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a senior computer sci-  
or, said he looks forward  
ed communication with-  
between the Student Senate  
es.  
ld like to see all leaders  
lp each other," Atkins  
would like to see a lot  
munication within the  
Senate and SGA. We are

trying to be more organized and  
people oriented, such that there is  
better communication."

The Student Services committee  
handles all legislation concerning  
campus services such as Aggie  
Bucks, PTTS and food services.

Magee said students who are  
not senators may participate in the  
committee planning and voting.

"The only difference between a  
student that is a senator and one  
that is not is that a senator can  
vote on the floor," Magee said.

"Students can vote within the  
committee and they can have a  
significant impact on the progress  
(of the committee). We want stu-  
dents to be involved."

Elections for five freshman sena-  
tor places will be held Sept. 29 and  
30. The Student Senate will hold a  
candidate informational meeting on  
Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

Magee said their main focus  
during the summer was commu-  
nicating with the students and re-  
sponding to their concerns about

construction in the Southgate  
area, and working within the  
committees.

Interim chairs filled the places of  
Senate committee chairs who left  
campus for the summer.

"This year, we have very com-  
petent chairs," Magee said. "I am  
very excited. We are moving for-  
ward fast."

Updated information on the  
Student Senate and legislation can  
be found on the Web at [http://  
senate.tamu.edu](http://senate.tamu.edu).

## Political free-speech lawsuits reach Supreme Court

IN (AP) — People's right to  
speak freely to influence a political  
process is butting up against a law  
that allows them to report the expen-  
diture of a timely way in a case be-  
fore the Texas Supreme Court.

The court heard arguments  
in the case involving the  
campaign finance law on in-  
dependent expenditures. It took the  
case under advisement.

The case stems from television  
ads purchased by Robert  
Osterberg, 70, using checks signed  
by his wife, Olga, in a 1994 judicial  
campaign in El Paso.

Osterberg opposed the re-elec-  
tion of District Judge Peter  
Osterberg who had earlier presided  
over the case involving the couple.  
The commercials, which cost  
\$100,000, were described by Oster-  
berg as "informational ads."

Osterberg won the campaign,  
but a lawsuit contending the  
couple failed to report the  
expenditures by the deadline in  
the election law. He won after a  
technicality.

Osterbergs were ordered to  
pay twice the ads' cost, plus  
\$100,000. That figure has grown to  
\$1.5 million, said the Osterbergs'  
attorney, Larry Zinn of San Antonio.  
The 8th Court of Appeals in El

Paso upheld the decision against  
Osterberg but found there wasn't  
enough evidence against his wife.

In their appeal to the Supreme  
Court, the Osterbergs contend that  
the state Election Code violates their

**"The state cannot  
take away your  
right to engage in  
that core political  
speech."**

— Peter Peca Jr.  
State district judge

rights by restricting independent ex-  
penditures, which Zinn called "a  
core First Amendment activity."

Zinn said the way the law is  
worded, independent expendi-  
tures are illegal unless they fall  
under specific exceptions, includ-  
ing being reported. He said while  
the state can require reporting, it  
can't take away someone's First  
Amendment right to make the ex-  
penditures if the requirement is  
not followed.

"The state cannot take away  
your right to engage in that core po-  
litical speech," Zinn said.

Among other points, he said  
the Osterbergs also are challeng-  
ing the law's provision allowing  
private lawsuits for damages and  
contend that the evidence does  
not show they knowingly violat-  
ed the law, which they say is nec-  
essary for a violation to have oc-  
curred.

"We do not want to punish peo-  
ple for the unsophisticated exercise  
of their free-speech rights," Zinn  
argued to the court.

Justices asked whether the law  
only requires a person to know-  
ingly make an expenditure, not  
necessarily know it was a viola-  
tion. El Paso lawyer Michael R.  
Milligan said if the law is inter-  
preted to require a knowing viola-  
tion, it will not work.

"We cannot prove someone's  
thoughts," he told the court. "If  
that is the requirement, this statute  
has no teeth."

Milligan also defended the law's  
provision allowing private lawsuits  
for damages, saying it saves tax-  
payers money by avoiding the need  
for a state bureaucracy.

"This is capitalism at its best,"  
he said.

## TANKS

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Gerald Frye, professor of phar-  
macology, said if a person was to  
breathe only nitrogen, he would  
pass out because of the lack of oxy-  
gen. Frye said that since the tanks  
are located outside, there is no  
health hazard.

"If you were in the manhole, it  
could be a problem," Frye said.

Frye added that because of the  
weight of the tanks and the  
strength of the nitrogen, the only  
plausible safety concerns would be  
the tanks falling or the valve break-  
ing. Magnussen said the tanks are  
surrounded by barricades to pre-  
vent this type of situation.

"As long as the students honor  
the sanctity of the barricaded area,  
there is really no hazard at all, re-  
alistically," Magnussen said.

## OPEN HOUSE

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The goal of CAMAC and the His-  
panic Presidents Council is to pro-  
mote unity among members of the  
Mexican American community.

Chris Fernandez, a junior con-  
struction science major, said the  
event helps students find a place  
on campus.

"This open house not only helps  
students to be involved in campus  
activities, but also helps in making  
connections and also lets them find  
a group to belong to," he said.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Chris Fernandez, a junior construction science major, and Michelle Vallejo, a junior sports medicine major, converse about leadership skills at Hispanic Open House Tuesday night in the MSC.

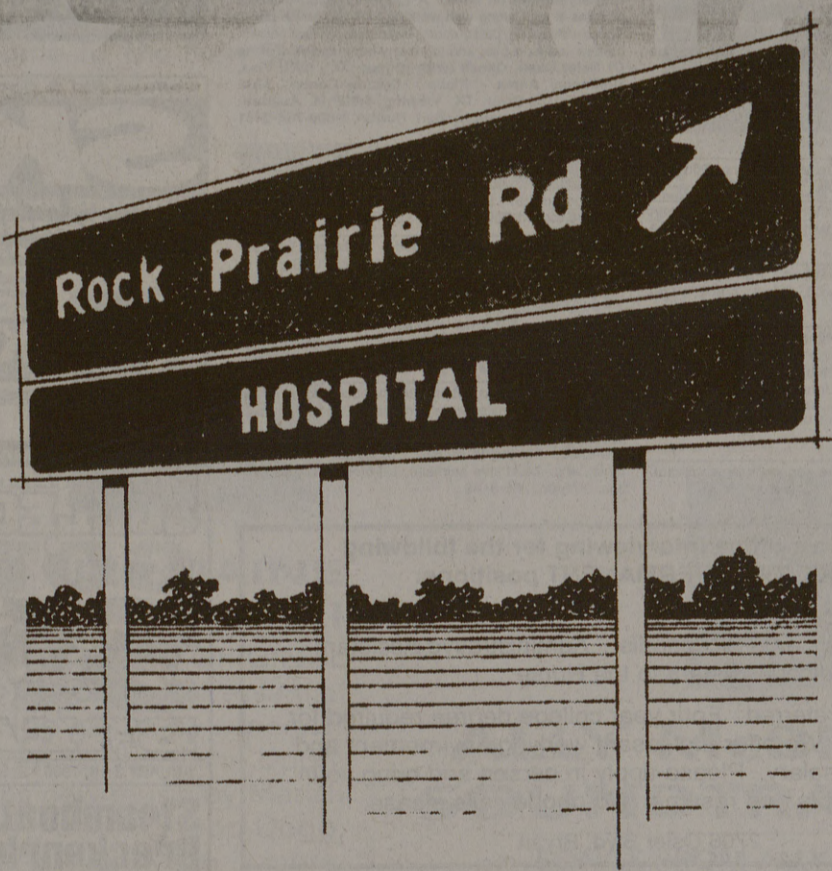
## Del Rio students return to classrooms

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — Two  
weeks after this border city suffered  
the worst natural disaster in its his-  
tory, townspeople moved closer to  
recovery Tuesday when thousands  
of youngsters returned to school.

All 15 public schools had been  
closed, keeping some 10,000  
pupils out of class, after the rem-  
nants of Tropical Storm Charley

caused deadly flooding.  
Floodwaters claimed at least  
nine lives and left hundreds  
homeless as the storm dumped up  
to 20 inches of rain in and around  
Del Rio in a 24-hour period be-  
ginning Aug. 23.

Six people remained missing  
Tuesday, according to the Texas  
Department of Public Safety.



We'll get you seen by a doctor without much delay.  
Sometimes, there won't be any delay.  
But if they pile up on the highway,  
we get piled up here..."

The Emergency Department at College Station Medical Center was created to provide prompt care for patients with serious illness or injury. We usually have a doctor with the patient in a matter of minutes. It is unusual for a patient to wait as long as an hour to be seen by a physician.

Our goal is to treat everyone with courtesy and respect, but the more serious cases are seen first, which can cause a few minutes delay.

Our staff of specially trained doctors, nurses and technicians are on duty around the clock to meet the growing needs of a growing community. This team of professionals is committed to treat patients like family. That means no needless delays and no non-essential rules during situations of crisis. For both the patient and the faculty, of course, there will be some paperwork. Our goal, however, is to treat the trauma first, then finish the forms.

We hope you never need us. But if you do, we're always open and easy to find. There is plenty of parking, a caring staff standing by and the resources of a major multi-disciplinary hospital at your service.

If you have an emergency, we'll see you soon.



Miles (and minutes) Closer.  
Rock Prairie Road

## Glow Bowl

Wed.	9 p.m.-11 p.m.
Sat.	8 p.m.-10 p.m. 10 p.m.-12 a.m.
Sun.	8 p.m.-10 p.m. 10 p.m.-12 a.m.

**Mondays & Tuesdays**  
Available for Private Parties  
from 9 p.m.-Close  
\*Deposit Required

## TRIANGLE BOWL

3810 Old College Rd.  
(Next to the Big Moose)  
Bryan 846-8761