



aggielife

• Acupuncture and massage therapy provide relief from many common ailments.

PAGE 3

today's issue

News 8

Battalion Radio

Tune in to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. for details about the College of Medicine's annual black-tie gala.

opinion

• The furor over a Toys 'R Us Austin Powers doll is another example of frivolous lawsuits.

PAGE 7



Senate supports closing Joe Routt to thru traffic

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

The Student Senate passed an amended resolution that supports the closing of Joe Routt Boulevard from Houston Street to Wellborn Road to create a "mall environment," an area limiting traffic to pedestrians, bicycles and University buses.

The Senate supports the "mall" proposal only if the corridor is not closed to buses, which would allow for more efficient bus flow from West Campus to main campus. Currently, the proposal that will be presented to the Texas A&M Board of

Regents does not include accessibility to buses on the enclosed corridor.

The Senate is promoting the concept of a pedestrian-friendly campus environment as outlined in Vision 2020.

The Senate outlines the benefits of the closure as increased pedestrian safety, convenience for students traveling from West Campus to main campus and increased bus flow because of a decrease of competing vehicles.

Student Body President Will Hurd said that if the corridor allowed buses to pass through and still restrict other vehicular traffic, then the bus would not have any obstacles.

He said the internal campus roads cannot currently handle the volume of traffic. "We are dealing with a metropolitan entity in a rural setting," Hurd said.

Some senators were concerned that solutions to the potential problems associated with the addition of buses to the closed road were not addressed in the resolution. After debating the issue, a resolution was added that states, "[The] Texas A&M University Campus Access Planning Committee is looking at different plans that will incorporate options to this proposal."

SEE CLOSING ON PAGE 2.

Changes made to curriculum

Performing arts classes added; language, computer hours axed

BY RYAN WEST
The Battalion

This fall, Texas A&M's core curriculum will undergo changes to meet recently mandated statewide core curriculum requirements.

Senate Bill 148, passed in the 97th Texas Legislative session, authorized implementation of a core statewide curriculum.

The bill was passed in order to assure credit to transfer students enrolled in schools across the state. Paul Parrish, professor of English and chair of A&M's Core Curriculum Review Committee, said that in the Fall of '98, a separate Faculty Senate committee made some adjustments to A&M's core curriculum in order to fit the state mandate.

"We ended up with a 48-hour [University] mandated core curriculum, although the [state] mandate only required 42 hours," he said.

Parrish said a few of the reasons for the greater number of curriculum hours include A&M's kinesiology requirement, which the state does not require; A&M's eight-hour science requirement, whereas the state only mandates six hours; and A&M's 18-hour social and behavioral science requirement, compared to the state requirement of 15 hours.

Parrish said one of the most evident changes in the curriculum is the three required hours of the visual and per-

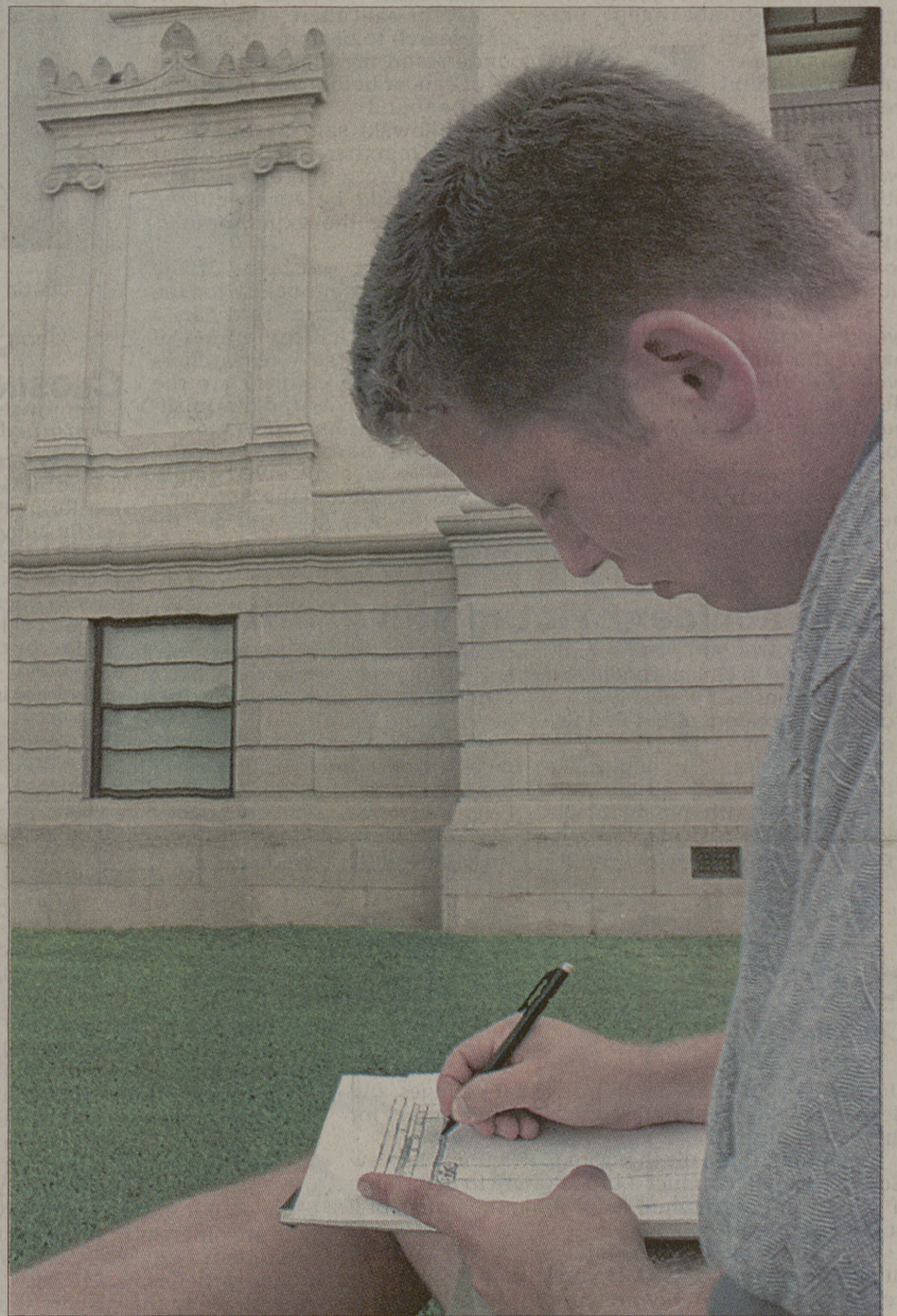
Curriculum requirements	
OLD	NEW
• Humanities — 6 hours	• Humanities — 3 hours
• Foreign language — 2 years	• Visual arts — 3 hours
• Computer science — 1 year high school	• Foreign language — None
OR	• Computer science — None
• 3 hours college	

GABRIEL RUENES/THE BATTALION

forming arts. This means, starting with Class of '03, the formerly required six hours of humanities credits will be split into three hours of visual and performing arts and three hours of humanities. Parrish said that for the moment, the core computer usage and language requirements have been wiped out

SEE CORE ON PAGE 2.

Sketch artist



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Rich Wilkie, a junior architecture major, sketches a window on the outside of the Jack K. Williams Administration Building Wednesday to be used in his ENDS 211 (Design Media III) class. The drawing will be used for the rest of the course.

Conference to focus on need for diversity

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

The Texas Higher Education Diversity Conference will be held in Rudder Auditorium tomorrow to address the importance of diversity.

Becky Pettit, coordinator for diversity education at Texas A&M, said this year marks the 10th anniversary of the conference with the goal of teaching higher-education professionals from around the state how to better facilitate diversity on their campuses.

She said the program began as a campus conference within the Department of Resident Life and the Housing Office to address diversity issues at A&M.

"Once other organizations found out about it, it became a school-wide conference," she said. "And then it wasn't long before it opened its doors to the entire state."

Bill Proudman, founder of Inclusivity Consulting Group Inc. based in Portland, Ore., will deliver a keynote address and head a workshop at the conference emphasizing that

the issue of diversity is as vital to white individuals as it is to minorities.

"It is important that everyone understands that the 'us and them' attitude held by many people today is detrimental to all people," Proudman said.

Proudman said this topic is especially important to A&M because the University's student population is 78 percent white, according to a study done in Fall of 1998 by A&M's Department of Multicultural Services.

Carolyn Sandoval, assistant coordinator for diversity education at A&M, said that although Proudman's workshop will focus on what white higher-education professionals can do to further diversity on their campuses, there is also much that people of minority ethnicities can learn.

"We need to work together as a group and as individuals to understand each other's viewpoints," Proudman said. "This conference will aim at furthering that understanding to everyone."

Bryan considers annexation proposal

City Council to vote whether to incorporate 6,368 acres within city limits

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

The Bryan City Council will vote July 13 and July 27 on whether or not to adopt an annexation ordinance that will determine if 6,368 acres of land in the Brazos County will be annexed into the Bryan city limits.

SEE RELATED COLUMN ON PAGE 7.

This project began in February 1998 at a joint meeting of the council and the Planning and Zoning Commission, where the council directed the commission to provide a recommendation on annexation.

Six public meetings have occurred since then, and citizens of Bryan and residents of the area that may be annexed have expressed concerns about the possibility of annexation.

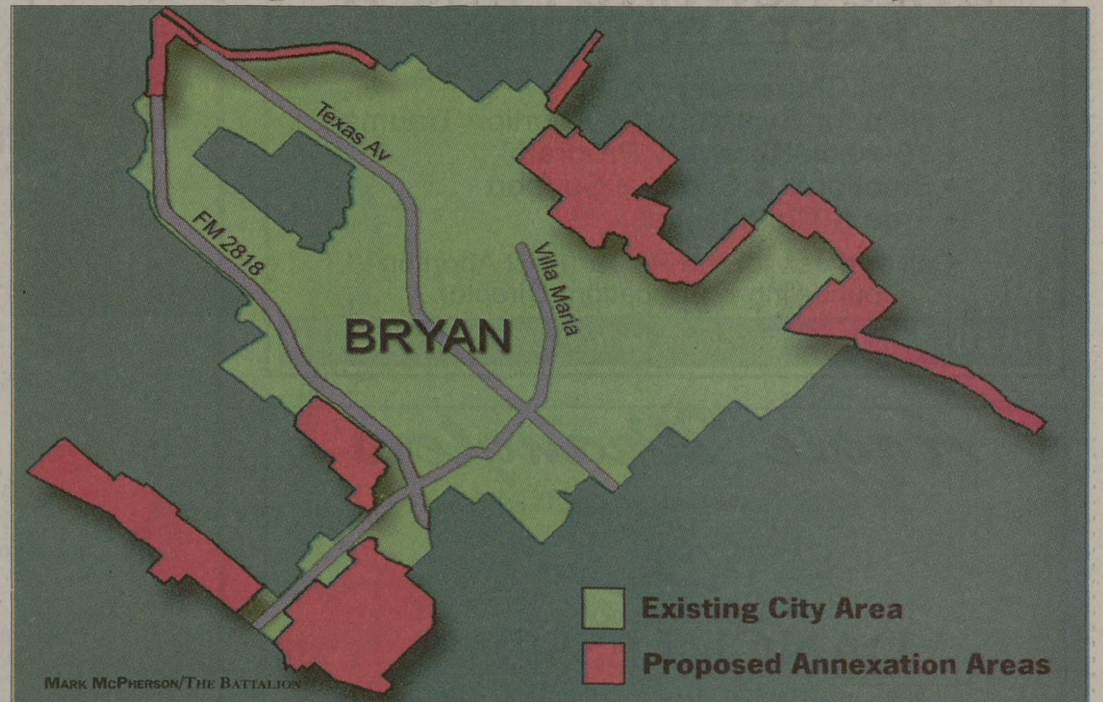
Karen Hall, leader of Concerned Citizens of Bryan and Citizens Against Annexation, has a one-half interest in 6 acres of land located in an area that may be annexed. Hall began two petitions, one to stop the annexation and another to allow voters to decide whether the areas are annexed into Bryan.

Hall said she gathered approximately 2,000 signatures on one petition but only 1,500 were seen as valid.

Hall said the city does not provide maintenance for the streets already within city limits and it should not take on more land.

Joey Dunn, administrator for Planning and Zoning Services in Bryan, said the city budget will allow for maintenance for the annexed areas.

Hall said the citizens want the Council to reflect their values and ideals and the citizens want the right to vote on the issue of annexation.



MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

Dunn said "procedurally speaking," the Council should not let the citizens vote. He said the Council responded to the public hearings by reducing the size of the area to be annexed.

"The state law does not require the City Council to defer power to decide to the voters," he said. "The Council responded to the citizens by removing some areas."

Dunn said one reason for the annexation is to promote orderly growth of the city for the next five to 10 years. He said another reason is to preserve the gateways or major entrances to the city.

A concern of county residents in the areas that are to be annexed is the increase in property taxes. Joey Dunn said the city of Bryan's property tax is \$.62 on every \$100 worth of property.