

RHA approves 24-hour weekend visitation

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) approved a resolution last week to allow 24-hour visitation in residence halls on the weekends. The resolution must be approved by the staff council and the Department of Residence Life to go into effect for Fall 1998.

Jennifer Propst, a Neely Hall delegate and a sophomore German and international studies major, said extending visitation in residence halls will benefit the residents.

"I support extended visitation because it is an attraction for students," Propst said. "It is only fair that residents have the opportunity to have extended visitation because they pay rent. This is a perfect example of how you can better live in the residence halls and not spend money."

Only co-educational halls currently permit 24-hour visitation. Northside co-ed halls include Clements, the FHK complex and Lechner. Southside co-ed halls include Eppright and Wells.

Visitation hours are currently 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. in single-sex dorms.

On-campus residents must approve the change by a 90 percent vote for extending visitation hours before the resolution is approved.

Rick Turnbough, a south area coordinator for the Department of Residence Life, said the resolution is feasible within the residence halls.

"I think it's something the students will like," Turnbough said. "Students would like to see extended visitation in the residence halls and this is a step in that direction."

Heather Lindner, the RHA vice president of operations and a senior physics major, said they must wait for

the decision from Residence Life.

"I am anxious to see what Residence Life will do," Lindner said.

The extended visitation ad hoc committee was organized in the fall to study possibilities for extended hour proposals. The committee received surveys from over 2,500 on-campus residents, gathered information from residence hall councils and solicited feedback in the residence hall publication.

In other business, RHA supported a constitutional amendment to reduce the number of the RHA judicial board from 10 members to

four members.

Angie Fischer, the author of the amendment, said the judicial board has not been able to meet with a large board this year.

"It's real hard to get that many people together," Fischer said. "The Judicial Board would be a lot more accessible to the students."

The four-member judicial board would be headed by the RHA president, who would serve as the chair.

RHA supported a bill to organize an 11-member committee to merge RHA and staff council, which includes the graduate hall directors

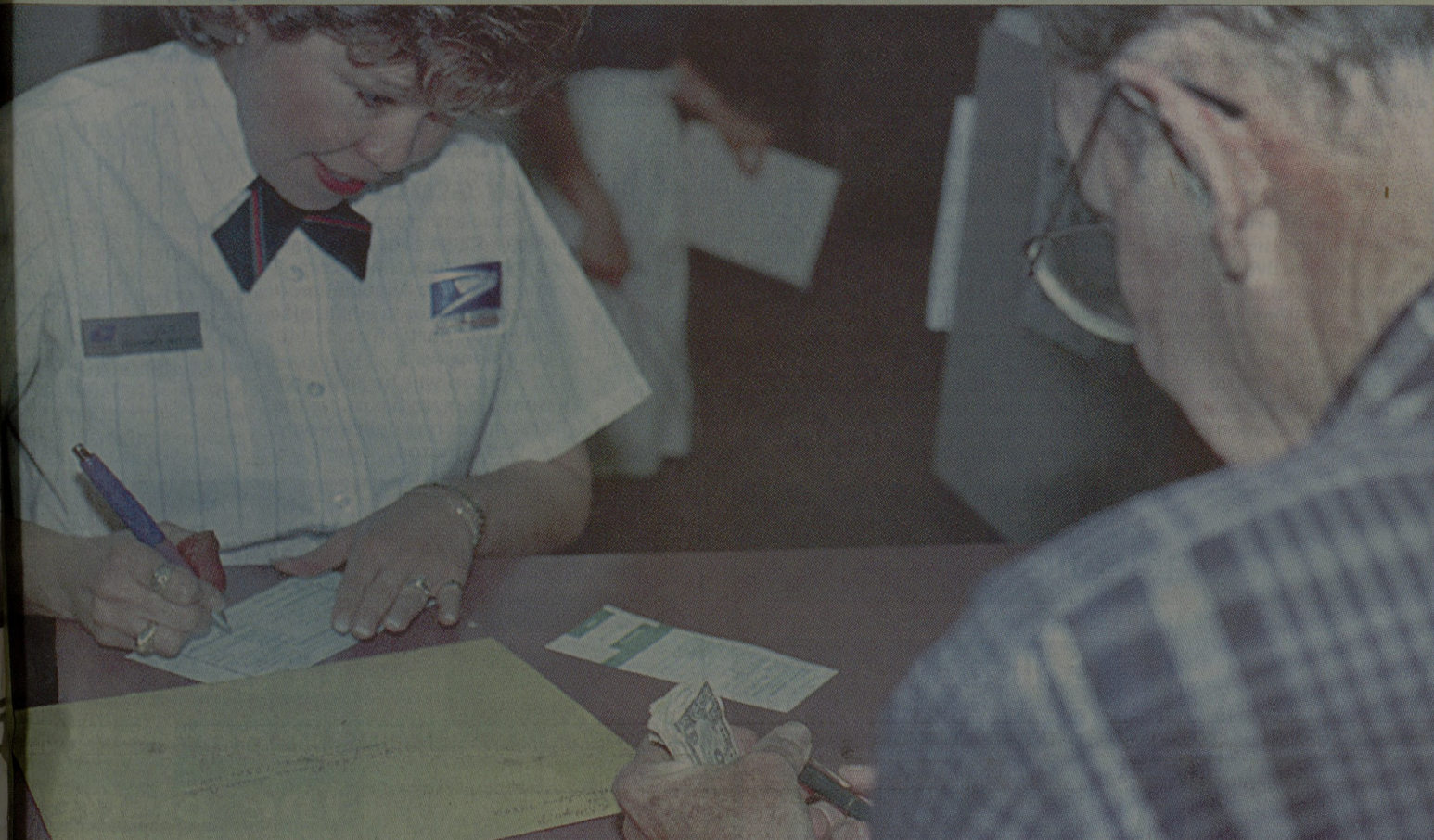
and the residence advisors.

Michael Haughey, the vice president of programs and co-author of the bill, said the committee would consider the benefits for RHA and staff council.

"That 11-person committee will make a presentation to the general assembly," Haughey said. "Finances are only part of the reason for the consideration of the merger but this is not a fiscal merger."

The Department of Residence Life voted to approve RHA's proposal to allow residence advisors to participate in RHA.

A certainty of life



W.L. Killgore of College Station hands his tax return form to postal employee Lucy Grinaldo Monday afternoon. The national deadline for mailing tax returns was yesterday.

Study shows cancer false alarms occur

Mammograms can show false positive

BOSTON (AP) — A woman who receives mammograms every year for a decade runs a 50-50 chance of a breast cancer false alarm, a study found.

The finding that mammograms result in lots of unnecessary anxiety is unlikely to be news to the millions of women who have already gone through these stomach-churning episodes, only to learn that nothing is wrong. But the study is the first to show how the risk of these frights adds up over time.

Researchers said that while mammograms clearly save lives, doctors should prepare their patients better for the possibility of erroneous results.

"If women understand the chances of having to come back for further tests, they might not get so scared and anxious when that happens," said Dr. Mary B. Barton of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, a Boston-area health maintenance organization. "As doctors, we should convey that information to patients."

The study, conducted by Barton and others, looked at how often women undergoing routine mammograms and breast exams get called back for further mammograms, ul-

trasound scans, doctor visits and biopsies, even though they turn out in the end to be free of cancer. These erroneous cancer warnings are what doctors call false positives.

The study found that a woman who undergoes annual mammograms after age 40 — as major health organizations recommend — faces a 50 percent chance of having at least one of these false positives over 10 years. And she has a 19 percent chance of undergoing an unnecessary biopsy.

For the 32 million American women between ages 40 and 79, this could add up to 16 million false positives during 10 years of annual mammograms.

Barton said the study does not mean that mammograms are a bad idea, but it does highlight the need to find more precise screening technology.

Dr. Daniel Kopans, head of breast imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital, cautioned that the study may overestimate the number of callbacks women receive. He agreed they are common and said radiologists are cautious because they do not want to miss cancer.

UT requests Hopwood appeal

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas System Chancellor William Cunningham has asked Attorney General Dan Morales to appeal a ruling in the landmark Hopwood case that could reopen the whole issue of affirmative action in state college admissions.

An appeal, which must be filed Monday, would allow the full seven-member 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to review the earlier decision against affirmative action by a three-judge panel.

UT vice chancellor and general counsel Ray Farabee said Cunningham

on Tuesday asked Morales to pursue the matter.

"We remain concerned that we do not have a level playing field" in Texas college admissions, Farabee said.

Assistant Attorney General Jay Aguilar, who defended UT in the original case, said a decision on an appeal would come soon.

"We've been talking to UT, and we've obviously been looking at it," Aguilar said.

"It's inappropriate for me to comment except to say we will be making a decision soon."

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks

ruled March 20 that the University of Texas must pay \$776,760 to the lawyers who represented Cheryl Hopwood and three other white applicants to the UT Law School.

The four claimed they had been denied admission in 1992 because of their race.

Sparks also issued an injunction barring UT from using "racial preferences in the selection of those individuals" who are admitted.

It was the first injunction in the case, and that opened the door to an appeal of the sweeping Hopwood ruling, UT lawyers say.

Printing Presses

New Aggeland and *Battalion* editors in chief plan to bring diverse coverage to A&M community through publications

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

The faces behind the pages of the Summer and Fall 1998 semesters for the two largest student publications on campus were approved by Provost Ronald Douglas Monday. Mandy Cater, a senior psychology major, will serve as the new editor in chief of *The Battalion* for fall 1998. James Francis, a junior English major, will serve as the editor in chief of *The Aggeland* for summer 1998.

Trisha Morelock, a junior journalism major, will serve as the editor in chief of *The Aggeland* for fall 1998.

The Student Publications Board nominated the editors in chief last week. The board consists of the chair, three faculty members, one staff member, three students appointed by the provost, the general manager of Student Publications and a representative of the office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. Charles Self, head of the journalism department and chair of the Student Publications Board, said five students applied for the fall semester and two applied for the summer semester. Morelock is the only student who applied for editor in chief of *The Aggeland*.

"We usually have at least two applicants per position," Dr. Self said. "We had a wonderful group of students applying this time. All the students were well-qualified."

Cater said she was surprised to be selected among a competitive pool for editor in chief but is looking forward to the opportunity.

"I want to make sure that we really cover the campus and cover what is important to the faculty and the students," Cater said. "Our community is Texas A&M. We are the university's newspaper, and we should cover what impacts our students."

Cater is the Opinion editor for *The Battalion* this semester and will attend graduate school at A&M in the fall with an interest in publishing.

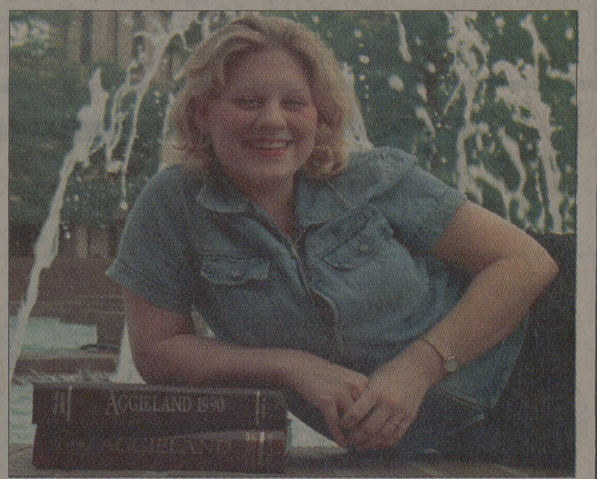
Francis said his experience at *The Battalion* prompted his decision to apply for editor in chief. He serves as Aggeland editor this semester and was the Opinion editor during the Fall 1997 semester.

"I have been here for a while," Francis said. "With the experience that I have gained, I needed to move on. I have learned how a professional newspaper is run from experience gained through watching others in the newsroom."

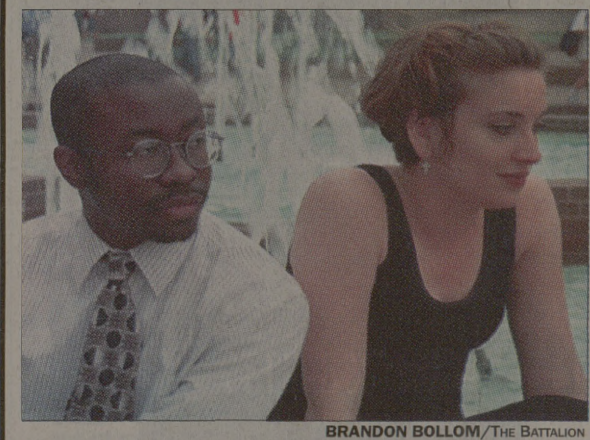
Francis said he hopes to improve communication among the staff members, increase the diversity of news coverage and staff members, and make a few design changes.

Morelock is currently a designer and section editor for *The Aggeland*. She said she applied to *The Aggeland* because she wants to gain leadership and journalistic skills.

"I love working with people and have a real interest in publishing," Morelock said. "It offers a chance for me to improve. It is going to be a great challenge."



Trisha Morelock, a junior journalism major, will serve as the editor in chief of *The Aggeland*.



James Francis, a junior English major, and Mandy Cater, a senior psychology major, will serve as the summer and fall editors of *The Battalion* respectively.

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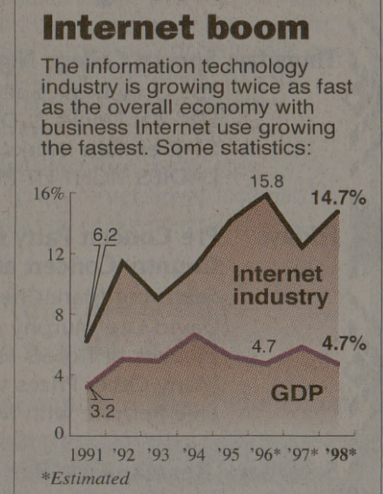
Internet traffic doubles every 100 days, study finds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Information technology, including business on the Internet, is growing twice as fast as the overall economy, the Commerce Department said today.

In the latest look at the impact of advances in telecommunications and computing, the Commerce report, "The Emerging Digital Economy," also found that the industry employs 7.4 million workers, some of whom earn among the nation's highest average salaries.

Traffic on the Internet has doubled every 100 days and Internet commerce among business will likely surpass \$300 billion by 2002, the report concluded.

Other findings:
—The Internet is growing faster than all other technologies that have preceded it. Radio existed for 38 years before it had 50 million listeners, and television took 13 years to reach that mark. The Internet crossed the line in just four years.
—In 1994, a mere 3 million people were connected to the Internet. By the end of last year, more than 100 million were using it.
—Without information technology, inflation in 1997 would have been 3.1 percent, more than a full percentage point higher than the 2



percent it was.

—Workers in the information technology industry earn an average of almost \$46,000 annually, compared to an average of \$28,000 for the private sector overall.

—Information technology is truly driving the U.S. economy — more than previous estimates had revealed," said Rhett Dawson, president of the Information Technology Industry Council.