

The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY

July 7, 1999

Volume 105 • Issue 165 • 6 Pages

College Station, Texas



sports

• *The Women's World Cup Soccer Team aims for its second title of the decade.*

PAGE 3

today's issue

News 6

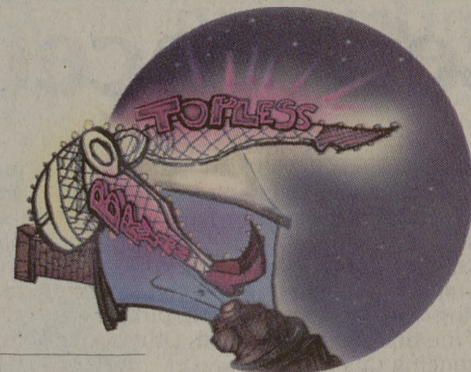
Battalion Radio

For details on the Bryan Aquatic Center's screening of *The Parent Trap* this Friday, tune in to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m.

opinion

• *Proposed cabaret would have a detrimental effect on the Bryan community.*

PAGE 5



New look planned for tower

Changes to 24-year-old structure to include new tan color, A&M logo

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Texas A&M University's water tower, located on Nagle Street near the Northside Parking Garage, is undergoing sandblasting in preparation for a new paint job.

A&M paid Advantage Construction Company of Houston \$372,000 to repaint the water tower in the color of "Aggie tan" with the words "WELCOME TO AGGIELAND" and the A&M logo printed in maroon around the top of the tower.

L. David Godbey, assistant director of engineering and design services for the Texas A&M campus, said the project should be finished in October.

Godbey said the decision to paint the two

million gallon water tower came a year ago after an independent analyst determined a new paint job was needed to stop corrosion being caused by spray from the nearby water plant.

Jerry Gaston, vice president for administration at A&M, said the color scheme was chosen during a presidential staff meeting.

"[This meeting] determined the current color should be altered so that the tower more closely matched the surrounding buildings and the nearby smokestack," Gaston said.

He said the University worked with former students and student leaders from organizations such as Texas Aggies Making Changes to determine what words and symbols should be displayed on the tower.

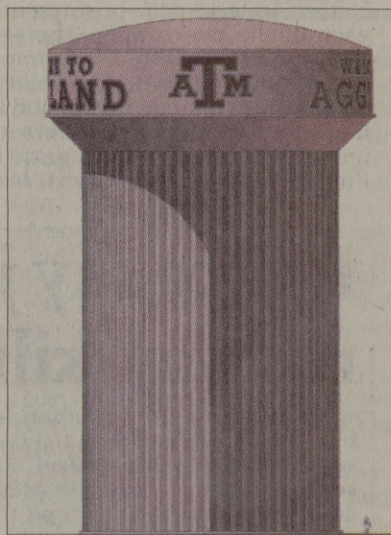
Godbey said the phrase "WELCOME TO AGGIELAND" was a strong candidate because it

was displayed on the main campus water tower that was built in the 1920s, which was torn down in 1975 when the current tower was erected.

James Stokes, construction inspector for the A&M physical plant, said before repainting can begin, the tower must first be covered with a nylon-like cover which will protect the surrounding area while the tower is being sand-blasted and painted.

Gary White, project administrator at the A&M physical plant, said he thinks the repainting will be a good change for the A&M campus.

"The tower is like a landmark," he said. "When you drive into College Station, the first thing people look for is the tower and Kyle Field."



SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

Preparations are now underway to repaint the tower "Aggie tan" with a maroon A&M logo.

S.I. program offers options for tutoring

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

Students looking for ways to improve their grades without having to spend all their free time at the library can turn to the Center for Academic Enhancement's Supplemental Instruction (S.I.) program, which offers free tutoring by students for students.

Linda Callen, program assistant for the Center for Academic Enhancement, said the characteristics sought in students who lead the sessions, called S.I. leaders, include well-roundedness and previous success in the course.

"I say they are part scholar, part yell leader and part fish camp counselor," Callen said.

She said S.I. leaders must have a 3.0 overall grade point ratio and be able to market the class, which includes speaking in front of a large group of students. Callen said S.I. leaders must have good people skills and interpersonal communication skills.

Dan Pirola, a political science 206 (American National Government) S.I. leader and a senior geology major, said the sessions benefit him as well as the students.

"It's given me a lot of experience talking to people and explaining complicated ideas," Pirola said. "These are skills you can use in a career when talking to a customer or explaining something to a boss."

He said the leaders are given a lot of freedom when

SEE STUDY ON PAGE 2.

Traffic stop



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

Officer **Walter Fayers** of the College Station Police Department directs traffic at the intersection of Spring Loop and University Drive Tuesday. The fuse of the traffic light at the intersection was blown when lightning struck a nearby transformer during yesterday's thunderstorms.

Adults only

Proposed cabaret faces opposition

BY RYAN WEST
The Battalion

Despite resistance from local residents, an adult cabaret bar, to be owned and operated by John Skruck and located in the Industrial Park Center in Bryan, is scheduled to open this October. The building and adjoining parking lot will be leased to Skruck for around \$400,000 a year under a 10-year contract, by Don Ball, the property owner.

"I don't believe there's a Bible-thumper out there who would have done differently with the same monetary offer," Ball said.

Ball said several city officials are attempting to suddenly enforce restrictions on the property, which have been routinely unenforced in the past.

"It's just because something's come along that authorities feel they need to be self-righteous about," Ball said. "But individuals who try to exercise their prejudices are at the risk of being sued."

Ball mentioned that out of a dozen phone calls he has received

regarding this issue, only one was negative, and it was from a lady who wanted to remain anonymous.

Teresa Lamb, Human Resource representative for South Corp Packaging, located in the Industrial Park Center, said she is more worried about the effect the cabaret may have on their ability to retain employees than the effect it might have on the company's sales. She said there are some concerns because of safety issues involving the plant's 24-hour operation.

Skruck said he has not faced much opposition on the individual level, other than the concern that the cabaret will decrease the property value of the area.

"We gathered three industrial-size garbage containers of trash, redid the parking lot and cleaned up the area," Skruck said. "How can anyone say the property value's decreased? It's never looked better."

Skruck, who owns several cabarets, said despite what people think, all cabarets are not simply



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

An adult cabaret bar is scheduled to open this October in the Industrial Park Center in Bryan despite local opposition.

"gentlemen's clubs." He said that couples come into his cabarets all the time. What Skruck calls, "alternative entertainment" offers quality, up-scale clientele, a dress code and heavy surveillance to protect both the business and the clientele.

Joe Brown, Communications Officer for the City of Bryan said

from a legal standpoint, the city cannot do much about the adult cabaret.

"It's like Planned Parenthood; (the cabaret) raises a lot of opposition, but as long as it meets the proper zoning requirements, there is little we can do about it," he said.

Computer project aims to eliminate keyboard

BY SUZANNE BRABECK
The Battalion

Imagine some day having your personal computer composed of only a monitor, central processing unit, speaker and a microphone — no keyboard.

The Computer Science Department in Texas A&M's Dwight Look College of Engineering, along with a dozen other universities, are working on a new project called Qbone, which is focused on creating a keyboard-less, voice-controlled computer of the future.

Willis Marti, a senior lecturer for the computer science department, said the researchers working on Qbone have been meeting since last spring to initiate the project.

"This is not a single effort," Marti said. "Schools are working with their own vendors and sharing their research."

A&M is a member of the Internet 2 Consortium, which has members in 140 colleges and universities across the country and also has some industry support. The Internet 2 backbone network is 45,000

times faster than a 56K modem and covers 10,000 miles.

"The idea of the [Qbone] technology is to move toward more flexible communication with less delays," Marti said. "Right now, phone and cable lines are seen as fairly inflexible. In general, Qbone would allow the Internet to move from data services to Online video and audio."

Marti said that with this technology, Internet surfers could be able to click on a site, choose a phone number and then talk with the party at the other end via the computer terminal.

He said computer users may also have the capability to choose the option to listen to e-mail messages instead of reading the text.

The computer science department is looking at how the project will affect all colleges on campus, not just the college of engineering. For example, the college of business may look at how this would affect the economy. Marti said another benefit of this project is that it has drawn more faculty into research.