



# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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College Station, Texas



## sports

• Texas A&M football recruits shine in the 1999 high-school All-Star Game.

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## today's issue

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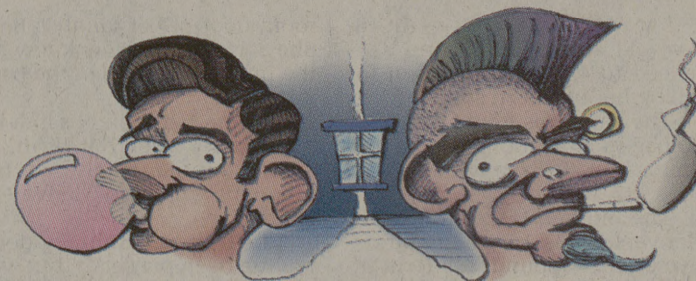
### Battalion Radio

Listen to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. to hear how College Station has been recognized for its community relations efforts.

## opinion

• A student profiling system would help prevent serious conflicts between roommates.

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# Groff seeks academic director

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

Texas A&M's athletic director is currently looking for the "right person" to fill the position of associate athletic director for academic affairs after a mutual agreement led to the resignation of Dr. Karl Mooney, effective Aug. 31.

Texas A&M athletic director Wally Groff said a search committee began looking through applications yesterday to fill the position. He said there is no deadline to find a replacement, and the position will be filled when he finds the most qualified person.

"The associate athletic director for academic affairs is responsible for supervising the staff

of academic counselors," he said. "As well as making sure athletes have declared a major and are on the right track toward graduation."

Last football season, D'Andre "Tiki" Hardeman was found to be ineligible after he had played in two games. The mistake was attributed to a clerical error made by the registrar's office and was not discovered by the athletic department before the season began. As a result of Hardeman's ineligibility, A&M had to forfeit its Sept. 12 win (28-7) against Louisiana Tech.

"This was not the primary factor which led to [Mooney's resignation]," Groff said.

Mooney, who worked in the athletic department for 10 years, said he will continue to teach at A&M.

"I've worked for two years in the Department of Educational Curriculum and Instruction (EDCI) and I will now teach a combination of classes from EDCI and the department of Educational Psychology, since the demand has suddenly increased," Mooney said.

He will work with high-school students who want to attend college and be involved in athletics through his own company, Personalized Athletic Academic Counseling and Evaluation.

"We're working with high-school students and young people and their parents who are trying to get into colleges," Mooney said. "And in many cases, those students are trying to become eligible for athletic participation and scholarships."

## School resources aid athletes

BY RYAN WEST  
The Battalion

NCAA regulations as well as the University's academic standards force coaches to look further than athletic ability and take into account a student athlete's academic abilities before accepting them into Texas A&M.

For this reason, A&M student-athletes competing in varsity sports are offered a variety of sources to aid them academically.

Bobby Kummer, A&M's basketball coaching assistant, said athletes residing in Cain Hall have ac-

cess to a computer lab within the residence hall. Academic advisers are made readily available to help athletes with their schedules and appointments to meet with tutors.

Kummer said, while the team is on the road, an academic adviser travels with the team, and around finals, tutors join the adviser so the student athletes can continue to be held responsible for their work.

"The NCAA wants them to be just like the rest of the student body," Kummer said. "We especially feel this way at A&M."

SEE AID ON PAGE 2.

## Home improvement



Shannon Middleton, a senior environmental design major, builds a balsa-wood model of an existing house to test design improvements yesterday in the Langford Architecture Center.

# Judge issues injunction against law-school pact

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge yesterday issued a state-requested permanent injunction that blocks Houston's South Texas College of Law from affiliating with Texas A&M University.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board got the permanent injunction they were seeking against private South Texas College of Law's affiliation with Texas A&M.

State District Judge Suzanne Covington of Austin, in a nine-page judgment, said the agreement between the two schools was void because it clashes with the authority given to the higher education board by law.

"The affiliation agreement is in direct conflict with the statutory scheme set out in the Texas Education Code," Covington wrote, adding that the pact, if allowed to continue, "would render the role

of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board meaningless."

**"[The pact] would render the role of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board meaningless."**

— Suzanne Covington  
State District Judge

While the judge allowed the two schools to continue working together through library and faculty exchanges, Covington told South Texas to cease using the name of Texas A&M in all of the law school's logos and literature.

The school had been referring to itself as "South Texas College of Law affiliated with Texas A&M University."

"We will appeal," Roland Garcia Jr., attorney for South Texas College of Law, said.

Texas A&M currently does not have a law school in its mission statement.

South Texas and A&M struck a partnership in January 1998 that would give the Houston law school the A&M name while remaining a \$14,000-a-year private school.

While such private-public partnerships do exist, Texas A&M's failure to get permission from the governing board has tripped up the 41,000-student university's attempt to add a law school.

Texas A&M officials said the University could not immediately comment on the matter.

# Regents OK establishment of cardiovascular institute

BY SUZANNE BRABECK  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Board of Regents approved the establishment of the Michael E. DeBakey Institute for Comparative Cardiovascular Science, which will be based in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The institute will use the intellectual and financial resources of the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Dwight Look College of Engineering, the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center's Cardiovascular Institute and the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston to battle cardiovascular disease.

It is estimated that cardiovascular disease affects 4 million people annually, at a cost of \$10 billion.

Richard Adams, dean of veterinary medicine administration, said the DeBakey Institute will foster new partnerships among Texas research institutions and private industry.

"[Everyone will be] working in concert to better understand and better manage circulatory disorders common to humans and our animals," Adams said.

Dr. Terry Fossum, professor and chief of surgery in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, said the program will be beneficial for humans and animals.

"I am a veterinarian, and want to make sure people understand that this is a reciprocal program that helps both animals and people," she said. "What we learn from humans about cardiovascular disease we use to help animals, and the information we get from the device implemented in the animals will help humans."

The institute's staff will be derived from the consolidation of existing faculty who have been active in cardiovascular research. The funding the institute will begin with is \$2 million in private donations and \$2 million for the endowment of two chairs, one for surgery and another for cardiology. Other economic contributions towards the institute will be supplied by the existing grants and contracts of the professors and researchers that join the institute.

## Program goals:

- 1) To serve as a bridge between small companies involved with biomedical devices and the government to help them gain approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- 2) To promote the collaboration of scientists, health professionals and engineers in the field
- 3) To develop and implement animal models
- 4) To achieve FDA approval of pharmaceuticals and biomedical devices

Adams said the engineering comes into play with the development of implantable devices for vessels, valves and even aortas.

Adams said the institute will bring more attention to A&M and increase collaborations between the colleges.

Adams said A&M developed a relationship for decades with DeBakey, a world-renowned surgeon based out of Houston. A&M honored DeBakey by naming the institute after him since his development of the left ventricular assist device in conjunction with MicroMed Technology.

A&M received a grant in November 1997 to investigate the left ventricular assist device and has helped modify it. The left ventricular assist device is different than a pacemaker. While a pacemaker helps modify the rhythm and pace the heart beats, the assist device sits next to the heart and is a small pump that pushes blood out of the heart into the blood stream up to ten liters a minute. This lets the heart rest until a transplant can be found.

SEE HEART ON PAGE 2.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### RCBS to begin construction of housing research project

The Texas A&M University Office of Residential Concrete Building Systems (RCBS) will begin phase one of construction of the passive environmental engineering project today at 2 p.m.

The RCBS project includes the construction of a passive environmental research facility which will use the environment to maintain its own temperature profile.

The research project is designed to test the hypothesis that it is possible to use a home's structural mechanisms as passive heat transfer systems.

The system will in turn maintain a home's temperature profile using only the natural environmental conditions where the structure is located.

According to a press release from the Office of Residential Concrete Building Systems, preliminary re-

search indicates that the design of the house could save enough electrical energy to eliminate the need for commercial nuclear power in this country.

### Outback Steakhouse hosts to raise scholarship money

The Outback Steakhouse is sponsoring a luncheon to benefit the Texas A&M University Division of Administration Staff Scholarship today in College Station.

The scholarship provides assistance to employees and their dependents within the Division of Administration. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement and financial need.

There will be two seatings for the \$10 lunch, one from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and another from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 862-1769.