

TODAY

HIGH 96°
LOW 75°

TOMORROW

HIGH 102°
LOW 77°

104TH YEAR • ISSUE 172 • 6 PAGES

THE BATTALION

Aggielife:

One A&M student broadens his college education in the field of playwriting.

MONDAY • JULY 20 • 1998

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Request denied

Coordinating Board quashes A&M's attempt to implement law and legal studies program

BY ROD MACHEN
City Editor

There will be no law diplomas with the A&M seal on them — at least not any time soon.

Last week, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rejected Texas A&M University's request to add the study of law to its role and mission.

The request was made after the University signed an affiliation in January with South Texas College of Law, a private school in Houston.

If granted, the request would have allowed the University to develop a law and legal studies program. A&M planned to then grant a law

degree through South Texas.

The Board, which had all members present, voted 15-2 against the request on Thursday at its quarterly meeting and finalized the vote on Friday.

After the vote on Thursday came back in the negative, Texas A&M President Ray Bowen was still optimistic.

"We will come back," he said. "I believe they'll eventually pass it."

Bowen reinforced his statement that A&M would not go the legislature to bypass the Board.

"We believe this is a sensible, good group of people," he said. "We have no reason to subvert what is historically a good process."

Inflexible rules are the reason for the whole debate, Bowen said. He said there are no rules to address this unique pub-

lic-private partnership.

"We want them to review their rule making," he said.

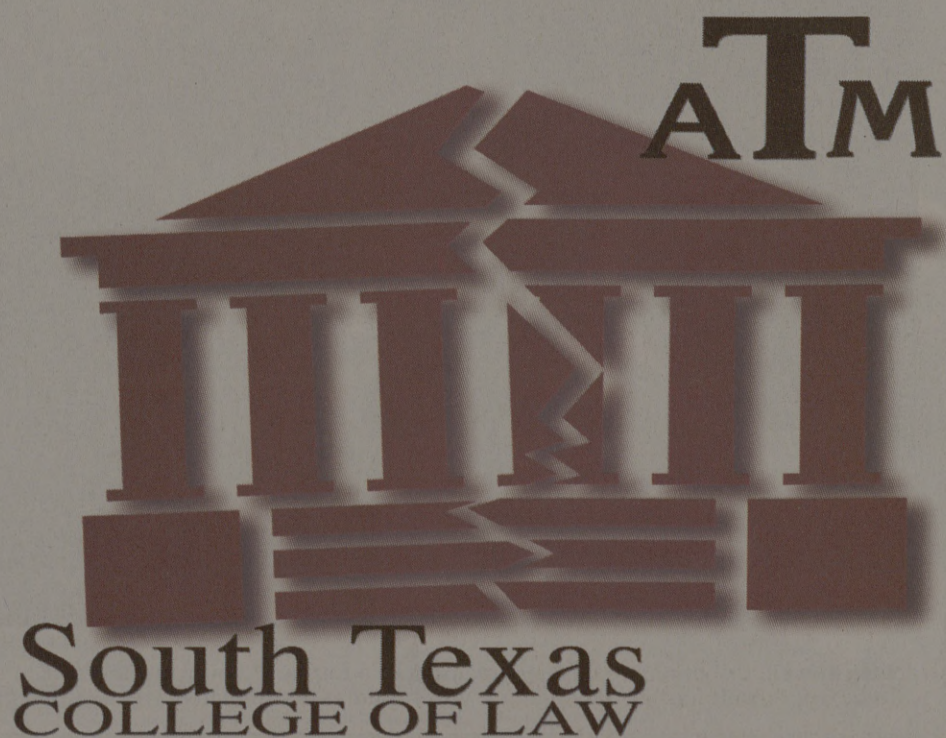
In the meantime, the two schools will go ahead with the affiliation as planned, including having the A&M Board of Regents appoint six members of South Texas' board.

"We will continue the affiliation," Bowen said.

Texas Higher Education Commissioner Don Brown began the debate by going step-by-step through the considerations of the request.

With any expansion of a university's table of programs, Brown said there are four considerations: is there a need for it; would it complement the university's existing programs; is it an unnecessary duplication; and will there be a critical mass of faculty and students to support it. These considerations are examined with both state and local considerations.

On the first point, Brown said there is no foreseeable need in the state or the Houston



area for the program within the next five or six years. He also said there is no need for an increase in the number of places available in law schools, even though Bowen said there would be no such increase.

On the second point, Brown said a law program would enhance the University's academic image. However, he said A&M has other ways of doing this without adding a law degree.

On the third point, Brown determined that with two public law schools in Houston, University of Houston and Texas Southern University, and a total of six public law schools in the state, there would be an unnecessary duplication.

SEE PROGRAM ON PAGE 2.

"I think public-private partnerships are essential. I think we are sending the wrong message."

— William Atkinson
Coordinating Board member

Feeding time



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Patrick Zapalac, a junior dairy science major, feeds Holstein and Jersey cows Sunday afternoon at the Dairy Center. Zapalac said each cow is producing about eight to 10 pounds less milk during the summer because of the heat. Water misters and a change in feeding habits have helped the cows acclimate to the high temperatures.

Triple-digit temperatures places health of Texas residents at risk

BY SARAH GOLDSTON
Staff Writer

With temperatures in the 100s, the Texas heat has affected people around the state, causing several deaths. Staff at St. Joseph's Hospital said they have seen a number of cases of dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

No deaths have been reported in the Brazos Valley, but as many as 60 heat-related deaths have been reported across the southern states.

Dr. Don Freeman, staff physician at A.P. Beutal Health Center, said those dying from the heat are mostly people with no air conditioning.

He also said older people dying from heat-related conditions have other complications such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

"Because of the lack of cooling and dehydration, this can cause a heart rhythm in the older people," Freeman said.

He said people should avoid the heat as much

as possible, wear loose clothing and drink plenty of fluids.

"If you are working outdoors, you should drink an extra gallon of water," he said. "If you weigh yourself in the morning and again at night and experience any weight loss, you need to drink that weight back in. You should also be urinating the same number of times a day that is normal for you."

Freeman said water is the best fluid to drink rather than sugared and carbonated drinks because they tend to not be absorbed as easily.

Serious dehydration develops over a period of several days, and the best way to protect against the heat is to stay cool and drink a lot of fluids, Freeman said.

Sherry Allen-Wright, a nurse at Beutal, said if students have to be outside, swimming is the best activity for staying cool.

"When temperatures stay in the 90s at night," she said, "the best times to do things outside are early in the morning or in the evening."

NEWS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

Central Parking Garage opens for campus parking

The Central Campus Parking Garage will open for contract parking at 7:00 am today.

Visitor parking will become available beginning July 27.

Tom Williams, Director of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services said the 600-space garage will be for visitor and staff contract parking.

The toll booth at the entrance of Bizzell Street near the Commons serves as the point of entry because there was no room to build it directly at the opening of the new garage.

"Visitor parking in the garage will be one dollar an hour," he said. "The cost of parking permits will not go



PHOTO BY BRANDON BOLLOMI/THE BATTALION

up to pay for the garage. The revenue gained from visitor parking in the garage will go to cover the cost."

Mosquito advisory issued after death of 4-year-old

BY JAMES FRANCIS
Editor in Chief

With the ongoing drought and health problems related to Texas heat, the mosquito now seems to be an equally important concern.

On July 10, a 4-year-old boy from Bryan died at the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston from a suspected mosquito-to-human transfer of the encephalitis virus.

Dr. Jim Olson, professor and medical entomologist in the Department of Entomology, said the cause of the boy's death still is uncertain, but collecting mosquito specimens around the child's residence may help confirm or

rule out the possibility of the transfer of encephalitis.

"We just finished surveying sites where the little boy played," Olson said. "We sampled live populations in the areas. Everywhere he'd been, we sampled."

Olson said the samples were sent to the State Health Department's Bureau of Laboratories Virus Screening Section in Austin. "We'll know something mid-week at the earliest," he said. "It takes that long to process the tests."

But the mosquito dilemma does not end with this one child's story.

On Friday, a mosquito advisory was released from the

cities of Bryan and College Station and the Brazos County Health Department. It requests all residents take part in helping eliminate mosquitoes in and around homes.

The advisory, prompted by the boy's death, is an attempt to make people more aware of the possible dangers associated with mosquito-to-human contact.

The report details ways to reduce the risk of mosquito bites and gives information on aspects of the mosquito's lifestyle.

The report reads, "Anything that might collect water should be eliminated when possible," citing this as a major breeding

area for mosquitoes.

It also states, "Always wear protective clothing when outdoors. Mosquito activity increases during the period between sundown and sun up."

Although these preventative measures may decrease the chance of an individual coming in contact with a mosquito, residents also should realize that the mosquito population in Bryan-College Station cannot be totally eradicated.

In Texas, the odds are high that everyone will come in contact with a mosquito at some point.

SEE MOSQUITO ON PAGE 2.

To Reduce the Risk of Mosquito Bites

- Eliminate breeding sites of standing water.
- Repair window/door screens or keep home sealed.
- Eliminate early morning and early evening outdoor activities.
- Avoid heavily wooded areas.
- Use mosquito repellents, citronella candles, mosquito beater or mosquito dunks.
- Don't attract birds to your property.
- Turn off "bug zappers."

Source: Brazos County Health Dept.