

## Law school affiliation undergoes review

By ROBERT SMITH  
City editor

Texas A&M University is reviewing its affiliation with the South Texas College of Law, according to state higher education officials. The signing soon came under fire by some state leaders.

Several state higher education leaders, including University of Houston President and Chancellor Arthur K. Smith, said the affiliation should have been approved first by the Higher Education Board.

Ray Grasshoss, a Higher Education Board spokesperson, said A&M did not ask permission to add a law school before signing the affiliation.

"The commissioner of higher education and the chairman of the board have

indicated that they have some strong concerns about some of the provisions of the affiliation," he said.

Don Brown, Commissioner of Higher Education, met with Thompson and Don Powell, Chairman of the A&M University System Board of Regents, on Monday to address the board's concerns.

Brown was out of town Wednesday and could not be reached for comment.

The Texas Higher Education Board sets policies for state universities and community colleges, and approves campus construction and academic degrees.

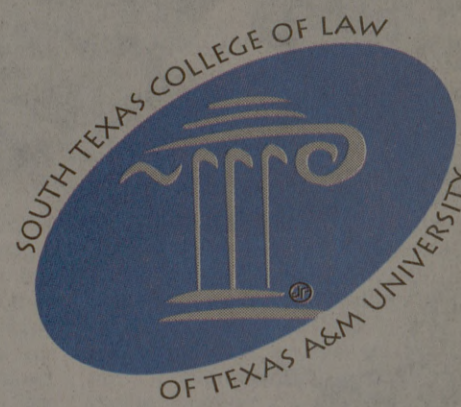
Thompson said A&M officials will present an affiliation proposal to the board in May. He said he anticipates the board will make its de-

cision in July at its quarterly meeting.

Thompson did not comment on provisions that may or may not be made to the South Texas affiliation, but he said the law school will probably drop the A&M name on its advertisements and facilities.

Frank T. Read, president and dean of South Texas College of Law, said in a press release Wednesday that the affiliation is "solid."

"No request has been made of us by any member of the Texas A&M Board of Regents that any aspect of the affiliation agreement signed in January be changed," he said. "The law school is not opposed to minor alterations of the contract if it is in the best interest of both institutions, and if both the law school board and the board of regents approve."



## County judge rules portion of hazing law invalid

By AMANDA SMITH  
Staff writer

Brazos County judge ruled yesterday in a pretrial hearing involving former Texas A&M Fish Drill Team advisers that a portion of a hazing statute was unconstitutional.

Judge Sarah Ryan ruled unconstitutional the portion of the hazing statute that stipulates that incidents of hazing be reported. Ryan was unavailable for comment yesterday after the hearing.

County Attorney Jim Kuboviak said the county will appeal the ruling on the constitutionality of the hazing statute associated with the case against former advisers, Javier Chapa and Dustin Boyd.

"We will appeal the decision to society what is the constitutionality of the hazing statute," Kuboviak said. "Temporarily, the case is in limbo."

The appellate court may affirm or reverse the ruling of the county judge.

James, the attorney representing Chapa and Boyd, said he was pleased with the ruling but said Texas A&M University needs to check into cases of other cadets involved in hazing suits.

"It's amazing that the administration has not to my knowledge talked to the courts involved (in hazing suits) because these cases are already over," James said. "I think there's a lot of posturing going on at Texas A&M University."

The Fish Drill Team was disbanded in August after freshman members explained alleged hazing practices.

J.S. District Judge Sam Kent ruled in February to free four top A&M officials from liability in a separate \$25 million suit filed in July by former Texas A&M Fish Drill Team member Travis N. Alton accused drill team junior advisers of participating in hazing activities. He said Texas A&M officials had knowledge of the hazing incidents. Previously, Chapa and Boyd made statements indicating they discouraged hazing activities in the Fish Drill Team.

## Heavy water



Brian Correll, a reactor operator and sophomore electrical engineering major, takes radioactive samples at the nuclear power plant on Wednesday.

## Former students to give advice to Aggies

By KELLY HACKWORTH  
Staff writer

College of Liberal Arts students can meet former students and ask questions about job searching, interviewing, resumes and career options at the Student-Alumni Networking Forum today from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in 501 rudder.

The forum is part of Liberal Arts Career Week being held March 2-6 sponsored by the Liberal Arts Student Council and the College of Liberal Arts. All students are welcome.

The student-alumni forum will consist of a panel of nine individuals and will be in a question and answer format. The attire is business casual.

Julie Caskey, director of the alumni forum and a sophomore psychology major, will serve as the mediator and will take questions from the audience.

Matt Kimbrough, Liberal Arts Student Council president and a senior english major, said the forum is a good way for students to

learn from the alumni.

"The forum is a sharing of experiences and a passing on of knowledge from the alumni to the students," he said.

Joe Feist, panelist, Class of '75 and managing editor of the *Bryan-College Station Eagle*, said the goal of the forum is to acquaint liberal arts majors with available career opportunities.

"We want to show them how people who went through the liberal arts program at Texas A&M have progressed in the work force," he said.

Wendy Blake, panelist, Class of '89 and assistant director of the Lowry Mays MBA program, encourages students to pursue a graduate degree suited to their interests. Students should also try to obtain their degrees from universities in other regions of the country, she said.

"This allows for exposure to different ways of thinking," she said. "It made me a more attractive candidate when applying for a job because I had exposure to different experiences."

## Puerto Rico to hold vote on becoming 51st state

WASHINGTON (AP) — A vote by Puerto Ricans on whether to become the 51st state moved a step closer Wednesday after the House rejected efforts by statehood opponents to make English the official U.S. language.

Legislation supported by President Clinton and both GOP and Democratic House leaders would set up a three-way vote in Puerto Rico before the end of 1998, Puerto Rico's 100th anniversary as U.S. territory. Voters would choose whether they want to remain a self-governing U.S. commonwealth, gain statehood or become an independent country.

Final vote on the plebiscite bill was expected late in the evening as the House worked on other amendments.

The House voted 265-153 for an amendment that would subject Puerto Rico, if it becomes a state, to the same language requirements of any other state.

That vote scuttled an amendment that would have declared English the official lan-

guage of the United States, imposing special requirement on Spanish-speaking Puerto Rico. Non-Puerto Rican House members opposed to statehood had led the English-only drive, which sparked a fiery debate.

The House also rejected an effort by Rep. Jose Serrano, D-N.Y., to allow Puerto Ricans now living in the 50 states to vote in the special referendum.

Even if statehood wins the plebiscite, the bill allows for a 10-year transition period and requires several votes by Congress and Puerto Ricans before a change in status. A similar bill is pending in the Senate.

Puerto Ricans themselves are split over the need for a plebiscite and the statehood issue, although two-thirds of the commonwealth's elected officials support statehood, according to Puerto Rican Senate President Charles A. Rodriguez. Statehood trailed commonwealth status in a close 1993 vote, with less than 5 percent opting for independence.

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

## School presidents' salaries out of line study concludes

AUSTIN (AP) — Pay raises for top university executives are demoralizing to the schools' faculty and staff members, a group representing those employees said Wednesday.

The Texas Faculty Association released a salary survey based on data it obtained through the Texas Public Information Act.

The group said the average salary for university presidents and chancellors is \$170,621 — up \$10,373, or 6.4 percent, from the previous year. For community college executives, the salary figure was \$105,593, a raise of \$4,536 or 4.5 percent.

"The salary increases for presidents and chancellors should not be out of line with those for the faculty and staff. When they are, it is tremendously demoralizing," said Jim Phaup, who chairs the faculty association's governmental relations committee.

"Low morale undermines performance. And that's not good for our students," Phaup said.

The group cited as an example University of Texas System Chancellor William Cunningham, whose salary rose \$49,000, 16.3 percent, to \$350,000.

"There's always money for top UT officials, but there's never money for staff," said Peg Kramer, a UT-Austin student adviser and president of the University Staff Association.

She told the *Austin American-Statesman* her organization is exploring the possibility-

ty of unionizing to push for better wages for non-teaching university staff.

Raises averaged 4.9 percent this fiscal year, according to UT budget office data. A consultant last year found that of 6,281 UT-Austin staffers surveyed, 94 percent were paid below the market average.

"Our staff salaries are ridiculous throughout the system," said Lowell Lebermann of Austin, one of the nine UT regents. "But I don't see that as the same thing" as Cunningham's salary.

Cunningham is the chief executive of the state's largest higher education system, with 150,000 students.

Regents, who set salaries, hired a consulting firm that reported the chancellor's pay was below par when compared with those of 14 public and 12 private schools nationwide, said regent Dub Ritter of Tyler.

"We think Dr. Cunningham's salary is very fair," said regent Patrick Oxford of Houston.

Of Cunningham's salary, \$70,231 is paid with state appropriations; the remainder comes from private donations, Ritter said. He said Cunningham wasn't involved in salary discussions.

The Texas Faculty Association study said Texas Tech Chancellor John Montford's salary rose 7.5 percent, to \$290,184, making him the second-highest paid Texas university administrator.

## Trees replaced on drill field

By LYNDAY NANTZ  
Staff writer

Out with the old oaks and in with the new. The live oak trees that circle O. R. Simpson Drill Field are dying and being replaced with healthy young oaks this week.

The trees were planted 78 years ago on the Simpson Drill Field in front of the MSC as a memorial to the Aggies who died in World War I. Some of the trees are dying of oak decline, a disease caused by soil compaction and root damage.

Mike Goldwater, assistant director of Facility Maintenance and Renovation, said the compaction probably started as early as 15 years ago when Old Main was renovated.

"The trees slowly die over the years," he said. "Oak decline covers a large range of problems in trees, but these trees most likely died of soil compaction that occurred years ago."

Charles Sippial, assistant vice president for the Physical Plant, said the trees were medicated before the decision was made to replace them.

"What we did with the trees was treat them and cut back on them to keep them looking healthy," Sippial said. "But we really can't do that anymore."

The 20 new trees are being planted adjacent to the existing trees on the inside of the sidewalk.

"Because the trees are a memorial," Sippial said, "when we remove the dead trees we want and need their replacements already there."

Live oak is the most common tree on campus because of its heartiness and longevity. The trees can live over 100 years in optimal conditions and are the only trees on campus



Brandon Bolloom, the Battalion staff writer, tends the newly planted oaks that have leaves this time of year.