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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Executive associate provost selected**

Ron Douglas, executive vice president and provost, has announced that Bill Perry, associate provost and dean of faculties, is being promoted to executive associate provost effective April 1.

In his new role, Perry will serve as the number two person in the provost's office, assuming responsibilities for functions in planning, budgeting and admissions and records.

He will retain some associate provost responsibilities from his current position, but will hand over the responsibility of dean of faculties upon successful conclusion of a search for his successor.

An internal search for a new dean of faculties will begin soon, with Pierce Cantrell, associate professor of electrical engineering and former speaker of the Faculty Senate, chairing the search advisory committee.

**A&M Faculty Senate approves courses**

The Faculty Senate approved changes in courses available at Texas A&M and Texas A&M at Galveston Monday at the Senate's regular meeting.

New courses in computer science, economics, engineering and marine biology were approved.

A meteorology course was withdrawn from the curriculum and modifications were accepted in another marine biology course.

In other actions, senators approved the modifications an ad hoc subcommittee recommended for "catalog in effect."

The modifications are designed to make clear the guidelines for using appropriate catalogs to determine an undergraduate's requirements for graduation.

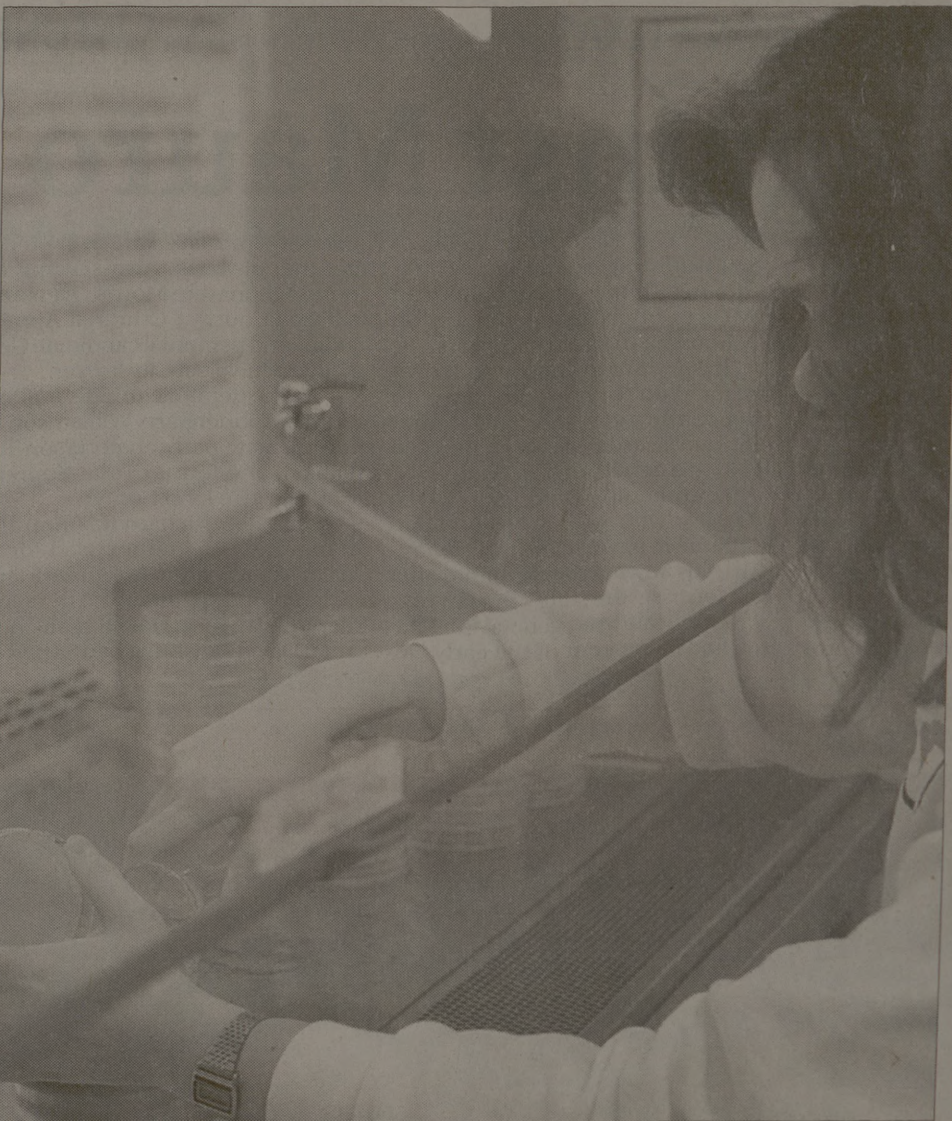
Also approved were the executive committee's recommendations for faculty participation in selecting, evaluating and retaining associate and assistant deans and vice presidents for administration, development, finance, research and student affairs.

In addition, senators heard comment from a faculty member concerning the situation with Texas A&M's affiliation with the South Texas College of Law.

**Correction**

A page one photograph in Tuesday's *Battalion* misidentified participants in the groundbreaking of "The Zone." The names should have read, Hunter Goodwin, Bucky Richardson, Miles Marks and Charles Mattei.

**Bateria bunkbeds**



Margaret Joyce, a lab technician in the animal science reproduction department lab, prepares plates for bacterial cultures under a flow hood Tuesday afternoon.

**Lamar president resigns**

**State audit declares campus in financial crisis**

BEAUMONT (AP) — A week after the release of a critical state audit, Lamar University President Rex Cottle has announced he is quitting, effective May 31.

"It was without a doubt the hardest decision I've ever made," Cottle told faculty and staff of the Beaumont school Monday. "I do believe it is in the long-term best interests of my family and the university that this be done at this time."

Craig Vittitoe, chairperson of the Texas State University System Board of Regents, told *The Beaumont Enterprise* he would recommend regents accept Cottle's letter of resignation.

"It didn't come to me a surprise at all," Vittitoe said. "I think Dr. Cottle brought several strengths to the table as president, but there were some weakness that needed im-

provement."

The board will conduct a search for a replacement. An interim president named by the board to begin Cottle's last day.

Cottle had been provost at Lamar University when took over at Lamar just weeks after a scathing audit declared campus in a financial "crisis."

The latest audit did not repeat the characterization but cited instances of control, failure to follow policies, oversight from executive management and lack of planning.

The harshest criticism was by the financial aid office. The audit said the failure to seek federal reimbursement of financial aid assistance cost the school that it probably cannot recover.

**Settlement may go up in smoke, companies say**

HOUSTON (AP) — Tobacco companies are threatening to scrap their \$15.3 billion settlement with the state unless it protects them from smoking-related health claims brought by local governments, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Tuesday.

In a brief filed late Monday, the companies argued that the settlement would be void unless U.S. District Judge David Folsom finds it protects them from local health claims.

Harris County, the Harris County Hospital District and numerous other local governments oppose a provision of the state's deal that they say would bar them from obtaining damages for treating smoking-related health problems.

They have asked Folsom to allow them to intervene in the case, arguing that Texas Attor-

ney General Dan Morales lacks authority to bind them to the settlement.

But the tobacco companies' brief, said that unless Folsom finds the deal did have the authority to resolve smoking-related claims, "the settlement was the product of mistake and is null and void."

Folsom has scheduled a hearing on the issue March 19 in Texarkana.

Morales' spokesman, Ron Dusek, said attorney general does not believe the settlement prohibits local entities from claims against the tobacco industry.

However, Dusek said he does not believe the deal could afford a court challenge and better off trusting the Legislature's agreement with a \$15.3 billion benefit.

**WHAT'S UP**

**Wednesday**

act.tamu.edu/stuorgs/ucm.

**ATM Womens Rugby:** Come join! No experience needed. Practices are from 5 to 7 p.m. at the pitch on the corner of Texas Avenue and University Drive. Call Nikki at 694-0084 for information.

**TAMU Snow Ski Club:** A meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder. Call Chuck at 694-2726 for details.

**Catholic Students Association:** "Hot Topics" discussion session from 6 to 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center Library, followed by Newman Mass at 7:15 and a Bible study in Rudder Tower.

**Aggie Habitat for Humanity:** A general meeting with election will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder. Call Rosalyn at 268-1067 for details.

**United Campus Ministry:** Meet at 6 p.m. tonight at A&M Presbyterian Church for an Aggie supper with featured guest speaker, Todd Freeman of Mo Ranch. Visit the Web site at stu-

**Texas Aggie Brew Club (TABC):** There will be a general meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Carney's Pub. Call Joe at 696-7375 for details.

**Aggie Reach:** Together with Health Education Center of Student Health Services, there will be a seminar entitled "Contraception: We've Come A Long Way, Baby" to celebrate Women's History Month. It will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in 308 Rudder. Call Jaclyn at 847-9242 or details.

**Aggies for Life:** There will be a guest speaker at 5:45 p.m. in 701 Rudder. Dr. Haywood Robinson, former abortionist and current pro-life speaker will be speaking.

**Student Y:** Youth Fun Day counselor sessions will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 111 Koldus.

**Student Action Committee:** Come take part in the action tonight at 7 p.m. in

401 Rudder. Eddy Van Hallen will discuss his new book. Call Jean Francois Zaky at 847-3349 for details.

**Aggie Democrats:** There will be a forum tonight on abortion in 601 Rudder at 8:30 p.m. The tentative speaker will be Peter Durkin, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southeast Texas. All students are welcome.

**PreDental Society:** Dr. Curtis Garret, an oral surgeon will be speaking at 7 p.m. in Rudder 301. Call Shannon at 696-2922 for details.

**Aggieland HOBY:** A meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder. We will discuss Big Event and recruitment details. Call Christine at 693-7548 for details.

**Society of Women Engineers:** Guest speaker Anne Buck from Engineering Information Foundation will be speaking on career planning. The meeting will be held in 202 ENPH at 6:45 p.m.

**Champions Fellowship:** There will be a meeting in 407 Rudder at 8:30 p.m. Tom Sirotrak, author and former "Power Team" member, will be speaking. Call Jason at 696-5604 for details.

**MSC L.T. Jordan Institute:** There will be an informational lecture on the current AIDS crisis in Africa at 4 p.m. in 111 Koldus. The lecture will focus on how it is affecting human rights and womens issues.

**ATM Roadrunners:** There will be a meeting in front of G. Rollie White Coliseum at 5:30 p.m. today. We will run 3 to 4 miles, and everyone is welcome. Call Steve at 847-7905.

**Trap and Skeet Club:** There will be a general meeting at 8 p.m. in room 281 of the Rec Center. Call DJ at 778-8954 for details.

**Society of Mexican-American Engineers and Scientists:** There will be free bowling at 7 p.m. in Hullahaloo. Call Caroline at 847-0263 for information.

**Overseas Development:** There will be an international discussion on Asia and its development at 5:30 p.m. in 507 Rudder. Call Vith in S

**Muslim Students Assn:** 101, an informal discussion of Islamic perspective of jihad held at 8:30 p.m. in 145 Koldus. Call Mohamed 862-9452 or iam101@tamu.edu.

**Texas A&M Veteran's Assn:** meeting will be held at 7:04 Rudder. Call Laura for details.

**What's Up is a Battalion lists non-profit student events and activities. Items submitted no later than the advance of the desired publication deadlines and not events and will not be included. If you have any questions call the newsroom at 845-**

**NOW IN THE AFTERNOON!**

Radio news from the newsroom of **THE BATTALION**  
campus and community news  
1:57 p.m. Monday through Friday  
on **KAMU-FM 90.9**  
College Station / Bryan

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**We B' Jammin**  
**in The Bahamas**

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South Ocean Golf & Beach Resort	459	515	675
Radisson Cable Beach Casino and Golf Resort*	995	1095	1815
*All Inclusive (All meals, All Drinks, All Tips Included)			
Paradise Island			
Paradise-Paradise	\$505	\$575	\$785
Radisson Grand Resort Paradise Island*	899	1099	1699
Paradise Island Fun Club*	729	875	1305
*All Inclusive (All meals, All Drinks, All Tips Included)			

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