



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY

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College Station, Texas



aggielife

• Science fiction and fantasy to bring actors, authors and others to the AggieCon XXX.

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Toons 2
Sports 7

Battalion Radio

Information about the Bryan Easter egg hunt will be given at 1:57 p.m. on 90.9 KAMU-FM.

opinion

• Elizabeth Dole's vast experience makes her an excellent presidential candidate.

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170-hour rule revised

Senate bill changed to accommodate students

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Senate Bill 345, which changes the fixed 170-hour cap to an individual cap of 45 hours more than each student's degree program requires for graduation, was passed in the Texas House of Representatives yesterday. The original bill, which passed in the Texas Senate earlier this year, would have prohibited the state from funding undergraduate semester credit hours that exceed 170 total hours while authorizing institutions of higher education to charge a higher tuition rate for hours above the 170-hour cap. The original bill and amendment will go into effect in Fall 1999.

Tiffany Britton, a spokesperson for Senator Ogden, said the bill went back to the House to be amended after the Higher Education Committee received complaints from students and schools.

The bill that passed yesterday includes a grandfather clause that applies to students who enrolled in an institution prior to Fall 1999. A subsection of the bill prohibits the Higher Education Coordinating Board from including undergraduate student who has previously attempted 45

hours more than that required to complete the student's degree program, rather than a total of 170 or more hours. There are several exceptions to the bill that make students exempt from the 45-hour extension. The first is semester credit hours earned by students before receiving a degree previously awarded to the students. The second is semester credit hours earned by examination or under any other procedure in which credit is earned without registering for a course. The third is credit for a remedial education course, a technical course, a work force education course funded according to contact hours or another course that does not count toward the students' degree programs at the institution.

Finally, there are semester credit hours earned by students at private institutions or out-of-state institutions. Students with double majors are exempt from the amendment.

The bill states the importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses created an emergency, so the bill was a top priority in the House. Due to the bill amendments, it will go to the senate for reapproval and, if approved, will proceed to the Governor.

Blushing Bride



CARINO CASAS/THE BATTALION

Ronald Mauldin sets his camera as Linda Mauldin adjusts the train on Kathryn Blaschke's dress. Blaschke and her twin sister Amy, both Class of '98, had their wedding photos taken on the A&M campus. The Houston natives chose the campus because their fiances are also Aggies.

Licensing debate may lead to lawsuit

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Texas A&M University administrators may find themselves in a lawsuit due to the termination of a collegiate license.

Michelle Brenckman, Class of '99 and a former licensee, is working toward the filing of a lawsuit today because of the termination of her collegiate license.

The individuals named in the lawsuit include Frank Shannon, former executive director of the 21st Man Foundation; Rod Step, current president of the 12th Man Foundation; Frank Clarke, head of internal audit with the Texas A&M University System; Vally Groff, athletic director; President Dr. Ray M. Bowen; and the 21st Man Foundation and Texas A&M University.

"Regardless of whether the football team wins or loses, Aggies will buy A&M merchandise."

— Michelle Brenckman
Former A&M licensee

Brenckman said she originally received a license in 1986 to publish A&M Magazine, which she focused on A&M's history and traditions.

"This magazine was very profitable for the university," she said.

Brenckman said in 1992, the magazine expanded to include all the System schools.

Brenckman claims that in 1995, Bowen terminated her license and established an agreement with a friend, the publisher of Aggies Illustrated, and allowed his friend to operate without a license. She claims that after seven months of receiving her complaints about the fact that Aggies Illustrated was operating without a license, the Athletic Department offered to buy the publication for \$760,000.

Groff denied the allegation and said the department never offered to buy the magazine.

Rick Floyd, associate vice president for finance, said Brenckman's license was not terminated by Bowen, but expired, as all colle-

giate licenses eventually do. Floyd said, Brenckman's magazine started to endorse candidates such as Phil Gramm which suggested that A&M was supporting Gramm.

"As much as many people may support Gramm, we cannot support any political candidates as a University," Floyd said.

Rule one of Texas A&M University Collegiate Licensing Art Guidelines states "the University's marks are to present a positive image," and rule 15 states, "uses of the University's marks associated with certain other mark(s) and/or words will not be licensed."

Toby Boenig, director of collegiate licensing said, rules one and 15 are the regulations most abused by licensees.

Brenckman said her greatest concern is not the loss of her license, but who is benefiting from licensing revenue.

In information provided by Brenckman, she said a 1981 edition of *The Bryan-College Station Eagle*, had quoted Don Powell as saying "all (Licensing) funds would be placed in the student activity fund for student organizations."

Brenckman said Powell, who was managing the licensing program at the time, approved an emergency rescue of the Athletic Department with a one-time transfer of licensing revenues to Athletics, under orders from immediate supervisor Robert Smith, former vice president of finance and administration.

Brenckman claims, in 1994 Bowen was named University president and approved a plan presented by Groff to transfer 65 percent of the annual net revenues from licensing to the Athletic Department's operating budget.

Groff said he did propose a plan to Bowen for the Athletic Department to receive 65 percent of the licensing revenue, but there was nothing secretive at all.

Groff said the Athletic Department originally did not receive any collegiate licensing revenue.

"Many Division I schools throughout the country receive 100 percent of the licensing revenue," Groff said.

Floyd and Groff said they are proud of the fact that A&M has refrained from incorporating into tuition a student athlete fee for all students, a common practice at other universities. Brenckman has accused Bowen of transferring

New regents assume seats

Board set to vote on projects, tuition increase

BY BETH MILLER
The Battalion

Presentations to the Texas A&M Board of Regents yesterday showcased the proposed increase of University Authorized Tuition (UAT) and preliminary designs for possible future A&M projects.

A public hearing updated the Board on the University's most recent action regarding the UAT increase proposal and the proposals for a pedestrian walkway under Wellborn Road and the West Campus parking garage.

Student Body President Laurie Nickel spoke at the hearing on behalf of A&M students and elaborated on the Student Senate's Wednesday-night decisions, which included approving the proposals for the pedestrian walkway and the tuition increase.

Nickel said she fully supports

the walkway, which would replace the overpass at the intersections of Wellborn Road and Joe Rott Boulevard. She said the walkway would be more frequently utilized because the preliminary design allows it a gradual, linear slope as opposed to the long, winding ramps on each end of the overpass. She said it would also benefit bicyclists and the handicapped, who experience difficulty using the steeper overpass.

The proposed walkway construction budget is \$10,000,000.

A representative of Prosign Architects of Houston described the preliminary plan for the West Campus parking garage.

He said the garage would be similar in physical appearance, design and operation to other on-campus garages. The garage would contain 2,800 spaces, most for student use.

Nickel said while she and the

Student Senate support the UAT increase proposal, she does not agree with allocating a portion of the revenue from the parking-fee increase to the West Campus garage project. She said the University should either wait to begin planning for and constructing the garage or maintain Parking Area 56 and build it closer to the Wehner Building than the plan calls for. She said it would be better utilized by students on West Campus if it was near the classroom buildings.

In other business yesterday, two officers and three members were elected to serve on the Board. Don Powell of Amarillo was reelected as chair of the Board, Frederick D. McClure of Dallas was elected as vice chairman and Lionel Sosa of San Antonio, R.H. Stevens of Houston and Susan Rudd Wynn of Benbrook were selected as new board members.

Big Event to draw thousands

BY AMANDA PALM
The Battalion

More than 4,500 students will volunteer their time and energy to serve Bryan-College Station Saturday.

The largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation, The Big Event, begins at the steps of the Jack K. Williams Administration Building at 9 a.m. and will last until mid-afternoon.

Robert Goodwin, chief executive officer for Points of Light Foundation, will be the keynote speaker for The Big Event and will be joined by Student Body President Laurie Nickel, the yell leaders and Parsons Mounted Cavalry.

Bowie Hogg, student involvement sub-chair for The Big Event and a sophomore business administration major, said Goodwin was chosen to speak because he is dedicated to service.

"He loves service and has given his life to it," Hogg said. "He's a former member of the Board of Regents who can relate to students and motivate them."

There are more than 320 student organizations participating in The Big Event including fraternities and sororities. Aggie Sisters for Christ and Alpha Phi Omega usually send more than 100 members to volunteer, Hogg said.

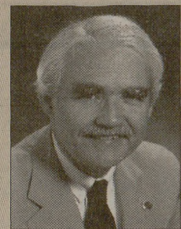
Volunteers for The Big Event will spend the day doing a variety of service activities including cleaning and painting homes, helping with a fair at an elementary school and cleaning streets in downtown Bryan.

The volunteers are divided into smaller groups to work at numerous locations during the day.

"Most jobs are for groups of six to 10 people, so a group of 20 would be assigned to three jobs," Hogg said. "The organizations know prior to Saturday morning what job they have and where in the community they will go. We send people all over and try to cover the majority of Bryan and College Station."

Lisa Cassidy, community development sub-chair for The Big Event and a junior marketing major, said anyone in the community can be served by event volunteers.

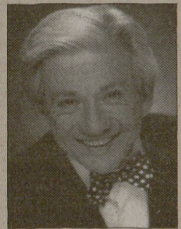
SEE RELATED STORY ON PAGE 6.



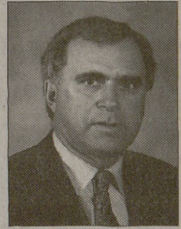
Don Powell
Chairman
Powell was elected by the Board of Regents to serve a second term as chairman. Powell, of Amarillo, is president of First National Bank in Amarillo.



Frederick D. McClure
Vice Chairman
Also elected by the Board, McClure, of Dallas, is managing director of Public Strategic Inc. He served as assistant for legislative affairs for former president George Bush.



Lionel Sosa
New Board member
Sosa, of San Antonio, was appointed by Gov. George W. Bush. Sosa is chief executive officer and partner for Garcia*LKS.



R.H. Stevens
New Board member
Stevens, also appointed by the governor, is a senior partner in Arthur Anderson L.L.P. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University and a former member of the Corps of Cadets.



Susan Rudd Wynn
New Board Member
Wynn is an M.D. specializing in allergy and clinical immunology at Fort Worth Allergy and Asthma Associates. She earned both her degrees at Texas A&M.

SEE LICENSE ON PAGE 2.