

The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

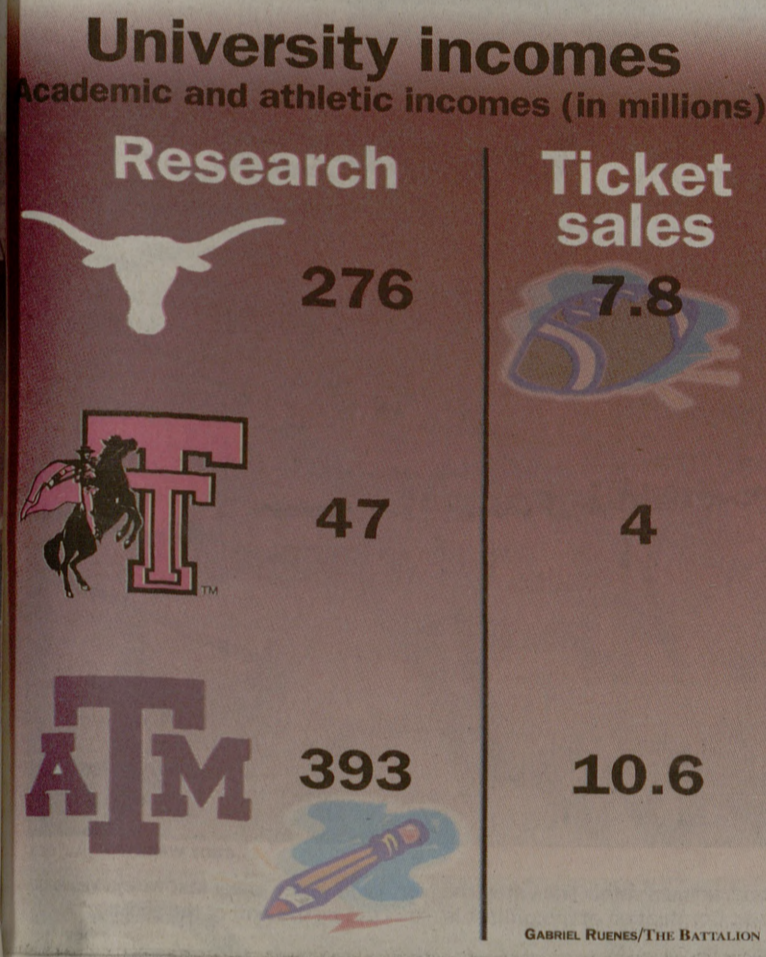
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Market drives Slocum deal

BY CARRIE BENNETT
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R.C. Slocum's acceptance of a 7-year, \$7 million contract means the Texas A&M's head football coach will now earn the same amount per year as the University of Texas' head football coach Mack Brown.

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Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said the decision to raise Slocum's salary was similar to the decision to raise the salary of a person in any field. He said Slocum's salary was judged against those of his peers to ensure his salary was comparable to those of other coaches at schools in the Big 12 and Big 10 Conferences.

Slocum's income includes a base salary of \$300,000 a year, money from TV and radio appearances, a housing allowance and shoe contract.

Last year the A&M football program generated more revenue than that of the University of Texas and drew in additional funds through advertisements, sponsorships and donations from the 12th Man Foundation.

Don Powell, chair of the Texas A&M Board of Regents, said the decision is based on the coaching market, and the market sees a head coaching position as valuable.

"It is critically important that you have head coaches, whether it be basketball, baseball or any woman's sport, that represent A&M in both wins

Faculty raise promotes teaching

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

administration, and possibly researchers would not receive the raise, but Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen provided an average 6-percent increase to faculty to promote teaching as well as research.

This salary increase was provided by state funds and the additional \$4 extra per semester credit hour added this year to tuition costs. However, there was not enough money in this pool for all faculty to receive the 6-percent increase,

which applied to every faculty member on payroll by June 1, 1999.

Janis Stout, dean of faculties and associate provost, said the 6-percent pool will provide raises to deans and associate deans and administration under them, but will not include administration ranked higher. Stout said provosts and associate provosts will not be included in this salary increase.

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Aggies to assist with Mexican agriculture plan

BY SUZANNE BRABECK
The Battalion

In an effort to improve the agricultural conditions in the cross-border region of Mexico and Texas, the faculty of the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas invited Texas A&M University and numerous universities in Mexico to work together to create a cooperative project to both preserve natural resources and improve livestock conditions.

In 1992 the Universidad Autonoma Agriculture department and the Texas A&M University System collaborated with the College of Agricultural Systems to develop a strategy to improve agricultural conditions in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The project involves the Tamaulipan Biotic Province, which extends into three states in Mexico and is dependent on cattle.

In Texas, 30 million acres of the Rio Grande Plains and Coastal Prairies are the site of the project.

Wayne Hamilton, director of the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management at A&M, said the Rio Grande River separates these areas them politically but does not separate resources.

Dr. Manuel Piña, Texas-Mexico Initiative project director and a professor of agricultural education at A&M, said since the initial meetings, representatives from both countries have attended workshops on such topics as Management of Grazinglands in South Texas and Northern Mexico.

"Overall, collaborative efforts have been extremely good, although they have been relatively uncoordinated and marginally supported with funds earmarked specifically for these purposes," Piña said. "There can be an improvement of the quality of people's lives on both sides of the border."

So far, there have been three conferences which revolved around topics such as beef production systems, reproduction, range animal nutrition, health ranch administration, brush and weed management, drought strategies and economics of range management.

The workshops also provide input which is being compiled to put together a draft proposal for long-term funding for the project.

The workshops are offered in both Spanish and English.

"There is a 150-year history of interaction among people in this region," Hamilton said. "You could almost say they speak the same language."

Piña said the costs of the workshops are covered by various donors.

"We anticipate that no one donor will be able to support the entire thing, but may be willing to support part of it," he said.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Inter-American Development Bank are a few of the public and private institutions which have shown interest in the goals of these programs.

— Dr. Manuel Piña
Project director

"There can be an improvement of the quality of people's lives on both sides of the border."

SEE MEXICO ON PAGE 2.

Rockets' red glare



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Spectators view the fireworks display at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex Sunday. Visitors who braved the rains were treated with the display, which was delayed for over an hour.

Community celebrates 4th of July with fireworks display

BY VERONICA SERRANO
The Battalion

still a great success judging by concession sales.

Happ said both Bryan and College Station contributed funds for the \$12,000 fireworks display. The display originally was scheduled for 9:40 p.m. but did not begin until 10:30.

He said the celebration usually is held at Olsen Field, but the new tennis courts prohibited the use of fireworks.

The George Bush Presidential Complex provided the organization with a solution when library officials expressed interest in hosting the celebration.

The celebration began at 6 p.m. with a presentation of the American flag by an Army Reserves Color Guard as storm clouds gathered in the distance.

Throughout the day visitors flocked to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, which did not charge admission and extended its hours until 8:30 p.m.

The library also provided shelter for drenched revelers when one of the first showers hit at 7:30 p.m. Many hid beneath the roof of the Complex, while others took the opportunity to tour the museum.

Elaine Nelson, an admissions clerk for the museum, said library officials had expected 10,000 visitors to the museum. She said the clerks were not equipped to estimate the number of visitors.

Other "freebies" available at the event included watermelon and small American flags.