



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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College Station, Texas

aggielife

• The Messina Hof Harvest Festival lets visitors assist in the winemaking process.

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Battalion Radio

Tune in to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. for more on a new child-care food program by the Texas A&M Children's Center.

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opinion

• New approaches are needed to deal with the birds infesting the Texas A&M campus.



Asbestos found in Scoates

Officials say insulating material does not present a threat

BY MEGAN E. WRIGHT
The Battalion

While undergoing renovations, an unsafe level of asbestos was discovered in Scoates Hall.

Gene Stuart, superintendent of physical maintenance, said the asbestos found in Scoates Hall was not a harmful because the asbestos in the area was encapsulated in the flooring material and not airborne.

"During the renovation, we found the fibers and they are being removed," he said. "There was never a threat to student or faculty health because the fibers were contained."

Every building being renovated this summer is tested for the presence of asbestos.

In the case of Scoates Hall, asbestos was found in the flooring material and as a result, a contractor was hired to redo the floor throughout the building.

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring minerals, and the three most common types of asbestos are chrysotile, amosite and crocidolite. Asbestos is commonly used as an insulator and fire proofing agent in buildings. Its fibers are strong and are resistant to heat.

Asbestos generally can be found in ceiling and floor tiles, pipe and

vessel insulation and applied to structural beams and ceilings.

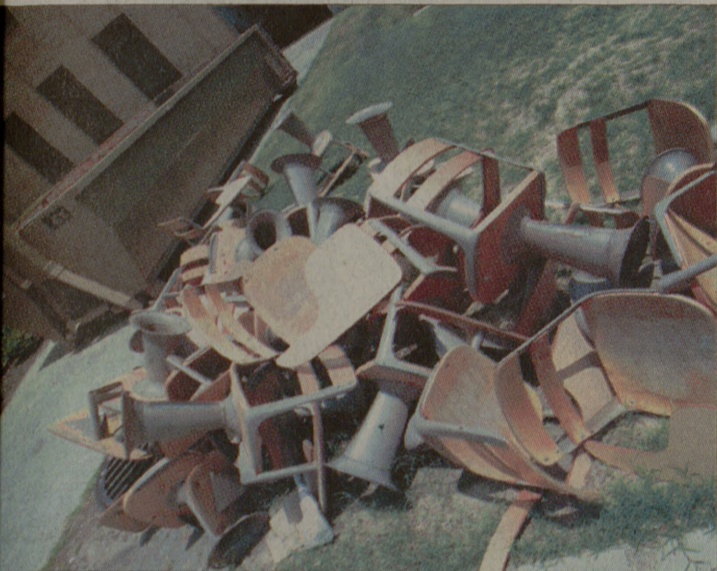
Asbestos becomes hazardous when bundles of fibers become airborne and are inhaled into the lungs where they may cause significant health problems. Researches still have not determined a safe level of exposure.

Asbestos is not always an immediate hazard. If asbestos can be maintained in good condition the particles will not become airborne resulting in inhalation.

Currently, there is no law stating asbestos must be removed except when the concentration of it in the air is too high. However, there are

new federal regulations that require all material that have not been tested to be presumed to contain asbestos. Any building being renovated or demolished is required by law to have their buildings surveyed for materials containing asbestos. Buildings are not permitted to be demolished if there is friable asbestos present.

Some health problems related to asbestos are forms of lung disease and cancer. Despite common misconceptions, asbestos does not cause immediate symptoms such as head aches and sore muscles. Effects may even go unnoticed for 15 to 40 years.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Safe levels of asbestos were discovered in Scoates Hall during renovations. Officials say it does not pose a risk because it is not airborne.

Parks and Wildlife official to oversee marine program

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

The director of intergovernmental affairs for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will take over the position of associate director for outreach of the Texas Sea Grant, an association between Texas A&M University and the National Sea Grant College Program.

Ralph Rayburn, the new associate director, said he would like to find more people outside the Texas Sea Grant who are willing to support and facilitate its programs.

"My first objective as associate director is to establish the relevance of the Texas Sea Grant's programs in the minds of governmental officials," he said.

Rayburn will also serve as the head of the Texas Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Service (MAS) where he will direct six marine agents stationed in coastal counties and seven marine specialists. The goal of these agents and specialists will be to better marine resource management relations between industry and government.

David Prior, dean of the College of Geoscience at A&M, said Rayburn's vast experiences dealing with governmental

agencies and his interest in marine resource management put Rayburn in an excellent position as he takes on the job of associate director of outreach.

"He brings with him a wealth of experience," Prior said. "He is very plugged in to coastal resource and environmental issues."

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— David Prior
Dean, Texas A&M College of Geoscience

Julie Massey, Galveston County marine extension agent, said Rayburn will bring with him experience, contacts, vision and an understanding of the ne-

cessity of marine issues that will be important in the upcoming century, which is expected to bring record numbers of people moving to coastal areas and a boom in commercial utilization of Texas' marine areas.

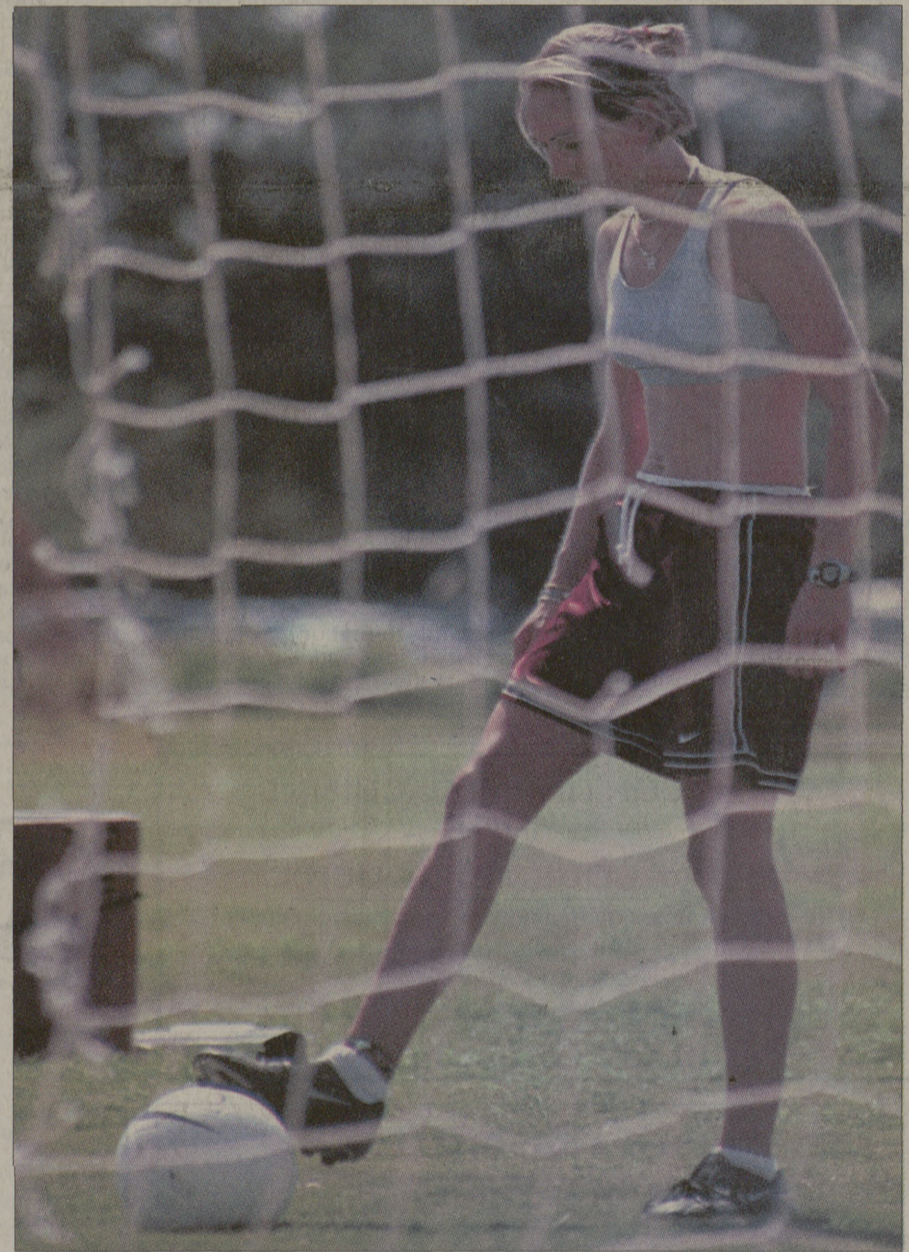
Rayburn first worked for the Texas Sea Grant 21 years ago as a county marine agent in San Patricio County and is eager to return to the program.

Rayburn said he was excited to get involved with marine resources one again. "[This] is where I based my education as well as the first 17 or 18 years of my career," he said.

Rayburn received a bachelor's degree in zoology and then went on to a master's degree in biological oceanography from A&M in 1969. He later served a term in the U.S. Army that was followed by his service as a county marine agent, which ended in 1978.

Rayburn went on to serve as a director for the state's shrimp management and artificial reef programs. At the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, he helped formulate policies and strategies for the department and acted as a liaison between his department and state and national level agencies.

Field day



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION

Alison Peters, a junior exercise technology major, gets ready to coach for the Texas A&M Soccer Camp Monday. The camp will continue through Thursday.

Program requirements

School districts applying to CCLC are required to carry out at least 4 of the following activities:

- Literacy education programs
- Senior citizen programs
- Children's day care services
- Integrated education, health, social service, recreational or cultural programs
- Summer and weekend school programs in conjunction with recreation programs
- Nutrition and health programs.
- Expanded library service hours to serve community needs
- Telecommunications and technology education programs for individuals of all ages
- Parenting skills education programs
- Support and training for child day-care providers
- Employment counseling, training, and placement
- Services for individuals who leave school prior to graduation from secondary school, regardless of the age of such an individual
- Services for individuals with disabilities

A&M center director named to task force

BY SUZANNE BRABECK
The Battalion

Dr. Clifford Whetten, Texas A&M's director of the Center for Community Education, was selected by the National Center for Community Education to join the 13-member task force currently working on developing a nationwide, after-school program called 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC).

The program was authorized by Congress under Title X, Part I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 18 of the 468 CCLC programs are located in Texas.

The Department of Education has increased funding from last year from \$40 million to \$200 million. Whetten said the CCLC focuses on conducting training workshops for inner-city and rural schools because schools in these areas often lack resources and tend to have a larger number of students with strong socioeconomic needs.

Charla Jones, of A&M's University Relations, said Whetten's initiative makes him an ideal member of the task force.

"Dr. Whetten was asked to be a member of the task force because he is known for helping public schools become community centers," she said. "Instead of schools just being open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., schools are now being used at night for adult classes and for after school programs."

The CCLC is designed to provide support in areas ranging from foreign languages to math and science.

As part of the program, applicants must choose at least four educational activities to implement in their program. Some of the possible choices include: telecommunications and technology for individuals of all ages, parenting skills, support and training for child day care providers and employment counseling, training and placement.

Schools that are accepted into the CCLC programs are chosen from the following criteria: need for the project, quality of project design, adequacy of resources, quality of management plan, quality of project evaluation and competitive priority.

Diversity program revived

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

The Multicultural Ambassadors, a program sponsored by the Department of Multicultural Services that aims to help in the retention and recruitment of a more diverse student body, was revived this past spring and will be in full swing this fall after two years of inactivity.

The program was officially established in 1991 with the goal of communicating the purpose and programs of the Department of Multicultural Services to the student body.

Alicia Cyrus, chair of Multicultural Ambassadors and a senior marketing major, said the program uses student volunteers from the Department of Multicultural Ser-

vices as liaisons between the department and other student programs, such as Whoopstock and student panels to help students better understand the department.

Cyrus said the students and faculty of the department decided to bring back the program because the department felt that there was a great need to spread the word about the department.

Cyrus said the program has probably been on hiatus due to a lack of student interest.

"We found that a lot of students had either not heard of the department or had bad misconceptions about it because of miscommunications and misunderstanding," she said.

SEE DIVERSITY ON PAGE 2.