

HIGH 95°  
LOW 76°

HIGH 94°  
LOW 76°

Sports:

Peggie Gillom, former assistant coach of the Houston Comets, talks about taking the reigns of A&M women's basketball.

# THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

## Fun in the summer sun



PHOTOS BY  
Matthew Crawley and  
Mike Fuentes

**Top:** Brian Lamere, a junior philosophy major, learns some new chords on the guitar while waiting for customers at his fireworks stand just outside the city limits Monday. Because of the recent drought and high temperatures, Lamere and other fireworks retailers cannot sell any rockets or missiles when the United States turns 222 years old.

**Bottom right:** Jason Lammerts makes snow cones at J.J.'s Snow Cones on Carter Creek at Villa Maria in Bryan Monday. Lammerts' mother, Sara, is a journalism student at Texas A&M. She owns the snow cone stand.

**Bottom left:** Jordan Brennan grinds on some cement benches outside Zachry as fellow skater Cody Dale looks on in the summer heat Monday.

## Tax break Comptroller's efforts could exempt students from paying Social Security

By SARAH GOLDSTON  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M student workers may soon reap the benefits of Comptroller John Sharp's efforts to exempt them from paying Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes.

Under the Social Security Act of 1950, the federal government gave states the freedom to choose which classes of people would be exempt from paying FICA taxes, including Medicare and Social Security taxes.

Texas, Pennsylvania and New Jersey are the only three states that do not exempt their students from this tax.

Since 1950, the federal government has opened up opportunities for states to exempt students.

Texas did not modify their standing, and in 1983, the federal government locked the legislation into place.

Now Sharp, Class of '72, has sent letters to senators Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison encouraging them to pursue changing this legislation, exempting student employees.

Andy Liebler, policy analyst in the comptroller's office, said under section 218 of the Social Security Act, states could designate public employees exempt from withholding these payments.

"Over time, other states chose to exempt undergrads and graduate students who were at least working part time," Liebler said.

"This exemption would cover work study, teacher's assistants and other jobs. There are about 30,000 students in Texas today that would benefit

from this legislation."

Kelly Fero, spokesperson for Sharp's Lt. Governor campaign, said the congressional budget office collects \$29 million each year from FICA taxes from Texas universities, \$14.5 million of which came from students.

William Krumm, vice president for finance, said the University would benefit from students being exempt from paying FICA taxes.

"The financial impact it has had on A&M was students

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— Andy Liebler  
Policy analyst  
in the Comptroller's Office

paid 2.7 million this last year, while the University matched the \$2.7 million," Krumm said.

In a letter to Senator Hutchinson, Dr. Ray M. Bowen, president of the University, said if the legislation was altered, students and the University would realize significant savings.

"This can really help students who make so little to pay bills and pay for school," Fero said.

Liebler said the decision on whether or not to change the legislation is in the hands of the federal government now.

"The state is willing to act," he said.

Fero said those opposed to the new legislation are worried about the effect the new exemption will have on Social Security.

He said if the Social Security system is dependent on this money, then it is in deep fiscal trouble already.

"It's unfair to Texas students that 47 states benefit from the exemption," he said.

Liebler and Fero said students can encourage legislative action by voicing their concerns to school officials, and state and federal representatives.

## Brands receives professorship Programs aimed at nutritional education

By PATRICK PEABODY  
Staff Writer

H.W. Brands, professor of history, has been appointed to the Ralph R. Thomas Class of '21 Professorship in Liberal Arts.

Brands' areas of expertise include 20th century United States history, diplomatic history and history of the U.S. presidency.

He has published 19 articles, many of which have appeared in the most prestigious history journals including Diplomatic History, Political Science Quarterly, American Historical Review and The Journal of American History.

He also has published 13 books, one of which will be coming out in a few weeks.

Brands is an internationally recognized lecturer. He most recently lectured abroad in the Netherlands.

His two most current research projects include the history of U.S. diplomacy with China, Canada and Germany.

While working on these projects, Brands is being helped by colleagues in all of these countries.

"The very best people in his field remain astounded at the rate at which he produces important books," Julia Kirk Blackwelder,

professor and head of the Department of History, said.

Brands has earned several honors and awards for his work. He has received the prestigious Bernath Lectureship from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations and a Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in the research category from the Association of Former Students.

His book, *The Wages of Globalism*, earned the Choice Outstanding Academic Book award. *T.R.: The Last Romantic*, Brands' book about Theodore Roosevelt, was a main selection with the Book of the Month Club and the History Book Club.

With the professorship, Brands will be in charge of monies for traveling, purchasing texts and research.

Brands will have this position for five years, after which he will undergo a review to determine if he will continue in the professorship.

Brands said that receiving this award was a great honor.

"I am appreciative of Mr. Thomas' family for donating the money for this honor," he said. "This is a great way for past Aggies to support the school and to support the University's mission statement."

By ROD MACHEN  
City Editor

A.P. Beutel Health Center is offering a series of nutrition programs geared towards college students.

Dr. Jane Cohen, R.D., health educator and nutrition specialist, said her center has been working with a community nutrition class taught by Dr. Shalene McNeil, R.D. Students in the class must present a program for students.

Jane Kallus, a senior nutritional science major, presented a program entitled "Healthy Snacking/Diet Analysis!" at the Reed Computer Center yesterday.

"It was a really good way for college students to see where they stand nutritionally," she said. "It is hard for the average individual to see where a food ranks in the whole scheme of their diet."

Kallus and a partner set up a table with information on

healthy snacking for students. They analyzed the sugar content of several snacks and the ramifications of sugar intake.

The new fat substitute Oleo was discussed in the presentation. Kallus said although products with Oleo, such as Frito Lay's Wow! chips, have significantly less fat than regular chips, they are by no means healthy.

"It is not a health food," she said. "There's hardly any nutrients. This is the food industry's way of making a buck."

Another program held near Rudder Fountain focused on the need for calcium. Prominently displayed at the presentation was a picture of University President Ray M. Bowen with a milk mustache.

Kallus said the lack of calcium is a major problem with students' diets. Although most people in college are past the age where their bones grow, their bones still can receive calcium.

The Commons Dining Hall hosted "Feed Your Head," a program on the nutritional value of breakfast. Nutritional content such as fiber was analyzed for several different cereals.

This Wednesday, Beutel will present three more programs.

"Heart Smart" will be held in the Student Recreation Center. Students will have a chance to get a free cholesterol screening as well as determine their percentage body fat. It will be held from 10 to 11:35 a.m.

At Rudder Fountain, "Facts and Fads" will look at current popular diets and whether or not they work. Activities begin at 10:15 a.m.

"Eat Your Way to 5-A-Day" aims to educate students about fruits and vegetables. Presenters will show how to select quality produce. The program is also set for 10:15 a.m. at Rudder Fountain.



PHOTO BY JAKE SCHRICKLING / THE BATTALION  
Emilee Strain, a freshman at A&M in the fall, fills out a breakfast questionnaire at one of A.P. Beutel's nutrition programs Monday at the Commons Dining Hall.