

**WEATHER**

**TODAY**

**HIGH** 100°  
**LOW** 75°

**TOMORROW**

**HIGH** 103°  
**LOW** 76°

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Texas Higher Education Board examines future of A&M link with South Texas College of Law.

# THE BATTALION

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

## Cushing comes home



PHOTO BY JAKE SHRICKLING/THE BATTALION



PHOTO BY JAKE SHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

**Left:** The newly-renovated reading room of the Cushing Memorial Library will replicate the reading room of the original library with modern enhancements. The room's furniture includes oak bookcases, oak library tables and chairs and a stenciled ceiling with decorative descenders in many colors.

**Below left:** Shana Hubbard, a junior elementary education major, and Michael Hurtado, a junior history major, reshelve the rare books and special collections at the newly-renovated Cushing Library.

## Vision of restoring historical A&M library realized after four-year facelift

**ROD MACHEN**  
City Editor

This week marks the beginning of a new era for the Cushing Library.

Since 1994, the Special Collections and University Archives the library is in charge of have been temporarily stored in Sterling C. Evans Library while the Cushing Library building was being refurbished.

Donald Dyal, director of the library, said although the Cushing Library building was built in 1930, it has never held these types of collections before.

"This is a return to the way the original Cushing Library was envisioned," he said. "Previous to 1992, special collections and archives were two separate entities."

Special Collections formed in 1968, and the University Archives began three years later.

Cushing Library holds a wide variety of material, Dyal said, including three miles of paper, possibly 100,000 photographs and at least 100,000 books.

The library also holds many specialty items, including a football from the Texas A&M 1939 National Championship football team, the flag that was flown at Corregidor, Babylonian tablets, an unpublished novel by Anthony Burgess, the author of *A Clockwork Orange*, and all of the scripts from the "Beauty and the Beast" television series.

The library is named after E.B. Cushing, Class of 1880 and general benefactor to the University.

In 1912, the Texas Legislature threatened to close the University and merge it with the University of Texas because of financial difficulties. Cushing guaranteed notes of credit in order to keep the University open.

was in his 50s.

When he died, Cushing left his personal library of engineering texts to establish a library for the University.

Dyal, who has been at Texas A&M since 1973, said Cushing is an important historical figure from the University's past.

"I think E.B. Cushing is every bit as important as Sul Ross," he said.

With the refurbished Cushing Library, the new West Campus library and the study center addition, the University is in a library-building phase, Dyal said.

"I believe we have more library building than anywhere in North America," Dyal said. "It has all happened in the last few years."

Having a top library is a key to having a top university, Dyal said, and the current administration is doing a good job of promoting the University's libraries.

"President [Ray] Bowen has been the most ardent advocate of libraries of any administrator since I've been here," Dyal said. "A&M is laying tracks, not following them."

**"I think E.B. Cushing is every bit as important as Sul Ross."**

— Donald Dyal

Cushing Memorial Library Director

Dyal said he became worried about 10 years ago when he heard rumors of the demolish of the Cushing Library.

"What this building has that a new building wouldn't have is charm," Dyal said. "It's got history. It's got presence."

Cushing also funded the building of the YMCA building with a matching grant from John D. Rockefeller.

And during World War I, Cushing called upon J.P. Morgan to help him get into the military despite the fact Cushing

## Beaumont attorneys chosen to defend men charged in Jasper murder

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — Two attorneys from Beaumont were named to complete the legal team that will defend three white men charged with capital murder in the dragging death of an African-American Jasper man last month.

C. Haden "Sonny" Cribbs Jr. was appointed Tuesday by state District Judge Joe Bob Golden to defend Bill King, 23, of Jasper, and Douglas Barlow, 31, of Sulphur Springs.

The third man charged in the murder, Shawn Berry, 23, of Jasper, earlier had hired Joseph C. "Lum" Hawthorn as his defense attorney.

The three, indicted last week, could face the death sentence if convicted of the June 7 killing of James Byrd Jr., 49.

Byrd was chained to the back of a pickup truck and dragged for more than

two miles down a country road. Byrd's head and an arm were severed.

Golden earlier had appointed Jasper attorneys for the trio but had to name new lawyers after the capital charges were filed.

State law requires attorneys representing clients in death penalty cases to have special certification and no Jasper lawyers have that certification.

Cribbs, 60, once represented Joe Dugas, a Port Arthur refinery worker sentenced to die by a Corpus Christi jury for the 1978 kidnapping and murder of five members of a Winnie family. Dugas was killed in 1983 during an escape attempt.

Barlow, 44, handled the appeal for Michael Lee Lockhart, executed last year for killing a Beaumont police officer in 1987.

Hawthorn, 56, is a former FBI special agent who also was an assistant district attorney and assistant U.S. attorney.

## NEWS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

### A&M professor analyzes GM strikes

Low unemployment and a sympathetic president in the White House have given other United Auto Workers members confidence to support GM strikers, according to a Texas A&M University management professor.

Leonard Bierman, who specializes in labor policy issues, said that unions have more bargaining clout because unemployment is low.

"It's hard for companies to find replacement workers," Bierman said, noting that GM has not yet tried to replace its striking workers.

Although GM's reluctance to seek replacements may be in part to keep the strike from escalating, it also may be because low unemployment has decreased the number of replacement workers who

are readily available, he said.

The political backing of a president from the Democratic Party has created a supportive environment for unions, Bierman said.

"Clinton has been more pro-union in terms of proposed legislation," Bierman said. "We still have a conservative Congress, but that's better for unions than a Republican president and a Republican Congress."

### Library bookdrop added near MSC

A library bookdrop is now located between the Memorial Student Center and Rudder Tower for the convenience of students and faculty. Positioned between the two buildings under the canopy walk, it is one of two bookdrops on campus. The other is located across from the Weisenbaker Engineering Research Building.

## Taking a stand

**■ The circus evokes smiles from kids of all ages, but one student isn't laughing.**

By BRANDON BOLLUM  
Photo Editor

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus came to Bryan-College Station to entertain audiences, but after the laughter and applause of the first night quieted down, a small protest began the second.

Jon Ridenour, a junior bioengineering major representing People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), stood in front of Reed Arena with the dual goals of informing the public of his (and PETA's) concerns about the treatment of animals used in the circus' performances and to spread the word about a related student organization he plans to start in the fall.

The lack of any animal rights-type organization in the area is his reason for wanting to initiate one.

Ridenour said his protest was formed to educate the public on the history of abuse circus animals have endured.

Ridenour also said his opposition is not for circuses in general, but only for those circuses that have animal events.

"Ringling Bros. has shot animals; they lie about where they get animals; animals have died in their care; and they've even mutilated a baby goat to look like a unicorn. I can't think people understand this, or they wouldn't support circuses that have animal events," he said.



PHOTO BY BRANDON BOLLUM/THE BATTALION

John Ridenour, a junior bioengineering major and PETA member, stands outside Reed Arena Wednesday afternoon to protest the Ringling Bros.' treatment of animals.

Joel Heidtman, public relations coordinator for Ringling Bros., said for the past 128 years, Ringling Bros. has brought animals of all types to all parts of the United States.

He said without animals, there would be no show.

"Animals are our bread and butter," Heidtman said. "If we don't have elephants out there, people will want their money back."

A PETA leaflet described a recent account of what the organization considers ill-treatment of animals.

According to the leaflet, "On January 7, 1998, Graham Chipperfield, a Ringling Bros. trainer, pumped five shotgun blasts into a caged tiger after the tiger had turned on and attacked another trainer earlier in the day."

Heidtman said this as a very unfortunate incident in which a tiger attacked

Chipperfield's brother, also a trainer, and in a fit of rage, Chipperfield shot and killed the tiger. For his actions, Chipperfield was immediately fired.

Heidtman said Ringling Bros. spends \$200,000 per month on food and medical care for approximately 75 animals the circus travels with.

They also have a veterinarian on call in every city in which they perform. Dr. Jim Jensen, associate professor of zoological medicine, was on hand along with about 12 veterinarians and veterinary students to view the animals as they arrived Tuesday afternoon.

Jensen said, "The animals had very good body flesh, they were in very good condition in good housing facilities and looked to be very well cared for."

Jensen said the conditions were what he expected from a circus of this stature.