



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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College Station, Texas

aggielife

• Orientation leaders help incoming freshmen make the transition to college life.

PAGE 3

today's issue

News 2

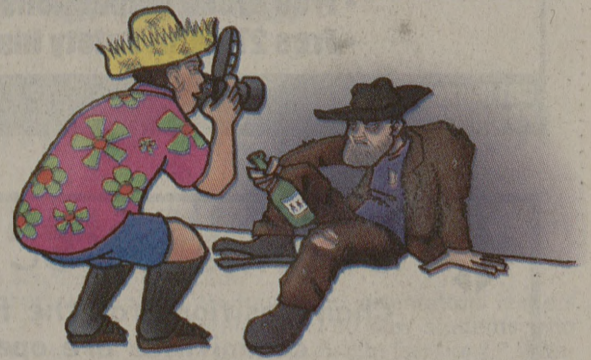
Battalion Radio

Tune in to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. for an update on the plane crash that occurred in Bryan Sunday night.

opinion

• Bryan should address local problems before constructing a new visitor center.

PAGE 5



NEW STUDENT CONFERENCES

In the fold



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Charlotte Jones (from left), quilt maker Lucille Ray, raffle winner Glenda Supak and Texas A&M Vice President of Administration Dr. Jerry Gaston admire a quilt raffled off this week as part of a scholarship fund-raiser.

Gates appointed Bush School dean

Former CIA head to serve as interim head

BY RYAN WEST
The Battalion

Robert M. Gates, a former director of the CIA, will serve as interim dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service for one year, beginning Sept. 1.

Gates earned his doctorate at Georgetown University in Russian and Soviet history and his master's degree in history from Indiana University.

Gates served as CIA director from November 1991 until January 1993 under President Bush.

During his 27 years with the CIA, he represented both major political parties and served under six presidents.

Gates' governmental honors include the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the CIA's highest award, which he received three times; the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Award, which he was awarded twice; the National Security

Medal and the Presidential Citizen's Medal.

Dr. Janis Stout, dean of faculties and associate provost, said Gates' academic experience combined with the his years spent in public service and various leadership positions more than qualifies him for the position.

Stout said for the next year, Gates will basically be acting as the Chief Executive Officer for the Bush School.

"Deans act as C.E.O.'s of their college by consulting and deciding on an entire range of academic, faculty and other issues," Stout said.

A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said Gates offers the Bush School national visibility as the school initiates fund raising.

Bowen said that although Gates lives in Seattle, he will spend half of the year in College Station.

"[This year] is our time to convince him that College Station is a much better place to live," Bowen said.

Health-plan change limits dental choices

BY RYAN WEST
The Battalion

Full-time employees of Texas A&M will no longer have the option of including dental coverage in addition to their basic, medical Scott & White Health Plan, effective Sep. 1.

Dr. David Morehead, president of Scott & White Health Plan, said this change is because of changes occurring in health plans nationwide. These changes were caused by increases in costs of medical services and an increase in the cost of pharmaceuticals.

Morehead said that as costs for medical services increase, health plans lose money and consequently, have adjusted their premiums. The significant adjustment affecting University employees is the loss of dental coverage, or dental riders, currently included in their health plans.

Other adjustments to the plan include increased co-payments for emergency room visits, outpatient mental health

care and most types of office visits, outpatient surgery and home health care visits.

"Scott and White premiums actually went up last year," Morehead said. "It was then we calculated the new cost for Texas A&M this year and came up with a larger number [of dollars] than either A&M or Scott & White were comfortable with."

He said Scott & Whites' options were either to cut back on the benefits or to drop the dental option.

Paul Bozeman, senior health plan analyst for Human Resources Administration at A&M, said University employees can still take out dental coverage by joining the A&M Dental Care Plan administered by BlueCrossBlueShield.

"Employees have expressed concern about the [adjustments] in the Scott and White Health Plan," Bozeman said. "Because, along with dropping the dental coverage, they have made additional changes in plan design, while rates increase."

Plastic problems

Bill would ban credit cards for those under 21

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

A bill under debate in the U.S. Senate is proposing to prevent anyone under 21 from receiving a credit card without written consent of their parents or proof of sound financial independence.

This proposal would amend the Truth in Lending Act, which currently "protects consumers against inaccurate and unfair credit billing and credit card practices [through the] informed use of credit results from an awareness of the cost thereof by customers and to] assure a meaningful disclosure of credit terms so that the consumer will be able to compare various credit terms available and avoid uninformed use of credit."

The new congressional proposal is sponsored by Senator Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who has worked to require credit card companies to inform consumers about interest rates and late charges they will pay if they use the credit card.

Peggy Carey, staff accountant in student financial services department at Texas A&M, said if the bill passes, students under 21 would probably be able to receive a credit card with their parents consent or because of financial stability.

She said students need some kind of counseling on proper use of credit and money management to avoid financial troubles.

SEE CREDIT ON PAGE 2.

Proposed amendment to Truth in Lending Act:

• The bill proposed to the U.S. Senate would prevent anyone under 21 years of age from receiving a credit card statement.

• The bill is being sponsored by Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

• If the bill is passed there would be two ways for someone under 21 to receive a credit card:

- 1) consent of parents
- 2) proof of financial stability.

MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge upholds delay of club construction

County Court at Law Judge Randy Michel upheld an injunction that will halt progress on the construction of an adult cabaret in the Brazos County Industrial Park in Bryan.

Michel issued his opinion yesterday saying the injunction will prevent injury to the industrial park and its tenants.

The Brazos County Industrial Foundation is opposing the location of the cabaret inside the park, citing potential threats to safety, economic development and land value.

Commitments found for Wolf Creek hotel

Representatives for the City of College Station announced that they have received financing commitments from

Wolf Pen Creek, LTD for the construction of a 200-room hotel.

The new hotel will be located adjacent to a new 45,000-square-foot city-owned conference center on Holleman Drive in the Wolf Pen Creek Corridor.

These financing commitments were received pursuant to the requirements of the project agreement between Wolf Pen Creek, LTD and the city of College Station.

The agreement was approved by both parties in April 1998.

Financing commitments presented to the City by Wolf Pen Creek, LTD involve both debt and equity financing for the hotel totaling \$21.5 million. Under the terms of its agreement with the City, Wolf Pen Creek, LTD must close on this financing within 120 days.

Earlier this year the City Council and Wolf Pen Creek, LTD approved a guaranteed maximum price for the municipal conference center that will be adjoining Wolf Pen Creek, LTD's full-service hotel.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled for this fall with Wolf Pen Creek, LTD indicating its intent to finish design and be under construction by this February.

A&M considers options for Greek housing

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

The departments of Student Life, Residence Life and Student Affairs are considering using land north of the University Square shopping center, across from Hensel Park on South College Avenue, for University-built housing that Greek organizations could pay rent to use.

In a memo from Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, to Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, two options were listed as to how to utilize the land known as the Brazos Duplex Land.

"The first option would be to lease the land to individual fraternities who would then have the responsibility to build houses according to carefully crafted contract requirements and guidelines," Southerland said in the memo.

Southerland said the second option would be for the University to take responsibility to build housing facilities on the

property and to lease space to the chapters.

Ann Goodman, associate director of student life, said the idea for creating Greek housing began when Greek organizations moved over to the Department of Student Life. She said the discussions started as a general idea to provide the opportunity for members of Greek organizations to move into University-built housing and foster a sense of a Greek community.

"There are many benefits of pulling together the housing opportunities of these organizations," Goodman said. "Right now, the fraternity houses are scattered across Brazos County, and it doesn't appear that A&M has a strong Greek system."

She said approximately 3,200 students currently participate in Greek organizations. Goodman said she did not expect sororities to express much interest since they are already settled on Olympia Way, Munson Avenue and Athens Drive.

Goodman said students have shown an interest in forming a



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

A section of land on South College Avenue, across from Hensel Park, is being considered as a site for housing for Greek organizations by Texas A&M University.

community, which would allow their Greek organizations to become more visible.

"Students said they were interested in housing [in the Brazos Duplex Area] as it relates to being close to campus," she said.

Dr. Brent Paterson, director of Student Life, said the option is still being explored, and the University is looking into the cost factors and finding money to fund the building of the houses.