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 No hearing date has been set  
 e lawsuit, filed in a Travis  
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# BATTALION

Texas A&M University

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4TH YEAR • ISSUE 126 • 10 PAGES

COLLEGE STATION • TX

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## South Texas files suit

### A&M affiliation battle moves on

HOUSTON (AP) — The battle over the affiliation of South Texas College of Law has moved to the legal arena. The law school filed suit Monday against the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, seeking a declaratory judgment whether the affiliation is legal. The school said the move was prompted by the coordinating board's decision to seek a legal opinion on the affiliation from Attorney General Dan Morales. "We don't believe an advisory opinion is the solution," said T. Read, president and dean of South Texas College of Law. Read said a declaratory judgment would be preferable because it would be binding. Texas A&M announced plans to affiliate with the Houston law school in January, but the coordinating board protested, saying it needed its permission to establish a law school. University officials had conceded they didn't need permission because the law school would continue charging private school tuition. The coordinating board has scheduled a May 5 hearing to explore the affiliation agreement, board spokesman Ray Grasshoff said. Grasshoff said he was not sure what impact the lawsuit would have on the hearing. "Clearly, if there's some legal impediment to us doing this, we did not do that," he said. No hearing date has been set for the lawsuit, filed in a Travis county state district court.

## Wall crawler



Lanny Dunham, a junior applied mathematics major, makes his way up the artificial cliff at the Student Recreation Center Monday afternoon as John Hensz, a sophomore electrical engineering major belays as Dunham climbs. MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

## Survey shows parking woes

### SGA committee surveys students about PTTS and parking issues

By AMANDA SMITH  
Staff writer

A recent survey on parking conducted by students suggests what most already believe to be true — it is not easy to find a place to park on campus. Texas Aggies Making Changes, a committee of Student Government (TAMC), conducted a survey of more than 1,100 students to gather input concerning Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS). A nonscientific sample of students were surveyed in the Commons, the MSC, Wehner and Zachry in March by the TAMC Research and Communications subcommittee. Of the 1,182 students completing the surveys, approximately 500 live on campus and 700 live off campus. The results show 84.1 percent of students, said they have parked illegally at least once knowing they could receive a ticket. A majority of the students surveyed, said they never pay to park, but 250 students reported they pay to park once a week. Also, 64.3 percent of the students surveyed said they spend less than \$50 on parking tickets during a semester; 24.2 percent said they spend between \$50 and \$100 per semester on parking tickets. Approximately one-tenth of students said they spend between \$100 and \$250 per semester on parking tickets. Less than 2 percent of students surveyed reported they spend more than \$250 per semester on tickets. When asked whether parking had caused them to miss a class, 72.8 percent of students reported they had been late or missed a class because they could not find a place to park. Liz Hagan, a TAMC member and a freshman agribusiness major, said the survey was conducted to determine students' relations with PTTS. Hagan said the committee found the large size of the student body a challenge in making universal conclusions about the results. "When you have a population of 43,000 students, it is hard to conduct a survey and make generalizations," Hagan said. "We tried to be random in who we selected and in the location of our polling stations." Hagan said TAMC plans to pass the results along to the Student Senate and PTTS for consideration.


## D.C. gives Texas big slice of budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — The dollars flow to Texas from Washington in the form of Social Security and welfare payments, salaries for military personnel, dollars to build highways and repair bridges or develop next-generation weapons systems. Texas received an average of \$4,544 per resident last year, according to the Census Bureau's Federal Expenditures by State report, compared to a national average of \$5,263. The top recipient among states was Virginia, with \$7,856 per resident. Looked at another way, Texas accounted for 7.2 percent of the nation's population last year but received only 6.2 percent of federal expenditures. A host of intangibles explain the funding differences between states — everything from how many retirees draw Social Security, to how successful politicians are in nabbing dollars for pet projects, and state and local governments' willingness to provide money of their own in exchange for matching federal funds. Funding inequities also arise from the complex calculations used to divvy up pots of federal dollars. Lawmakers, for example, have been grappling for months over the formula used to parcel out dollars from the federal highway trust fund. Texas and other so-called donor states have been locked in battle to increase their share, claiming longstanding inequity. Currently, Texas receives 76 cents from Washington for every dollar paid into the highway trust fund in the form of gasoline taxes — while some states receive two and three times that rate.

## UT installs Faulkner as president

AUSTIN (AP) — Making University of Texas salaries competitive — at a potential cost of \$30 million — and ensuring minority students know they're welcome are top priorities for new UT-Austin President Larry Faulkner. Faulkner said Monday he gained experience wrestling with the salary issue in his most recent post as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois. "We had exactly the same problems. We had weak staff salaries. We had weak faculty salaries. We had weak graduate assistant stipends. "We've been working on it consistently for a long time, and we have made a lot of progress," Faulkner said in an interview at his UT office. At UT, non-teaching staff members have been pushing for higher pay after a 1997 study showed 94 percent are paid below average for the Austin market. Officials have said faculty should be paid more, and top graduate students have been lost to universities that offer more money and free tuition. "It takes a lot of money to address those problems, and that money has to be recurring" from year to year, Faulkner said. "I would not be surprised if we were talking about a problem that had a size of \$30 million, recurring." Faulkner emphasized the need for an ongoing commitment. "If we could solve this problem by building a \$10 million building, we could scrape together \$10 million or we could borrow it and pay it back. Salary dollars have to be there this year, next year, the year after that," he said. A report is due April 30 on staff salaries. One estimate puts the cost of bringing them up to the market average at more than \$10 million, part of Faulkner's \$30 million estimate.

• Have you ever parked illegally knowing you could receive a ticket for parking there?	Yes 82.7%	No 17.3%
• Have you ever been late to a class or missed a class because you couldn't find parking?	Yes 72.6%	No 27.4%
• On average, how much do you spend a semester on parking tickets?	<\$50 64.2%	\$50 - \$100 24.2%
	>\$100 11.6%	

Error: + or - 5%  
Source: TAMC in Student Government 

## INSIDE

### aggielife

Free community play tells a tale of children and how easily violence can enter their everyday lives.  
See Page 3

sports  
Baseball team hosts showdown with No. 12 Rice University Owls.  
See Page 5

opinion  
As a look at a few courses that did not quite make it into course selection guide.  
See Page 9

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

## Conference looks at women's role

Staff & wire reports

Women have become a permanent part of the American work force and now, thanks to a new endowment of more than \$100,000, "Women in the Workplace" will become a permanent conference at Texas A&M University. John Dinkel, associate dean for master's programs in the University's Lowry Mays College & Graduate School of Business, announced the gift during the second annual conference, held as part of Women's Week activities at Texas A&M. The endowment will be used to expand the conference to the university level and eventually to the nation, Dinkel said. Arthur Anderson, Schubert Associates of Boston and Shell Oil Company joined forces to provide financial support for the continuation of the conference, which focuses on the challenges women face in building successful careers and strategies for meeting those challenges. As part of the conference, nationally recognized female business leaders share insights with young men and women on how to create and work within a climate of mutual respect and understanding. "As the nation's work force continues to become more diverse, it is increasingly important that we train students to operate effectively within diverse workplaces," Dinkel said. "Programs like these simply add value to the diploma." This year's speakers included Lynda Bodman, president of Schubert Associates. The conference originated in 1996 as a result of efforts by master's of business administration and accounting students who initiated plans for a conference. Fewer than 100 students, faculty and business people were able to attend the conference held in the spring of 1997. This year the conference numbers more than doubled with 220 participants. Lynda Bodman, president of Schubert Associates, led the effort to secure funding for the one-day conference. "We wanted to put our money

"We wanted to put our money where our mouths were on this one."  
Lynda Bodman  
President of Schubert Associates

## Protestants route parade away from Catholic areas

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Taking their cue from last week's sweeping peace accord for Northern Ireland, Protestant marchers avoided a hostile Catholic neighborhood Monday that has frequently been a sectarian battleground. This symbolic start to Northern Ireland's always divisive "marching season," which runs from Easter Monday to late August, demonstrated the kind of retreats that will be required for the peace agreement to survive the coming months. Police blocked the early morning march by 20 Apprentice Boys, one of Northern Ireland's three Protestant fraternal orders, at a bridge a few hundred yards from the Catholic Lower Ormeau neighborhood of south Belfast. The marchers handed the police commander a letter of protest. But rather than mounting the kind of lengthy standoff that in past years has ended in violence, they and an accompanying band immediately boarded a bus to join another parade in a mostly Protestant town. Later, speakers at Apprentice Boys rallies condemned the compromises contained in last Friday's accord — which Northern Ireland's largest Protestant party, David Trimble's Ulster Unionists, supported. "For Sale!" read one leaflet, picturing a silhouette of Northern Ireland. It was handed out to some of the more than 10,000 Apprentice Boys rallying at Ballymena, northwest of Belfast. "Estate agent: Mr. David Trimble and the Ulster Unionist Party." Many Protestants oppose key compromises in the agreement: That several hundred Irish Republican Army prisoners will be released within two years if the IRA's July 1997 truce holds; that the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party can take part in a new Northern Ireland Assembly; and that Assembly must pursue joint policymaking with the Irish Republic. The agreement accepted by negotiators from the Ulster Unionists, Sinn Fein and six other parties has to be passed in public referendums May 22 in both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. The accord also has to be approved Saturday by the Ulster Unionists' governing body, the 800-member Ulster Unionist Council. And Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams says his party's support depends on approval by its grassroots members at a Sinn Fein conference this weekend in Dublin.