

# Ground broken on new child-care center

By AMANDA SMITH  
 Staff writer

Bryan-College Station children shovelled the top ground layer at the ground-breaking ceremonies Monday for the Texas A&M Child Care Center, which will open Fall 1998.

The construction will begin this month for the center on Hensel Drive behind the University Apartments.

Rosie Schoenfeld, the executive secretary of the child care center advisory committee, said the children were selected by members of the advisory committee and student residents in the University Apartments.

"Because of the child care center, we thought it would be a nice touch to have children perform the ground breaking," Schoenfeld said. "The center is being built for the children."

The child care center advisory committee received its lowest bid of \$904,000 from RM Dudley Construction.

Mary Miller, the chair of the child care center advisory committee and associate vice president of administration at A&M, said the committee must wait for approval of the bid from University President

Dr. Ray M. Bowen and A&M System Chancellor Barry Thompson before construction begins.

Diane Kaplan, a member of the advisory committee and an associate professor of educational curriculum and instruction, said the child care center was designed to accommodate Texas A&M students, faculty and staff.

She said the child care center will fund its operating costs.

"Regardless of [parent's] income, we want to make child care available for the children of student parents and faculty," she said. "The child care center has to pay its operation costs, so the tuition will not be cheap. We want to encourage people to make donations for scholarships for low-income staff and students with children."

The child-care center will serve 118 children full-time and 40 children part-time.

Miller said the slots will be filled tentatively through an application process. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available spots, a lottery will be held to determine who will fill the slots. Applications will be available after the beginning of the Spring 1998 semester.

Fred Patterson, the principal owner of Patterson Architects in

Bryan, said his firm designed the center with expansion in mind. The facility will occupy 10,300 square feet. Patterson said an additional module could be added in the future.

The planning and development of the center began two years ago when Bowen called for the organization of the child care center advisory committee in December 1995. The advisory committee received approval for the center in January 1997.

Kaplan, chair of the daycare subcommittee of the Faculty Senate, said the Senate stressed the need for a child care center in 1993.

"The Faculty Senate initiated a proposal for child care in trying to ensure a commitment on the part of the University," Kaplan said. "We (Faculty Senate) brought forth the research by showing the history and the success of child care centers at other quality universities."

Kaplan said the Student Senate and Graduate Student Council both submitted resolutions for the need of a child care center.

"Planning and development of the child care center has shown cooperation from the students, faculty and the staff," Kaplan said. "It has been a long time coming, but it's going to be wonderful."



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Local children help break ground Monday morning on the new Texas A&M Child Care Center to be built behind the University-owned apartments. Texas A&M University President Ray M. Bowen and other officials also attended.

## Model students

### Architecture class to present own designs for new Dallas health center Wednesday

By RACHEL DAWLEY  
 Staff writer

Sixteen Texas A&M students from the College of Architecture will present prototypes of a health center for the Presbyterian Healthcare System in Dallas Wednesday.



BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

Matthew Lillard, a junior environmental design major, and Kathleen Slagley, a senior environmental design major, examine their model for their Architecture 305 course.

The students, along with HKS Architects of Dallas, have designed different models of the 130,000 square-foot health center to be built in Coppell, Texas, near Dallas.

The students, who are enrolled in an architectural design course, were divided into eight teams and are addressing the "real-life" project in the studio while HKS designs the facility for the client.

The students have been working for two months on the models. The students' designs will give the professionals ideas for the health care center.

Aaron Noto, a junior environmental design major, said he and his partner spent many hours working on the design.

"This is real world experience," Noto said. "I learned more from the project than any other assignment I've had. I hope that I'll have the opportunity to do this kind of project again before I graduate."

Each group was given square-foot regulations and city codes, but the design and layout were unique to each project.

Wednesday's presentation will include programs, models and drawings. The students will explain their design concepts and get feedback from several architecture firms and from Presbyterian Healthcare System.

Carrie Livesay, a senior environmental design major, said the project allowed the students to learn client-oriented project design. "My partner and I had never worked with something of this scale," Livesay said. "We didn't know anything about hospital design. It just goes to show that you really can do something with research and time. We've learned a lot."

The facility will contain ambulatory-oriented diagnostic and treatment services, as well as short-stay nursing, a maternity center and physician practice sites.

The students had a preliminary review with HKS and were given program sheets describing the project. The students recently presented preliminary models to representatives from HKS.

Ronald L. Skaggs, CEO of HKS and Class of '65, said the firm works with A&M's College of Architecture regularly to give students experience.

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## Christmas tree lit to kick off Winter Spirit celebration

By JULIETTA JORDAN  
 Staff writer

Texas A&M celebrated the Winter Spirit of Aggieland Monday night by lighting the Christmas tree on the lawn of the Jack K. Williams Administration Building and the trees along New Main Drive.

Suzanne Smith, chair of the Winter Spirit of Aggieland and a senior agricultural development major, said she was excited to be a part of the first Winter Spirit of Aggieland.

"[We are] lighting the way to a new tradition," she said.

Curtis Childers, student body president and a senior agricultural development major, welcomed the audience to the beginning of a new Texas A&M tradition.

"[We are] witnessing tradition at its conception," he said.

Tracy Wade, head of campus relations for the event and a junior marketing major, said she hopes the Winter Spirit of Ag-

gieland decorations will help ease the stress of finals for students.

"[The event will] lift students' spirits during fall finals," she said.

Wade said numerous Bryan-College Station organizations have supported the project.

"The Winter Spirit of Aggieland unites the community with the University," she said.

Different businesses in Bryan-College Station have donated money to the Winter Spirit of Aggieland.

The Texas A&M Department of Forestry donated the Christmas tree in front of the Administration Building.

The 72 lighted trees along New Main Drive represent the monetary gifts of different organizations and businesses.

The Fish Band, Singing Cadets, Reveliers and Aggie Wranglers entertained the donors, students and Bryan-College Station community members who attended the event.

## Spring Battalion editor ready to bring new approach to paper

By JENARA KOCKS  
 Staff writer

The Spring 1998 semester will bring in different leadership at *The Battalion* with a new editor in chief who hopes to bring a scientific view to the newspaper.

Tiffany Inbody, a first-year graduate student in science technology and journalism and Class of '97, will be the Spring 1998 editor in chief.



DAVE HOUSE/THE BATTALION

Spring editor-in-chief Tiffany Inbody aims to bring more science to the Battalion.

she said. "This is an excellent outlet for graduate students or anyone who wants to write for science."

She said graduate students will be able to contribute articles to the science section.

Helen Clancy, Fall 1997 editor in chief and a senior English major, said Inbody's background in biology makes her a unique editor in chief.

"It's uncommon for someone who was not a liberal arts major to move up to this position," she said. "But at the same time, her status as a journalism graduate student will allow her to contribute solid leadership and direction to the young staff."

Inbody said that although her undergraduate degree is in biology, she knew she did not want to specialize in the science field, such as working in a lab. Instead, she said she wanted to be a science writer, but did not think about the journalism science and technology graduate program until graduation.

"There are so many facets to science on this campus that people do not know about," Inbody said. "We have the veterinary and medical schools, agriculture, engineering and entomology — so many departments that involve science."

Inbody said she also hopes to get the Department of Journalism, including professors and students, more involved with the newspaper. She said she hopes students in Media Writing I and II will contribute stories to *The Battalion*.

"It will give more people experience with *The Battalion* and get more people interested, so we can have a good pool of writers," she said.

Inbody worked at *The Battalion* for three years before applying for the Spring 1998 editor in chief position. She said *The Battalion* has changed a lot since she started in Fall 1994 as a copy editor and page designer.

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## Vice President, online industry agree to increase child-friendliness on 'Net

WASHINGTON (AP) — As part of their efforts to make the Internet a more kid-friendly place, the online industry has agreed to report activities involving child pornography to law enforcement officials.

Vice President Al Gore was to announce the initiative here today when he addressed a conference on ways to make the Internet a safer place for America's youngsters.

Under the policy, Internet providers would remove child pornography from their own bulletin boards and services, said Donna Rice Hughes, a spokesperson for Enough is Enough, an advocacy group trying to get child pornography off the World Wide Web.

"We have made some headway," she said.

Gore also is expected to talk about the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's toll-free hot line to report incidents of child sexual exploitation online, including child pornography, said White House officials who asked not to be named.

While applauding the commitments to help keep Internet smut away from kids, Gore also will challenge the online industry to come up with ways to protect children's privacy online, shield them from exploitative online marketing and provide them with more "safe" places to go online, the officials said.

And he is expected to announce that the Commerce Department will hold conferences on these issues, probably next year, officials said.

"Online companies need to treat all these issues as seriously as developing new products," Gore is to tell the industry, officials said. "This can't be viewed as a Washington issue. It must be viewed as the issue of gaining the trust and being able to enter and stay in the homes of America's families."

Kathryn Montgomery, president of the Center for Media Education, an advocacy group that wants to make the Internet safer and more educational for children, praised efforts to improve children's programming on the Internet.

"We need to do more than protect children from bad content; we need to ensure that there is quality, good content," she said.

Building on pledges made to President Clinton in July, industry groups on Monday — the first day of a three-day conference — discussed how to educate parents about anti-smut screening and how to highlight Internet sites that are clean enough for kids.

"I hope it works," Clinton said Monday of the industry's efforts. "I encouraged them to do it, and I'm glad they're doing it. I wish them well."

Gore will tell the industry that it

"needs to make screening and blocking tools as widely available and as easy to use as the TV remote," the official said.

The Center for Democracy and Technology, a group that works to protect computer users' civil liberties, says all major providers of Internet access to consumers offer screening technology free or at a nominal cost.

But a survey of 750 families by the monthly Family PC magazine found that only 26 percent use screening software, most of them because it is built in to their web browsers or offered by their online service providers.

Just four percent of parents use screening software when they buy and install it on their computers, the magazine survey said.

The Supreme Court in June struck down a law designed to keep cyberspace's seedy side away from children. It said the 1996 Communications Decency Act, in attempting to protect children from indecent material on the Internet, improperly restricted the free-speech rights of adults.

Hoping to avoid tough government regulations some in Congress and some anti-pornography groups want, the industry has been working on voluntary efforts, backed by the administration, to make the Internet a safer place for kids.