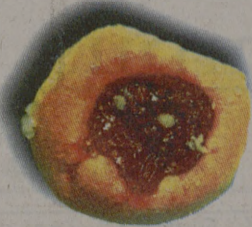


PASTRIES

aldwell offers its 4th Annual Festival. FE, PAGE 3



1998 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

A&M team readies for third season in Big 12 Conference. INSIDE



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FRIDAY
September 11, 1998



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charges dropped against Pradhan

County District Attorney Pradhan said he will seek new indictments against Texas A&M compliance professor Dhiraj Pradhan. Pradhan was dismissed of four charges Wednesday. District Court Judge Carino dismissed the two off-conduct charges and two charges against Pradhan after attorney Travis Bryan III convinced the charges were vague. Pradhan said he would reword the indictment and present the case to a grand jury Sept. 22. Pradhan was reinstated in August after having been suspended as A&M for a year. An A&M prosecutor accused Pradhan of misappropriating \$100,000 in relation to private businesses. Pradhan will make his case before a grand jury Sept. 22.

Blocker Building gets a facelift

• Although initial work was completed at semester break, construction planned to continue through November.

BY JOE SCHUMACHER
The Battalion

The Blocker Building is currently undergoing renovations to repair a faulty skylight. The repairs to the skylight are to be completed by the end of November. The repairs have resulted in barricades being put up in certain areas. David Godsby, assistant director of physical engineering and design

process, said the initial work would have been disruptive, so it was completed during the break between summer and fall classes.

Students do not seem to find the repairs an inconvenience.

Lindsay Morris, a sophomore general studies major, has all her classes in Blocker. She said the construction has not been a major obstacle.

"I have not found the repairs a disruption. It is not very hard to get around, and there are signs to help find rooms," Morris said.

Not everyone has found the construction a minor inconvenience. Food service workers at Papanicholas, a coffee and snack shop in Blocker located behind the barricades, said the construction has disrupted business and causes traffic in their area.

Crystal Creel, a food service worker and junior English major, said business is picking up since the semester started, but is still dead compared to what it was

last year. Creel said students did not know that Papanicholas was open.

Janet Holt, the supervisor of Papanicholas, said the construction has caused the Papanicholas area to become more congested.

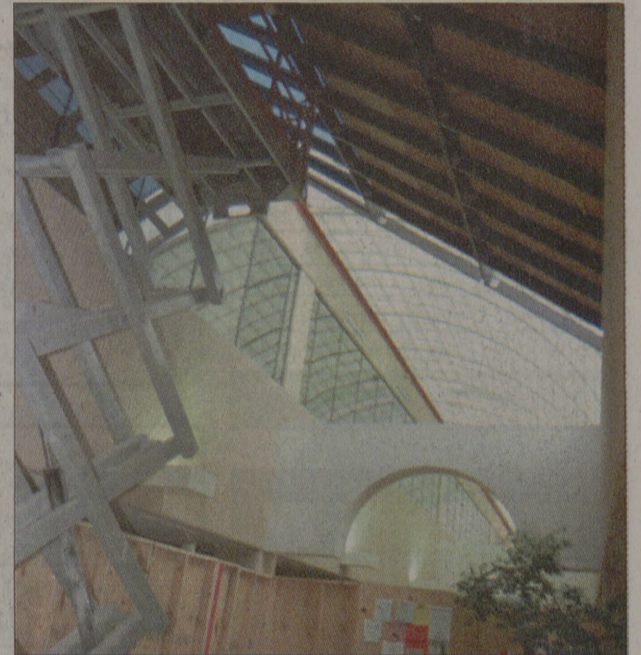
"People do not want to wait in line, and the lines create a chaotic mess," Holt said. "However, we are really appreciative of our customers' patience and business through all this."

Elsewhere in Blocker, the computer lab considers the construction a minor inconvenience.

Stephen McGinnis, Blocker computing lab facilitator, said the construction presents only the occasional disturbance.

McGinnis said the moving of heavy equipment and the beeping of forklifts backing up are the extent of the disturbances to the computer lab.

The project to repair the skylight is a \$375,000 project that has been contracted to Merek Brothers.



JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION
Portions of the first floor of the Blocker building have been barricaded in order to protect students from the recent construction.

Senior graduates must apply today

Today is the last day to apply for senior graduation. Gardner, associate registrar, said there will be a \$20 late fee for those who do not come in and apply before the deadline. Pradhan said signing up for graduation the phone is not enough; must come into Heaton Hall to get the application. Pradhan Price, assistant registrar, said the University has been accepting applications for December graduation since August. Price said graduation will be held in the Arena. There will be three ceremonies: the first one will be at 2 p.m. Dec. 18, the second at 7 p.m. Dec. 18, and the last at Dec. 19. Pradhan said the three ceremonies are broken up according to the number of graduates. Large ceremonies are put with smaller country and balance the number each ceremony.

Yell Practice needed for tonight

Tonight yell practice will take place at Kyle Field. Tonight yell, a tradition dating 1912, is held the night before game as a spirit boost rally. Yell leader Brandon Neff said tonight yell is a reminder to students that, as Aggies, they are part of something bigger than themselves. Tonight yell is one of the great traditions at A&M that makes you feel like you are a part of something big. Neff said, "It reminds you that A&M is different than any school in the country. It's you proud to be an Aggie." Neff said void construction hassles, students are advised to arrive early to enter the stadium using the west entrance next to the building.

Event for Humanity alternate site

Because of rain, the community service event sponsored by the Department of Humanity scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Haswell Pavilion, will be held instead at the United Methodist Church, 28th Street, in Bryan.

Nickel aims to live up to campaign promises

BY MEREDITH HIGHT
The Battalion

As students kick off the new school year, Laurie Nickel, student body president for 1998-1999, is working on issues first addressed in her campaign platform last spring, as well as those that have arisen over the summer.

The theme of her campaign, and current platform, is "Laurie Nickel... Serving, Listening, Leading — Unifying Aggies to Make A Difference." Although some priorities have been rearranged, many issues are currently undergoing discussion and being worked on in collaboration with the administration.

"The way it works with the administration is there's a window of opportunity. You have to jump in that window before the opportunity is lost," Nickel said.

At the top of Nickel's agenda this year is the Vision 20/20 plan. The goal of the plan is to make A&M a top 10 public university by the year 2020.

Currently ranked 15th according to U.S. News and World Report, A&M is not too far from achieving that goal.

"What I'm able to do and learning from 20/20 will impact my life forever," Nickel said. "President Bowen brought the right people together. An entire firm went through and studied other universities and looked at our university. They said, 'Let's get real specific. Our mission is to understand where we are going to be in 2020.'"

"We're trying to be intimately involved. We have a commitment to the process Bowen has set forth. They're passionate about making



THIS UNIVERSITY AND FROM THIS IS THE Student Body President Laurie Nickel wants to help push A&M toward achieving its Vision 20/20 goals.

the university we are going to be sending our children to," she said.

Nickel also has some ideas in mind to improve communication with students and is working internally to improve the misunderstandings of student government.

"We worked all summer on the Web page. We are working with Dr. Southerland on a coffeetalk. It will be two hours, open for anybody to come to. We'll just have coffee and cookies, and students will be able to ask questions and just talk," she said.

The coffeetalks, which will be held three times a semester, will rotate locations. The first will be Monday, Sept. 28, in the 12th Man.

SEE NICKEL ON PAGE 6.

Crisis center offers rape counseling

AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Rape victims are less likely to report the crime committed against them than any other group on campus, according to FBI statistics supported by the University.

Marta Nichols, the volunteer coordinator of the Rape Crisis Center, said society needs information.

"We need to educate society more," Nichols said. "Society has this stigma against rape, and the victim is sometimes blamed."

Texas A&M defines sexual misconduct as "performing or attempting to perform sexual acts against a person's will, or in circumstances where a person is physically, mentally or legally unable to give consent."

University Police Department director Bob Wiatt said victims may hesitate to seek involvement from a law enforcement agency.

"A lot of people call the Rape Crisis Center because they do not want to get involved with a law enforcement agency," Wiatt said. "The center is like a shoulder to cry on."

With the assistance of the Rape Crisis Center, UPD and Student Affairs created a Sexual Assault Protocol to provide information for aiding victims of sexual assault.

Nichols said national statistics indicate date or acquaintance rape accounts for approximately 80 percent of all cases, but she said the figure is close to 90 percent in College Station.

SEE COUNSELING ON PAGE 6.

Keep it between the lines



GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION
Todd England and Bob England paint two-way stripes on Welsh Street Thursday afternoon.

Financial aid plans for open house

BY LESLIE STEBBINS
The Battalion

The Department of Financial Aid wants to help current Aggies, as well as prospective college students and their parents, learn about the financial process of Texas A&M.

Tomorrow students, parents and anyone interested can attend the Student Financial Aid Open House.

Texas A&M's Student Financial Aid Department is holding three financial aid and scholarship sessions from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 12, Oct. 10 and Nov. 7.

There will be staff members and counselors to assist students with their questions and provide information about scholarships, student employment and other aspects of the financial process.

The open houses are scheduled around the home

football games to enable parents, students and prospective students to attend.

Lisa Kunde, Open House Coordinator, helped plan the open houses.

"We planned the open houses on home football game Saturdays so prospective students from out of town could attend," said Kunde.

The Scholarship Resource Center will be open for visitors to find out about scholarship applications and due dates.

There are computers set up for students to find out about scholarships and the qualifications needed.

"This is a money sense event we are holding," Kunde said. "We want everyone to come and check out all the options available to them."

The open houses will be held on the second floor of the Pavilion, and students can register for a scholarship drawing to be held Nov. 7.

Kyle Field construction limits seating at games

BY BETH MILLER
The Battalion

Before the yells can begin at this Saturday's football game between Texas A&M and Louisiana Tech, the fans must first make their way into the stadium.

Athletic officials have advised students to arrive somewhat earlier than they would ordinarily because of the construction underway on Kyle Field.

Jim Kotch, athletic ticket manager, said the construction of "The Zone," Kyle Field's current renovation project, has seen the removal of the stadium's horseshoe-shaped sec-

tion, which held more than 12,000 general admission seats. Temporary bleachers are being installed that will seat more than 2,000 people, and additional chairs will be added later to accommodate the larger crowds of this season's conference games.

The construction has also changed the student entrance routes. Kotch said there are four entrances into the stadium, and the appropriate ramp to take is indicated on each ticket. He said some fans may have to walk a longer distance than what they are used to in order to get to their designated entrances.

SEE KYLE ON PAGE 6.