



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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College Station, Texas



sports

• A&M baseball faces University of Texas at Arlington this weekend on Olson Field.

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Monday's issue

Kinesiology classes: Pro wrestling? Ones offered and great ones we wish we had.

aggielife

• MSC OPAS presents three performances of the famous Russian ballet 'Sleeping Beauty' this weekend at Rudder.

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Representatives work on solutions for local problems

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Legislators representing the Texas A&M community are in the process of filing and debating bills with the potential to impact budgetary appropriations, the state's educational system and the agricultural industry.

Sen. Steve Ogden of the 5th District serves on the Education, Finance and Veteran Affairs and Military Installations committees.

Ogden has authored and sponsored a number of bills in the 1999 legislative session. They include legislation relating to the contracts with and completion of administration of state colleges and universities, the Department of Public Safety's complex crime unit and eligibility for charge dismissals on the completion of drivers' education courses.

In budgetary appropriation hearings, officials from Texas A&M University have made presentations regarding the preservation of the revenue received through the Permanent University Fund (PUF), a fund earmarked for the Texas A&M and the University of Texas systems.

Rep. Fred Brown of the 14th District, representing part of Brazos County, serves on the Higher Education and the Land and Resource committees in the Texas House of Representatives. He served on the College Station City Council for nine years.

Brown said higher education and land and resource management are both important to the Texas A&M University System.

Brown is working on legislation to increase the partnerships between industry and high schools in Texas through the expansion of vocational programs modeled after high schools in Bryan-College Station and the Dallas Independent School District (DISD).

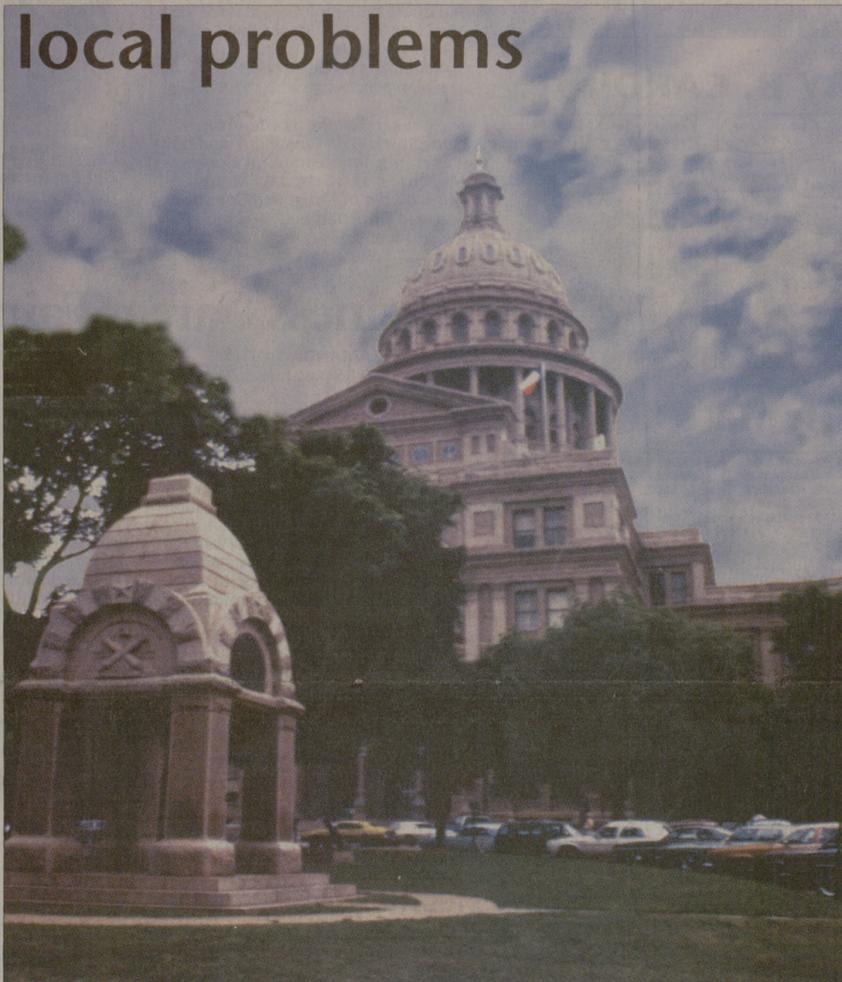
"The equipment and the teaching would be the latest, greatest, neatest, newest stuff," Brown said.

Under the curriculum design Brown supports, students in the vocational programs would attend core-curriculum classes during the morning and work in the industrial setting in the afternoon.

Brown said there is a demand in industry for employees educated in telecommunication, microelectronics, avionics and computers.

Brown said the Land and Resource Management Committee will primarily consider bills concerning the land annexation in the extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) zone of the cities.

"Cities generally want to annex the surrounding land in their ETJ," Brown said. "But more and more we are hearing from people in the ETJs wanting to preserve their rights."



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Texas legislators are currently working on legislation that will impact budgetary appropriation, the educational system and agricultural industry. Brazos Valley Rep. Fred Brown of the 14th District plans to expand vocational programs through out Texas high schools, similar to programs that exist in Bryan-College Station and Dallas schools districts.

Rep. Charles Jones of the 13th District, representing parts of Brazos, Austin, Burleson, Lee, Milam and Washington counties, will serve on the Agriculture and Livestock Committee and the State, Federal and International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives.

Jones said his work with the Texas Agriculture and Livestock Committee concerns A&M System agencies, including the Agricultural Ex-

tension Service, the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

Jones said he is primarily interested in reducing the property tax, which is supported by Gov. George W. Bush.

Jones worked in the public school system as a teacher and administrator for 28 years, and a job training administrator for 12 years.

Substitute bill proposes change in traffic laws

BY AMANDA PALM
The Battalion

Drivers who take advantage of the 25 mph speeding allowance for driving-safety courses could lose the privilege of having the ticket removed from their record.

Rep. Fred Brown filed a bill with the Texas Legislature that would cut the 25 mph speed allowance to 12 mph.

Since being introduced in January, a committee substitute to the bill is being drafted to include additional changes. When completed, the substitute proposal will be presented to the Texas House committee in place of the original proposal.

The changes to the original proposal divide the 25 mph speed window into two parts.

The first change affects speeding tickets issued for up to 12 mph in a 70 mph speed zone. The ticket can be removed from official record with the completion of a driving-safety course. The current law states that drivers have 90 days from the date of the offense to take a driving-safety course provided they have not taken the course within one year prior to the ticket. The law would still apply to speeding offenses of up to 12 mph over the speed limit.

The second change to the bill affects speeding tickets issued for offenses of more than 13 mph in a 70-mph speed

zone. The offense would result in payment of the ticket and completion of a driving-safety course under current requirements, but the ticket would not be removed from official record.

Brown said the existing law allows people to get away with driving too fast because people driving 95 mph in a 70 mph zone could take a driver-safety course and have the ticket removed from their records.

"The number-one priority of this bill is to get people to slow down on Texas highways," Brown said.

Phil Ward, president of USA Training Company, which is the largest provider of driving-safety courses in Texas, said his company serves 250 privately-owned schools in the state.

Ward said he is not sure anything will be effective at slowing drivers down, but the bill may have a "chilling effect" on drivers if passed.

"It may not be popular with college students or with people living in rural areas," he said, "but if you are driving more than 12 miles over the speed limit, you should be prepared for what happens."

"This change could make a good effort to slow drivers down," he said.

Brown said safety is his main concern with drivers.

"We want to save lives on Texas highways," Brown said.

Driving-safety class qualifications

Drivers who exceed the speed limit by:

| 25 mph | 12 mph |
|--|---|
| Old Law • Driver-safety course is optional but must be taken within 90 days of the offense. • The ticket is removed from official record. | Possible Law • Driver-safety course required to be taken within 90 days of the offense. • The ticket will not be removed from official record. |

Architect submits model for College of Architecture

Internationally recognized designer promotes drastic change for campus

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Philip Johnson, a world-renowned architect, presented his model for the design of a new building for the College of Architecture Thursday.

John H. Lindsey, a member of the Board of Regents, said the actual construction of the building has yet to be approved.

Lindsey said officials in the College of Architecture sought the aid of Johnson because of his reputation and because of the limited space available for the construction of the new building.

"In a way, we are building the carts for the horse," Lindsey said. Johnson said the A&M campus is in need of a new building.

"This is the most monotone campus in this world, because it is all in one color, but it does have an amazing amount of uniformity and clarity," Johnson said.

"We want to break this mold of the beige brick and the limestone trim."

Johnson said the new building will possess many unique features.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

Philip Johnson, fourth from left, gazes at his design for the new building for the College of Architecture. The estimated cost of the structure is \$12 million.

Lindsey said if the construction of the building is approved, then they will come up with a time line, fit it into a budget and make any necessary changes.

Lindsey said the estimated cost of the building is \$12 million.

Johnson said his main purpose is to emphasize the student use features in the building.

"This building will be an epicenter for student circulation," he said.

The proposed site for the building is where it will be among the other architecture buildings facing Ross Street.

Johnson said this building will be a symbolic piece of architecture and the only one of its kind in the world.

WISE sponsors forum on career advancement

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Enhancing career advancement, avoiding workplace conflicts and projecting a positive self-image are among the workshop topics for the seventh annual Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) conference to be held Saturday in the MSC.

Nancy Magnussen, director of WISE, and program coordinator for the College of Science, said WISE primarily targets graduate students but the topics will be helpful to undergraduate students, faculty and staff.

Magnussen said there will be speakers from throughout the nation at the conference. The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Stephanie Bird, a special assistant to the provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Bird develops educational programs concerning ethical issues and responsibilities in science.

Dr. Elena Castell-Perez, an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, will be

hosting a workshop called "Striking at Another: Avoiding Extremes." Perez said she will present scenarios drawn from personal conflicts from work and school.

"Women in the science and engineering fields is kind of a non-traditional role so we sometimes have to face many ordeals," she said.

Castell-Perez said she wants her presentation to be interactive. After she shares her experiences she wants input from students who would have handled the situations differently.

"I want people to know it is ok to be in a difficult situation, but once it is resolved, even though it might have been a painful experience, you always learn a valuable lesson out of it," she said.

Magnussen said they want to show the women how to have a positive job experience.

"We want to help show these women how to have a positive mindset when they enter the workforce and help create a positive environment so they can go forward in their careers," Magnussen said.