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**STATE OF THE  
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• MSC OPAS offers  
students a welcome taste of  
culture at A&M.  
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**WEDNESDAY**  
September 23, 1998  
Issue 19 • 16 pages



# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## Pradhan reindicted

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

A&M University computer professor Dhiraj Pradhan was indicted by a grand jury for official capacity Tuesday. The indictment charges Pradhan with using government property worth more than \$25,000 and \$100,000. Pradhan was indicted for misappropriating \$100,000 in re his two private businesses. Pradhan was found guilty at a Dec. 3 trial. Pradhan faces two to 10 years imprisonment up to a \$10,000 fine.

State District Judge Carolyn Ruffino dismissed two official misconduct charges and two theft charges against Pradhan in early September after Pradhan's attorney, Travis Bryan III, complained the charges were vague. District Attorney Bill Turner said he elected not to pursue the two theft charges accusing Pradhan of using state funds to pay approximately \$3,000 for a private patent. Pradhan's tenure was reinstated at A&M in August after a year suspension. Pradhan was out of town and unavailable for comment yesterday.

### TOTAL NEW FRESHMEN

	1997		1998
White	5,015	White	6,033
Blacks	178	Blacks	197
American-Indian	29	American-Indian	38
Asian	224	Asian	259
International	50	International	60
Hispanic	607	Hispanic	669
Other	130	Other	99

## Relative minority percentages down

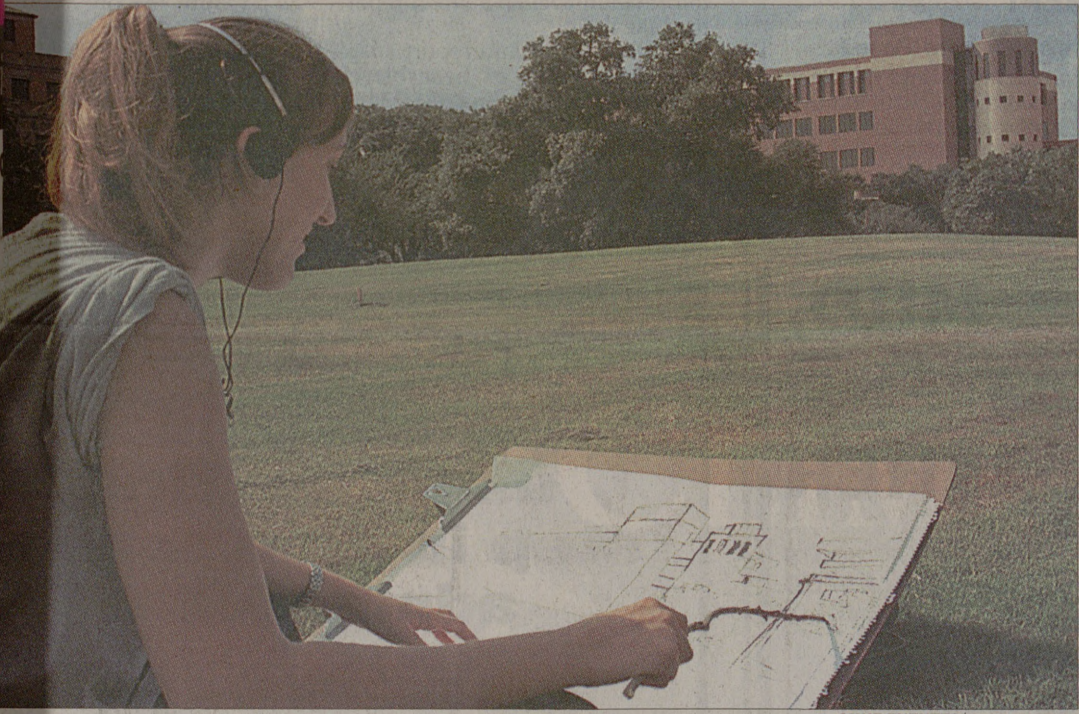
BY AMANDA STIRPE  
The Battalion

The Fall 1998 freshmen enrollment of 7,355 students has generated an increase in the number of African-American and Hispanic freshmen on the Texas A&M campus, but a decrease in the relative percentage of each minority. Texas A&M enrolled 197 African-American students compared to 178 students in Fall 1997. Also, Fall 1998 enrollment for Hispanic students was 669, compared to 607 students in Fall 1997. The rise in minority enrollment

coincides with the large school-wide enrollment. The total enrollment numbers have raised to 43,399 students, the largest enrollment in Texas A&M history. Fall 1998 enrollment precedes the second highest enrollment, Fall 1993 with 42,524 students. However, minorities make up a smaller percentage of the freshman class compared to last year. This year, African-American students make up 2.68 percent of the freshman population compared to 2.86 percent last year. Hispanic students also saw a drop in terms of percentages. The

Class of 2001 had 9.74 percent of freshmen of Hispanic origin compared to this year where 9.10 percent of the freshmen enrolled claim Hispanic heritage. Donald L. Engelage, executive director of admissions and records, said he is pleased with the increase in minority enrollment at A&M but realizes the school is not back to pre-Hopwood enrollment. "Pre-Hopwood, there was a plan to raise the participation of under-represented minorities, especially African-American and Hispanics," Engelage said. **SEE MINORITIES ON PAGE 2.**

## Sketch artist



Ben McFadden, a sophomore landscape architecture major, draws the Evans Library Annex using a stick dipped in Indian ink for her environmental design class. **MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION**

## West Campus garage awaits approval

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

Students and visitors to West Campus could see a parking garage by the year 2000 if the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) receives approval for the planned facility. The 3,800-space parking garage would be located on the current PA-56 or "Fish Lot," which currently holds 900 spaces. Tom Williams, the PTTS director, said more parking is needed on West Campus to accommodate the students and visitors to the area. "If we opened it tomorrow, it would probably be full," Williams said. "It would be run as an open garage, probably with some contract space available to students. There is a need for visitor parking when

there are athletic events at the Rec Center or events at Reed Arena." The proposed parking garage must receive approval from upper administration, including Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, before it moves on for consideration by the Board of Regents. Williams said the architects are in the final stages of planning the parking garage. "The delay is not going to be completing the design but waiting on approval," Williams said. "The concept has been completed. It is waiting on the administration's approval, but the price of concrete is very expensive." The \$40 million facility may be voted on by the Board of Regents as early as Spring 1999. If approved, construction might begin as early as Fall 1999.

The proposed West Campus parking garage includes an underpass beneath the railroad and Wellborn Road to increase safety for pedestrian traffic, Williams said. The garage is modeled after the Southside parking garage, which holds 2,000 vehicles. "The proposed facility is about twice the size but is almost identical (in design) to the Southside garage," Williams said. "Southside is the most user-friendly garage on campus." Wesley Peel, the vice chancellor for Facilities, Planning and Construction, said the tentative construction time for the West Campus garage is estimated at 18 to 20 months. Peel said approval by the Board of Regents will initiate the administration of the contract and solicit for construction bids.

## Duke shares medical philosophy

BY BRYAN BUCKMAN  
The Battalion

Dr. Red Duke, the white-mustached surgeon famous for his television news segment appearances, spoke to the Texas A&M Pre-Med Society on Monday. Duke, who graduated from A&M in 1950 and U.T. Southwestern Medical School in 1960, discussed his own career and the challenges A&M students face in order to become doctors. Duke said he loves the medical profession and has never wanted to do anything else. "You'll get tired but you won't get bored. You'll see something new every day," Duke said.



**GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION**  
Dr. Red Duke, a surgeon at University of Texas Health Science Center, addressed pre-medical students Tuesday night.

## UPD: Bike theft a big problem

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

Bike theft is a big problem on the Texas A&M campus, according to officials at the Texas A&M University Police Department. Since the first day of classes, 33 bicycles have been stolen on campus. Sgt. Allan Baron, an advanced police officer for the UPD, said the increase in the number of bicycles stolen may be attributed to the large class of freshmen at Texas A&M this semester. "We have a large freshman class on campus," Baron said. "A lot of freshmen will pull up to their dorms and leave their bikes unlocked. A lot of freshmen do not think about their bikes getting stolen because Aggies aren't supposed to lie, steal and cheat." The current total from bike theft losses is approximately \$7,000, according to reports from the UPD. The average stolen bike costs between \$200 and \$250, Baron said. "There are a lot of bikes locked up on campus," Baron said. "It's easy for someone to defeat (steal) a bike." Jesse Cole, a junior accounting major, said his bike was stolen at his house in College Station. He said the bike was locked with a heavy gauge lock and was stolen during the middle of the night. Baron said bikes are taken at all hours of the day. The University Police Department advises students to take precautions when locking bikes on campus: • Students should use a case-hardened steel U-bolt lock, as opposed to chain or wire bike locks, and should secure the bike through the frame and rear wheel to a bicycle rack to prevent theft. • Students should engrave their driver's license number on the frame of the bike. **SEE DUKE ON PAGE 2.**

## Groups focus on domestic violence

BY JOE SCHUMACHER  
The Battalion

Working for a Rape-free campus and Gender Issues on Services are sponsoring a display to allow students express their views about domestic violence. Students can decorate T-shirts which will be displayed on a line at the MSC at the end of the visual display coincides with Domestic Violence Awareness month. Art supplies to decorate the T-shirts are free, free of charge, at the Genesis Education Services located in 211A YMCA. Sup-

plies can also be obtained at the Women's Studies office in 306 Academic Building. Becki Elkins-Neshiem, coordinator of Gender Issues Education Services, said students can design T-shirts that speak out against domestic violence or serve as memorials to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Elkins-Neshiem said several have already been completed. Other events planned for Domestic Violence Awareness Month include a candle light vigil, sponsored by Phoebe's Home, that will be held on the steps of the Bryan Municipal Building on Oct. 1, at 7:30 p.m. "We hope the vigil and other events will encourage others to de-

sign T-shirts to heighten awareness on campus," Elkins-Neshiem said. Gender Issues Education Services is holding a brown bag lunch meeting Oct. 15 dealing with relationship violence and sexual assault on campus. Throughout October booths will be located in the MSC to inform students about domestic violence. Elkins-Neshiem said although October is domestic violence awareness month, relationship violence in general is being incorporated into the discussions. "You can expand domestic violence to encompass relationship violence, which affects one out of three women at the college level," Elkins-Neshiem said.



"Smokey Joe's Cafe," a dance-musical sponsored by MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society, features numbers from the 1950s. The show is the 1998 season for OPAS. **PHOTO COURTESY OF OPAS.**

## 'Smokey Joe's' features rock 'n' roll roots

BY BETH FOCHT  
The Battalion

Tonight and Thursday night at 8, Rudder Auditorium will sizzle with the sounds of "Smokey Joe's Cafe," as the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society kicks off their 26th season with this hot number. "Smokey Joe's Cafe" is a fast paced musical review of the songs of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, leading songwriters of the 1950s and leaders in the rock 'n' roll revolution. The show features nine performers who sing and dance to a variety of songs from Leiber and Stoller, including favorites "Jailhouse Rock," "Hound Dog," "Love Potion No. 9"

and "Stand By Me." Kyla Grogan, performer in "Smokey Joe's Cafe," said the only way to describe the show is fun. "It's an evening of wonderful singers and brilliant choreography," she said. "The show is full of fantastic songs that speaks to the heart. These are songs that are on an audience members' life soundtracks." Another special part of the show, Grogan said, is the fact that there are nine stars in the show, instead of just one. "Every performer gets to use their talents to the fullest with nine main performers," she said. "Each song is like a different story, and each character evolves through

these songs and stories." "I have worked with a lot of top notch shows, and "Smokey Joe's Cafe" is equally as wonderful," Grogan said. "This show is definitely the jewel in the production company's crown." Robby Thomas, chairman of OPAS, said "Smokey Joe's Cafe" is a great way to begin their season. "We wanted to start with "Smokey Joe's Cafe because it is such an exciting, fun and outrageous show," Thomas said. "We want to get our patrons and the student population excited about the rest of the season to come." **SEE SMOKEY JOE ON PAGE 7.**

**SEE THEFT ON PAGE 10.**