

**OF  
MENT**  
shana marks a  
newal, start of  
v Year.  
**E, PAGE 3**



**'SOC' IT TO 'EM**  
• Aggies hit the road again to  
take on 22nd-ranked  
Stanford. **SPORTS, PAGE 8**



**CHECK OUT  
THE BATTALION  
ONLINE**

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**SAME ADDRESS, NEW LOOK**



**FRIDAY**  
September 18, 1998  
Issue 16 • 8 pages



# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**enrollment  
ases for Fall**  
A&M welcomed the largest  
ody in its 122-year history  
  
freshman class of 7,355  
h retention rate of upper  
1, a total of 43,399 are at  
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**forced couple  
s over tickets**  
former Texas A&M students  
his stated that a messy divorce  
only pup could affect getting a seat  
up now football games.  
  
to into '92, an unidentified couple  
orked with Texas A&M with a  
tutional endowment and in turn re-  
y with our Aggie football season  
ns pres or life, Bob Wiatt, director of  
his part and the University Police  
and Conent, said.  
  
said the couple divorced in  
nd the divorce decree men-  
thing about the tickets; there-  
tickets remained a joint claim  
the man and the woman.  
  
nan, who now lives in Bren-  
pressed a desire to acquire  
seats this season. Wiatt  
rder for that to happen, he  
her have a court order or a  
gned by his ex-wife, a resi-  
Houston, saying she does  
t the tickets.  
  
er, supposedly from the ex-  
sent, but she later called  
Man Foundation and said  
not write the letter.  
  
and the University Police  
ent are investigating as to  
or not the case is one of  
ding.  
  
However, he said the case is  
gators sh priority to the department  
me because the case is still  
nvestigation, and the out-  
as not yet been determined.  
not a high priority because  
not been awarded by the 12th  
undation the tickets," Wiatt  
he only significance is that  
er would constitute forgery."

**gha Phi Alpha  
s Alphas**  
ia Phi Alpha and MSC Town  
l sponsor Alphas '98  
ay at 7:36 p.m. at Rudder Au-  
n. The concert will feature  
DeBarge and an after party  
ow at G. Rolie White Colise-  
ie cost is \$15 in advance,  
at the door.

**Aggie  
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@ 615**

## Meeting acquaints candidates with rules

BY LESLIE STEBBINS  
The Battalion

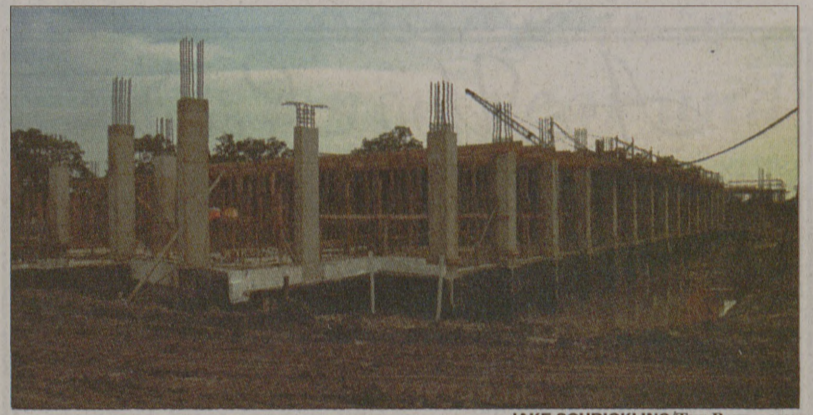
The Class of 2002 class council and senate election meeting was held last night to address campaign issues and regulations.  
  
The election commission informed the freshman on how to run a campaign without receiving a fine or being removed from the ballot.  
  
Student Body President Laurie Nickel delivered a welcome speech in which she encouraged all of the potential candidates to have a good time while campaigning.  
  
"This is a chance to prove yourself as an individual," Nickel said, "and it is not about the position you get elected to, but the relations you made along the way."  
  
Candidates were informed of the budgetary restrictions, rules, fines and campaign procedures.  
  
The freshman class president candidates are allowed a maximum budget of \$250 and the candidates for the other positions can spend up to \$100.  
  
Every expenditure is to be properly recorded according to

the election commission guidelines. If a candidate exceeds the budget he or she will be removed from the ballot.  
  
Some changes were made from last semester's regulations by the Student Senate.  
  
The use of sandwich boards is no longer allowed and no off-campus campaigning is permitted.  
  
Alice Gonzalez, director of programs for the election commission and a senior agriculture development major, said people might steal the sandwich boards and candidates would lose the investments they made in the sandwich boards.  
  
On campus door-to-door campaigning will be allowed, but each hall will be open to candidates for only one night from 7-9 p.m.  
  
Each hall has a designated evening when candidates can legally campaign.  
  
Candidates will be fined if they are caught campaigning in a residence hall after the designated date and time.  
  
Candidates have until midnight of Sept. 28 to campaign, and the elections will be held on Sept. 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## A&M Foundation builds new home

BY AMY CURTIS  
The Battalion

Construction on a new Texas A&M Foundation building, the Jon L. Hagler Center, is underway and should be completed by fall 1999.  
  
The building will be located at the corner of Houston Street and George Bush Drive, across the street from the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.  
  
Rose Ann Thomas, manager of communications for the Texas A&M Foundation, said the building is being constructed to accommodate the growing number of staff and fund-raising functions of the Foundation.  
  
"We need a facility that can accommodate the higher level of fundraising at Texas A&M," Thomas said.  
  
Thomas said the construction, which began in April, is ahead of schedule and is expected to be finished in early fall of 1999.  
  
The building is being funded by private donors and endowments.  
  
Thomas said fundraising took a major step forward between 1990 and 1996, when the Foundation received more than \$637 million in gifts and pledges.  
  
Thomas said with the increasing enrollment, the Foundation needs to have the facilities to accommodate the growing number



JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

The Jon L. Hagler Center, new home of the Texas A&M Foundation, is expected to be completed in Fall, 1999.

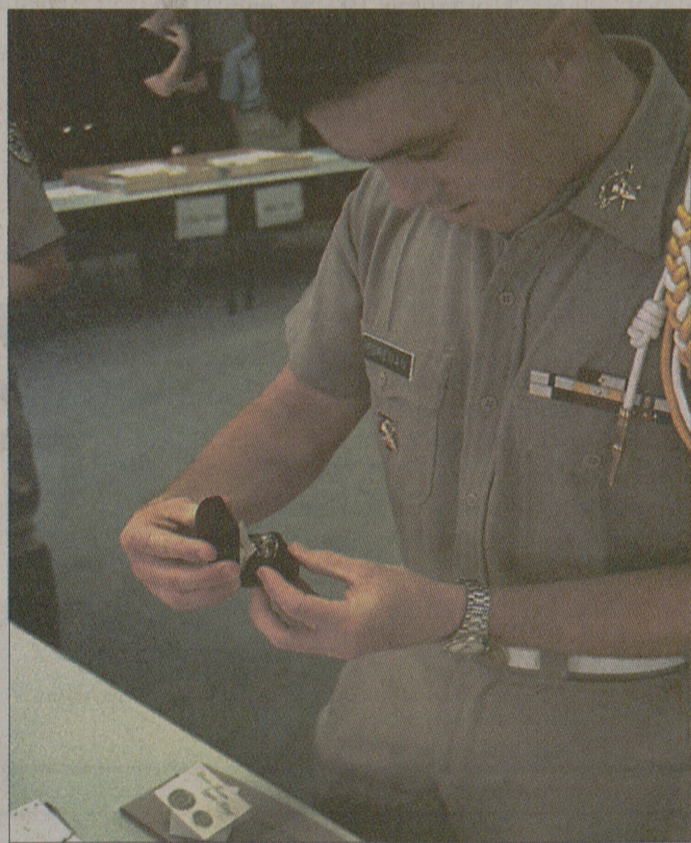
of students, faculty and donors.  
  
Thomas said the architect of the building, HKS Inc. of Dallas, took into account two things when planning the building: the placement of the trees at the site and creating a reflection of the Clayton Williams Alumni Center located across the street from the site.  
  
Thomas said the building is named in honor of Foundation trustee Jon Hagler, Class of '58 and co-chair of Vision 2020.  
  
Thomas said the building is designed with a curving entry hall called the Donor Hall where names of donors and University associates — including corporations, individuals and organizations — that have given at least \$100,000 will have his name engraved on the wall. The curving hall is lined with 74 pillars. Any individual or group giving more than \$50,000 to the construction will have their name carved onto a pillar. Thomas said the Foundation staff themselves are funding a pillar.  
  
Suzy Keller, assistant to the executive director of the Association of Former Students, said the construction has not created more traffic than usual on George Bush Drive.

## Engineers develop pigs with less fat

BY AMY CURTIS  
The Battalion

New genetic research presents the possibility of pigs with more muscle and less fat.  
  
Jorge Piedrahita, associate professor of veterinary medicine, said the genetically engineered pigs will have 15 to 20 percent more muscle with less fat in it.  
  
Pigs with the genetic alteration will require the same amount of feed as they eat now, but will grow more muscle.  
  
This will result in a lower cholesterol pork which will be beneficial to both consumers and farmers because the pigs will produce more meat with the same amount of feed.  
  
Piedrahita said the protein that regulates muscle growth, GDF8, has been isolated to a certain gene. With the removal of that gene, the pigs grow more muscle on the same amount of feed and care.  
  
Piedrahita said the project with GDF8 started four years ago at Johns Hopkins University. Researchers at Johns Hopkins developed technology to discover new types of genes.

## Lord of the rings



JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

Nathan Foreman, a senior sports management major, picks up his Aggie ring at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center Thursday morning. Today is the last day to order Aggie rings.

SEE PIGS ON PAGE 2.

## Hughes med program denies grant renewal

BY AMY CURTIS  
The Battalion

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute program at A&M will continue despite the lack of external funding.  
  
The HHMI is a philanthropic foundation designed to help improve the quality and pool of students that will go into graduate studies in the medical sciences.  
  
Edward Funkhouser, professor of biochemistry and biophysics and the associate director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, said the institute is a nationwide foundation that gives grants to universities across the country.  
  
A&M applied for and received a four-year grant from the HHMI in 1994.  
  
"Each two years they invite about 100 to 110 universities to apply," Funkhouser said.  
  
Funkhouser said A&M applied for a grant renewal in the spring and received an answer to its application after it was prepared for the fall.  
  
Funds saved from the previous grant were set aside to finance the Fall 1998 semester and 33 more freshmen were invited into the program.

Funkhouser does not know why A&M's application for another grant was rejected because the HHMI does not release that information. A&M will reapply if invited by the HHMI in 2000.  
  
Dr. Susanna Finnell, executive director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, said students that were in the program last term and those in it this term are encouraged to continue those studies.  
  
She said although the funding has stopped, there is still access to labs and materials, so students can continue their research experience.  
  
Finnell said there will not be funds to pay the student workers in the program or provide research funding after this semester.  
  
Funkhouser said the program is a research program for undergraduates. It includes two sets of accredited courses.  
  
For the freshmen and sophomores, the classes comprise the theories of research. For juniors and seniors, there are research courses.  
  
The grant money also was used for improving teaching labs and providing summer research opportunities, as well as funding junior and senior researchers and freshmen and sophomore student workers.

## Nickel wants to be recognized for leadership skills, not just for being a woman

BY MEREDITH HIGHT  
The Battalion

When Laurie Nickel, student body president, was giving a tour of campus her sophomore year, she was asked for the first time about the potential for women to succeed at Texas A&M.  
  
"The woman said, 'I want my daughter to be a leader. I don't know if that opportunity exists here at Texas A&M.' When she asked that, it blew my mind," Nickel said.  
  
As a tour guide, she was trained to answer the question in a way that represented all of campus.  
  
"I really think I've had an exceptional experience. When I was a freshman, Brooke Leslie was student body president. I was in the Fish Aides program, so I was able to work with her through student government. Immediately my per-

ception was men and women are treated the same," she said.  
  
"My parents had three daughters and a son. They treated us all the same. A&M was the same type of experience," she said.  
  
Over the past four years at A&M, Nickel has been a Fish Camp Co-Chair, an Aggie Wrangler and director of the Fall Leadership Conference.  
  
She also was vice-president of student government, an assistant to the student body president and served on the Student Government Association Executive Council for three years. She also was the chair of the Student Leader Advisory Board.  
  
Her role as student body president is one of great responsibility.  
  
"I want to do a good job so people can see that a woman can successfully fill a leadership role," she said.

There are already candidates for next year's student body president, and some are female.  
  
"Vote for the best candidate. All of them have worked hard and worked steadily," Nickel said.  
  
Nickel said she has seen men and women apply for positions in organizations, and the best person is usually appointed.  
  
She said that in her position as student body president, she often walks into meetings where she is the only female.  
  
"They are gentlemen, and treat me like a lady. They also treat me as a student body president, not as a woman student body president," she said.  
  
As far as what she would like to see improved, Nickel said she hopes that it is always the point of the leader and what they stand for, not their sex.



BRANDON BOLLUM/THE BATTALION

Nickel, a senior business analysis major, is serving as student body president at A&M.

