

The Battalion

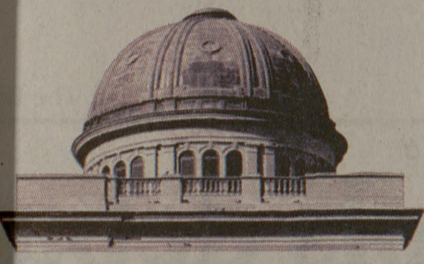
105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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aggielife

• Texas A&M Study Abroad Programs offer students cultural experiences.

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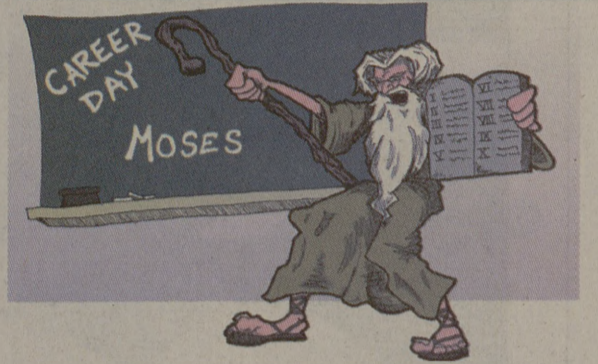
Battalion Radio

Listen to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. for information on Japanese professor Yasushi Nagasawa's visit to Texas A&M.

opinion

• 10 Commandments bill is taking the wrong approach to solving society's problems.

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Clements to become honors-only housing

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

Clements Hall, a Northside co-ed modular residence hall, will begin its transition to an exclusively honor-student residence hall in Fall 2000.

SEE RELATED EDITORIAL ON PAGE 7.

Sue Foster, assistant director of residence education, said the process is still being discussed, and no students will be displaced because Clements Hall will gradually change to a honors students' hall.

Lechner Hall, a Northside residence hall, is currently the only hall exclusively occupied by honors students and recipients of major scholarships, such as National Merit Scholars. Lechner residents are all

freshmen except for 11 sophomore advisers and one junior adviser.

Foster said a large number of former Lechner Hall residents move into Clements Hall after their freshman year.

"We are addressing the interest of residents of Lechner who want to continue to live in an honors residence hall after their freshman year," she said.

Susanna Finnell, director of the honors program, said the transition will be a long-term transition in which students and faculty will work together to reach an arrangement.

Jim Heath, former resident of Lechner Hall, said having two honors halls on campus is a good idea.

But Clements may not be the best choice for the honors hall. Heath said other male students who would like to

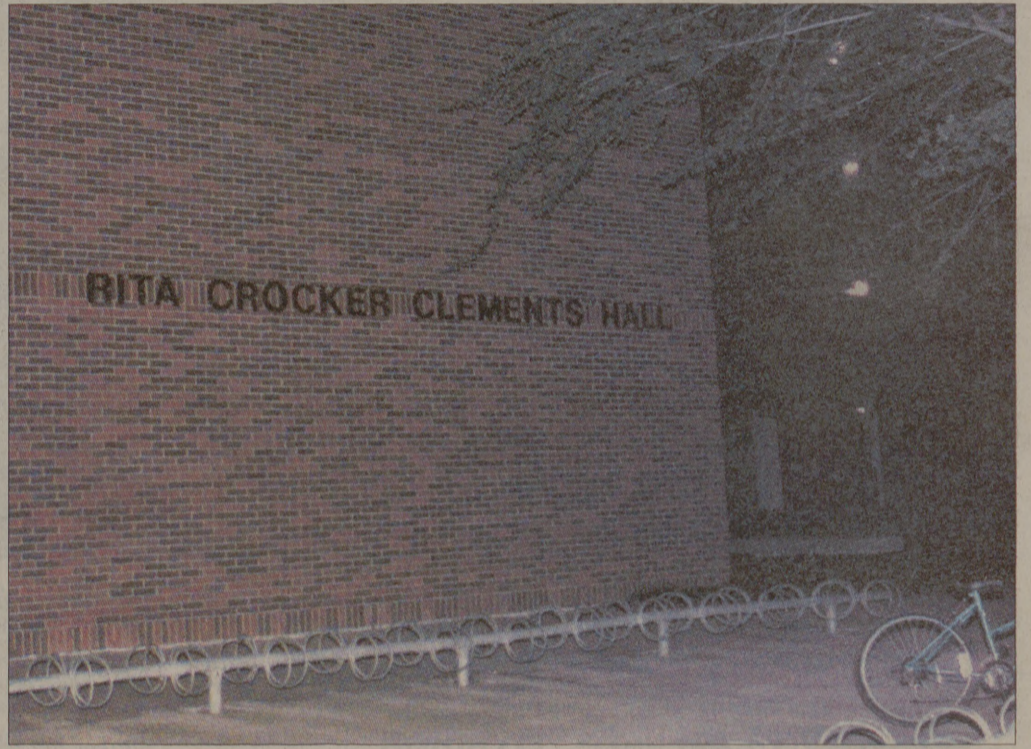
live on the Northside in a modular-style hall would not be able to do so because Clements is the only one of that kind in the area.

"I would have thought the Southside would be a better location for another honors residence hall, because it would spread the honors students more equally across campus," he said.

Finnell said Lechner Hall currently provides students with a supportive academic environment and helps students to assume meaningful leadership roles.

She said she hopes Clements Hall will do the same for upperclassmen.

"This is an experiment in residence halls," Finnell said. "We hope that Clements will assume its own character and spirit as all residence halls do."



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Clements Hall on Northside will begin the transition to an all-honors residence hall starting Fall 2000.

Walk this way



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

R.J. Bohac (foreground) installs reinforcement bars into the existing sidewalk while Billy Stone guides it into place Monday. The two University Physical Plant workers are installing a new walkway by the east gate of Kyle Field to keep people from walking on the surrounding grass while waiting to enter the field.

New director takes reins of University Relations

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

After two weeks on the job, the new director of University Relations at Texas A&M, Cynthia Lawson, is coming to grips with her new responsibilities and loving every second of it.

Lawson said although she will miss seeing the Ozark foothills and Arkansas River she once passed en route to her former job as executive director of the Public Relations Office for the University of Arkansas, she jumped at the opportunity to become the director of University Relations at A&M because of the reputation and perception she has had of the University since she was a child.

"When I was a little girl living in California, living literally in the shadows of Stanford, the only university I knew existed was A&M because my mother was a such a big Aggies fan," she said.

University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said Lawson competed with many other qualified applicants from across the country for the position.

"It was our opinion that her experience and her vision for the A&M job made her the most qualified," Bowen said.

Lawson has spent the last couple of weeks meeting with groups and individuals, both on and off campus in order to help her develop a strategic com-

munications plan so the University may further relations not only with organizations and businesses off campus but also between organizations within the Texas A&M University System.

She said she is excited about the future because of the combination of excellent research at the University mixed with the rich traditions that bind the University, and its students and faculty. She said she did not find that mixture at other universities, including Michigan State University, her alma mater.

"I spent some time walking around town and campus asking people what they thought about the University," she said. "[And] the answer was almost always 'I love it.'"

Lawson said the only really difficult task she has had to tackle thus far was the announcement of the death of Reveille V Friday.

"It was clear from discussing the passing of Reveille V with students and faculty, exactly how much she meant to the University and what a great loss this is," she said.

Lawson said she would have a difficult time filling the shoes of her predecessor, James R. Ashlock, who did much to further University Relations in his years at A&M.

"He had really big feet, and I'm only a size nine," she joked.

Bowen said he expects Lawson will excel at her job, just as Ashlock did.

"Mr. Ashlock did a great job, and we expect a similar performance from Ms. Lawson," he said.



LAWSON

Northgate lot raises concerns

BY RYAN WEST
The Battalion

After a year, students and businesses are experiencing effects from the Promenade parking lot, the pay parking lot behind Northgate.

SEE RELATED COLUMN ON PAGE 7.

Ahmad Moady, manager of The Cow Hop, said although he is pleased the area is fixed-up, he is not happy with the lot.

Moady said the issue with customers is not so much the dollar that people pay to park, but the fact they have to pay at all.

He said they now have to work harder and offer more specials to maintain the business.

"At night, people don't mind paying to have fun and go out drinking," Moady said. "But during the day, people aren't interested in paying money to park and eat."

Bernie Gessner, owner of Aggie Cleaners, said the parking lot puts his store at a competitive disadvantage as a commercial district.



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Some Northgate business owners say the Promenade paid parking lot has made it harder for their establishments to attract customers.

"During the lunch rush, people want to come in and drop their clothes off, but because we're fighting against the restaurants, it's difficult for our customers to get a parking place anywhere other than in paid parking," he said.

Gessner said the paid parking dilutes the enforcement of time limitations on the street as well. He said during the day, there are usually between 10 and 12 cars parked in paid spots.

"We tried to petition [College Station] City Council to lower the rate to 50 cents during the day, but

SEE PARKING ON PAGE 2.

Gun problems minor, officer says

BY KRISTIN STOCKTON
The Battalion

Students and faculty members would be relieved to know that Texas A&M has a very minor gun control problem, according to Sergeant Allan Baron of the University Police Department.

During the 1998-99 school year, only two weapons offenses were reported; one in the fall and one in the spring. Sgt. Betty Lemay, a Certified Crime Prevention Specialist in the Crime Prevention Unit of UPD, said,

Baron said most of the cases involving firearms at A&M involve students who leave shotguns or rifles in their cars after they have been hunting.

"During hunting season, we tend to see more shotguns and rifles show up in pick-up trucks and suburbans, but normally we don't come across a tremendous amount of firearms," he said.

While it is a felony to carry any kind of firearm on a university campus, Baron said the repercussions vary from situation to situation. The consequences are differ-

ent for a student carrying a pistol on campus and a student driving through campus with a rifle in his truck.

The difference lies in the gun laws. In the city, it is legal to carry a rifle or a shotgun, but it is illegal to carry a handgun without a concealed handgun permit. Since A&M is an institution of higher learning, it is illegal to possess any firearms on campus.

"The officers have to use discretion in determining what action to

SEE GUNS ON PAGE 2.