

Changes planned for two Northside halls

By ROBERT SMITH
 City Editor

As A&M University students will have new housing options in the Fall 1998 — Hart Hall will be rewired and equipped with window air-conditioning units, and Hart Hall, an all-male, non-air conditioned facility, may be offered to women. Students living in the two residence halls informed of the planned changes via e-mail and at a meeting Monday with Residence Life directors.

idence Life, said she believes both halls will respond favorably to the pending changes.

"I am firmly convinced that our residents will respond in the most positive way and that both halls will continue to be a strong voice in our residence hall community," she said.

However, not all A&M students support the changes.

Paul Link, a Walton resident and a junior management major, said he does not think Walton should be converted to an air-conditioned hall.

"Our residents are strongly opposed to

it," he said. "One of our arguments is that it (Walton) will be overpriced."

The transformation of Walton Hall to an air-conditioned facility will be a gradual one.

A number of rooms, based on the number of residents who return to the hall, will remain without air conditioning in the 1998-99 academic year.

These rooms will be reserved for returning students who want to live in the cheaper, non-air conditioned rooms. Students living in the air-conditioned rooms in Walton will pay \$956 per semester, and those in non-air conditioned rooms will pay \$525

per semester.

All of the rooms in Walton will be air-conditioned by Fall 1999, leaving Hart as the only non-air conditioned dorm on campus.

Rydl said the decision to add air conditioning was made to accommodate an increasing number of students wanting air-conditioned rooms and to allow the hall to be used for summer school and summer conference housing.

She said the decision to allow women to live in Hart Hall was made so that women would have a low-cost housing option.

She said women will be assigned to Hart

Hall for the fall semester if there is a sufficient demand.

The conversion of Walton to an air-conditioned facility will mark the third non-air conditioned dorm that has been eliminated in the past two years. Puryear and Law, which were located next to the O. R. Simpson Drill Field, were demolished in the 1996.

University officials said the halls were destroyed because the cost to renovate and repair the buildings exceeded the cost of replacement or recovery of investment expenditures.

It's a dog's life



JAMES FRANCIS/THE BATTALION

ave Pilkington, a fourth-year veterinary medicine student, draws blood from Jake, a 2-year-old golden retriever, during an annual checkup at the Texas Veterinary Medical Center while veterinary technician Nini Linkley keeps the dog calm.

A&M makes record impact on B-CS economy in 1997

By AMANDA SMITH
 Staff writer

The Texas A&M University system contributed more than \$630 million to the Bryan-College Station community in 1997, according to a Finance Department report, marking the largest economic impact the University has had on the community in its history.

The estimated economic impact exceeded last year's figures by \$8.6 million.

Tom Taylor, the assistant vice president of the Finance Department, said the almost \$4 million increase in salary for A&M employees contributed to the increased economic impact delivered to the community.

The number of full-time and

part-time employees of Texas A&M increased to exceed 20,100 employees. Payroll increased by nearly \$4 million over last year.

"One of the bigger drives has to do with salary increases for personnel," Taylor said. "Employees live in the community and spend their paychecks."

Taylor said each dollar in the Bryan-College Station community is spent about 2.5 times before it leaves the community.

"What that means is that a dollar that an individual receives from a paycheck will be spent an average of 2.5 times before it leaves the community," Taylor said. "When A&M releases a paycheck, it is spent about 2.5 times here in Bryan-College Station."

The estimated local economic

impact of students increased by an estimated \$2.5 million, with 431 fewer students in the fall 1997 semester.

Taylor said that the community depends on Texas A&M students.

"We often talk about how the University impacts the community and it's obvious that the community depends on the students," Taylor said. "The students are involved in the community."

The report attributed the increase in part to the increase of \$100 that students spend on average in the Bryan-College Station area in a year. The report estimates that students spend an average of \$4,200 per year in the Bryan-College Station community.

PLEASE SEE **ECONOMY** ON PAGE 2.

UPD urges students to take action in cases of harassment

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH
 Staff writer

Valentine's Day brings out flowers, candy and poems from secret admirers, but it can also bring unwanted attention.

When frequent, unwelcomed attention makes the receiver feel uncomfortable, it may be considered harassment.

University Police Department Detective William Scott said many times phone calls or e-mails come from friends who want to scare someone, but to be on the safe side, students should still report any harassment.

"UPD reviews one to two cases of phone, mail or e-mail harassment every week," he said. "Ten years ago, the most popular ways to harass people were by phone or letter. Over the last five years, Internet usage has become more prevalent. With that has come more Internet harassment. 'Nowadays it's so quick and easy

to use e-mail," he said. "It seems to be the way of choice because we have such a good e-mail system, and everybody seems to be using it."

Harassment is a Class B misde-

"A lot of people think they can sit at a terminal, send disturbing messages and get away with it."

Tom Putnam
 Director, CIS

meanor with a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars and jail time not to exceed 190 days or both.

Tom Putnam, director of Com-

puter Information Systems (CIS), said e-mail seems to encourage people to send things on e-mail that they would not say in person, but if the harassment is reported immediately, the sender can be tracked.

"A lot of people think they can sit in a terminal, send disturbing messages and get away with it," he said. "But we have capabilities to track the message if we find out about it within two days."

Putnam said CIS tracks where and when messages were sent from, and if the harassment sounds illegal and involves a student, it will be referred to Student Conflict Resolution Services. If it involves faculty, it will be sent to the appropriate faculty committee.

Shaun Travers of Student Conflict Resolution Services said there have been six cases of harassment reported to Student Conflict Resolution Services since September 1997.

PLEASE SEE **HARASSMENT** ON PAGE 2.

INSIDE

aggielife
 Local coffee houses attract students with the taste of brewed beans.

See Page 3

sports
 As A&M Men's Basketball team looks to get back on winning track versus Huskers.

See Page 7

opinion
 Yet: Presidential election in 2000 provides opportunity for Dole, Clinton to face off.

See Page 11

online
 Look up with state and national news through The Battalion's 24-hour online news service.

A kiss is still a kiss...

Professor offers a look into the history of one romantic tradition

By SUSAN E. ATCHISON
 Staff writer

Dr. Vaughn Bryant, professor and head of the Department of Anthropology, traced the origin of the kiss from its beginnings in India to its current popularity in Western culture, as part of the MSC Great Issues series Tuesday night.

An Indian custom of pressing noses together is the first sign of "kissing," Bryant said. Ancient texts record this practice as a sign of respect and a sign of affection, Bryant said.

The Indian *Kama Sutra*, a collection of erotic and religious poems published around 500 B.C., includes over 250 poems about kissing as we know it today.

"At this point we see that they've moved to the lips," Bryant said.

Greeks adopted the practice of kissing from Indian culture, and were the first Europeans to help popularize kissing. Kisses among the Greeks, though, were more common between men on the

battlefield than between men and women. "Depending on how [the officers] kissed, you could tell who was in charge," Bryant said.

Romans get the most credit, however, for popularizing the kiss.

They are "the most kiss-oriented culture I've ever encountered," Bryant said. Ro-

man culture also included a

betrothal ceremony for couples to honor their engagement. At the end of several days of partying, the couple's passionate and public kiss would seal their engagement. In the eyes of society, this kiss signified their marriage.

As Christianity began, much emphasis was taken away from kissing. A "holy kiss," a kiss that signified dominance of one person over another, was most popular. Kissing on the hand or the feet, Bryant said, was a sign of submission and respect.

During the Middle Ages, kissing "got a little out of control," Bryant said. In an effort to control Christians who were too enthusiastic about the holy kiss, two laws were passed in 1311-12 A.D.

One of these laws made it a mortal sin for Christians to kiss one another while thinking about fornication. The second law made it a venial sin (a lesser offense) to kiss just for its pleasure.

PLEASE SEE **KISS** ON PAGE 2.

