University reported 28 black freshmen enrolled, compared to 52 last year. Hispanic enrollment declined also, with 59 enrolled this year compared to 76 last year.

Rice officials said the drop may be because other private universities, such as Stanford and Harvard, acquired more minority students because the schools consider race in admissions and scholarship decisions.

The A&M Admissions and Records Office said earlier in August they expect a 23-percent drop in black freshmen enrolled and a 15-percent drop in Hispanic freshmen enrolled this fall as a result of Hopwood.

PLEASE SEE ENROLLMENT ON PAGE 2.



Tickets please



Daniel Lee, a biomedical science major, picks up football tickets for this weekend's game against Southwest Louisiana.

Suspended professor denies accusations

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

A Texas A&M professor accused of depositing more than \$100,000 in school money into a private bank account has been suspended with pay, Texas Journal of The Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday.

Dr. Dhiraj Pradhan, who holds the College of Engineering Endowed Chair in Computer Science, has until Friday to respond to the allegations. "I have done nothing wrong," he told the journal, adding he hopes "cool heads will prevail, so I can simply be a faculty member here again."

Pradhan, who joined the A&M faculty in 1992, knew since last October that he was the subject of a University investigation.

He contends the University is retaliating against him because of his criticism of the University's management and tenure policies and his ethnicity.

He said racism is the underlying cause of his suspension. "I am a proud Aggie," Pradhan said, "and I am sad they [University officials] feel that way. I still wish to teach at A&M, but I don't want to be subjected to that kind of treatment."

Pradhan, a native of India, filed last month a race-bias complaint against A&M with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC, which does not comment on such filings, has not asked the University for a response.

According to a report by

University auditors, Pradhan abused his position as a faculty member, filing false travel vouchers and requiring his students to perform work that

"I am a proud Aggie ... I still wish to teach at A&M, but I don't want to be subjected to that kind of treatment."
DR. DHIRAJ PRADHAN
COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR

would benefit two private businesses he controls in College Station. Pradhan owns Digital Computing Systems, Inc. and Technology Transfer Institute, both in Bryan.

The report also said Pradhan improperly withheld from the University more than \$100,000 in revenue generated from a course he and others taught on computer-assisted design. The course was developed according to the guidelines of a \$318,000 grant to A&M from the National Science Foundation, which also is investigating the use of the money.

Pradhan denies the accusations, claiming his position as endowed chair should not be under review. The no-review clause for endowed chairs was reviewed anyway, he said.

In addition, the report says Pradhan wrongly used \$20,000 in University money for course expenses. Pradhan,

who says he spent the \$100,000 in revenue on computer course expenses, including teacher pay, maintains A&M was not entitled to that money because it did not own the rights to the course.

Although the course was taught on campus, the professor said, it was administered through a private group of professors and did not use the NSF dollars.

Pradhan said he was allowed to spend the \$20,000 on course expenses because it was part of a \$32,000 gift from Mentor Graphics Corp. of Wilsonville, Ore., which gave the money to Texas A&M with the stipulation that it be used by Pradhan for the design course.

Pradhan learned in December the Brazos County district attorney was considering charging him.

District Attorney Bill Turner said in a letter to the University late last year that his office was "proceeding to indictment," though no indictment has been handed up.

It was not until his suspension in August that Pradhan was informed of the school's specific allegations against him.

University officials declined to discuss the case with Texas Journal. Mary Jo Powell, associate director of University Relations, told The Associated Press Wednesday it is against University policy to discuss a pending matter.

A call to the district attorney's office Wednesday was not immediately returned to the AP.

Task Force for Alcohol Abuse University addresses alcohol use

By DANIEL THEVIS
Staff writer

Following the August death of a Louisiana State University student from alcohol poisoning, Texas A&M and campus groups are educating students about alcohol abuse.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs, said members of a Task Force for Alcohol Abuse will be appointed within the next two weeks.

Southerland said the Task Force will focus on alcohol use at University events and the effect of alcohol abuse on the A&M campus. The Task Force also will make recommendations to school officials for changes in University policies and programs.

Dr. Dennis Reardon, coordinator of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Education Programs, said after the death at LSU, letters were sent to resident advisers and directors asking them to watch for warning signs of alcohol abuse in on-campus students.

Reardon said the department offers alcohol education workshops and Alcohol 101 classes for students who violate the University's alcohol policy.

Eric Vroonland, Intrafraternity Council president and a senior finance major, said despite the LSU

"I hope we can use the [LSU] incident and increase awareness and responsibility."
ERIC VROONLAND
IFC PRESIDENT

death, fraternity membership did not decline this year.

"It [the LSU incident] didn't affect Rush or membership," he said. "But the more incidents like this, the greater the suspicion about fraternity and Corps [of Cadets] activities."

Danny Feather, Corps commander and a senior economics major, said improper alcohol use is serious problem.

"Alcohol abuse has become an accepted part of culture," he said. "Also, the majority of serious violations — hazing, sexual abuse — are a result of

alcohol abuse. One of the reasons a Corps unit was disbanded last year was for allowance of underage drinking."

Janita Hanson, assistant director of Student Activities and coordinator of Greek Activities, said campus-group activities have been under more scrutiny since the death at LSU. Hanson said she has received telephone calls from parents wanting to know what events their sons will participate in during fraternity Rush.

Both Feather and Vroonland said their respective organizations require members to attend some type of seminar on alcohol education.

"I hope we can use the [LSU] incident and increase awareness and responsibility," Vroonland said.

After the death at LSU, Sigma Nu and Phi Delta Theta, two national fraternities, have set goals to become "dry" by the year 2000.

Hanson said the A&M chapters of the two fraternities have not begun the process of becoming "dry," but that the University will support their efforts.

PLEASE SEE TASK FORCE ON PAGE 2.

Tobacco deal left in limbo

WASHINGTON (AP) — Applauded by public health leaders, President Clinton called on cigarette makers Wednesday to dig deeper to salvage the landmark tobacco deal — including raising cigarette prices by as much as \$1.50 a pack. The industry and congressional Republicans found much to fault.

Clinton ignored the deal's focus on settling the lawsuits that plague tobacco companies, instead asking that Congress pass sweeping laws with one goal: stopping tobacco companies from hooking teen-agers.

His decision leaves the summertime tobacco deal an orphan, with no action this year and questions about how Congress could address the issue in 1998. By January, cigarette makers probably will be deep into lawsuits in Texas and Minnesota that could remove their desire to compromise.

"To me, this is not primarily about money," Clinton said. "This is about changing... both the behavior of the tobacco companies, the behavior of the American people, the future behavior of our children."

Clinton was repositioning the debate so that "if you care about reducing the number of kids who smoke, you have to be in favor of the president's proposal," said former Food and Drug Commissioner David Kessler. He said that stance had united feuding public health groups.

But Republican leaders attacked Clinton's recommendations as too vague, and Senate Majority Whip Don Nickles warned that he hadn't decided whether lawmakers should offer legislation necessary for the deal even next year.

"I don't feel compelled that we have to pass this in two months. I don't feel compelled that we have to pass this in 12 months," Nickles said.

Clinton's failure to provide specific recommendations "makes it far more difficult for us to do at all, regardless of the terms," said Rep. Thomas Bliley, R-Va. He plans informational hearings this winter.



Clinton