

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Thursday • November 11, 1999

College Station, Texas

Volume 106 • Issue 54 • 14 Pages

## PTTS, committee seek solutions for problems caused by railway

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

The railroad line that runs parallel to Wellborn Road and divides the main part of the Texas A&M campus from West Campus is used as a pedestrian and vehicle crossing; however, at other times it becomes a roadblock to buses, cars and pedestrians rushing to class, home or parking lots.

Tom Williams, Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) director, said the railroad is a primary concern for the A&M.

"The railroad track, in my opinion, is the number-one project of improvement for the Texas A&M community," he said. "If we don't get it taken care of, it will continue to be a problem, and I sure would like it not to be a problem for any of my grandkids."

Williams said the proposed West Campus Parking Garage and connecting underground passage-way beneath Wellborn Road connecting West Campus and main campus, should alleviate some of the congestion currently in the West Campus area. Traffic congestion, particularly during weekday afternoons, results from the number of stu-

dents taking a left on George Bush Drive in front of the Callaway House and running into the tracks paralleling Wellborn Road, Williams said.

The West Campus Parking Garage would be constructed in the parking area known as "fish lot," which holds 900 spaces. The garage would hold between 3,500 and 3,750 spaces—an increase of more than 2,500.

Williams said the spaces tentatively would be allotted students living on campus who are on the waiting list for parking garage spaces. Currently, 1,753 on-campus students are on the waiting list for garage space.

Alice Macfarlane, the facilities project manager for the West Campus parking garage and underground pedestrian passage, said construction is slated to begin in 2000, if the proposals are approved.

Macfarlane said the new parking garage and underground pedestrian passage would reduce some of the pedestrian and vehicle traffic on West Campus and subsequently increase safety.

"Now the crossover is very dangerous," she said. "It will allow for safer passage between the two parts of campus. The issue of moving the

<b>Wellborn Railroad</b>
- Rail Advisory Committee is reviewing current status
<b>West Campus Parking Garage</b>
- Garage will increase number of on-campus parking spaces by 2,500
<b>Underground Pedestrian Passage</b>
- Passage will provide safer route from main campus to West campus

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

tracks has been under consideration for a long time. Wellborn Road will still be there though."

The project was organized by the Bryan-College Station Municipal Planning Organization (BCSM-PO), although a seven-citizen Rail Advisory Committee (RAC) is reviewing the status of the railroad.

SEE RAILROAD ON PAGE 2.



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

(R to L) Paul Parrish, Core Curriculum Review Committee (CRCC) chair, Brian Minyard, Student Senate speaker and Matthew Mendicino, a freshman math major, have a discussion at the CRCC forum yesterday.

## Differences in state, A&M core top forum issues

BY KENNETH MACDONALD  
The Battalion

Paul Jackman, a junior aerospace engineering major, said at the Core Curriculum Forum yesterday, that he had recently spoken with his adviser to find out more about required humanities and social science classes for his degree plan.

"With 24 hours in mandated humanities and social sciences, that is almost two semesters that you are keeping students here beyond what they have to fulfill for their degree requirement," he said. "If you were going to make a case to let the liberal arts major get by with taking less math, then you should make the engineering students take less humanities courses."

Dr. Paul Parrish, chair of the Core Curriculum Review Committee (CRCC), said as it stands now, the state of Texas mandates 36 credit hours in communication, mathematics, natural sciences, humanities, visual and performing arts and social science. Texas A&M requires an additional eight hours, in mathematics, natural and social sciences, plus four kinesiology classes.

He said if there are any changes to the core curriculum, there would be an increase in the emphasis on communication skills.

"Whatever we end up recommending will probably affect students entering the fall of 2001," he said. "We don't follow the exp-facto law. Whatever we recommend be implemented, [upperclassmen] wouldn't suddenly find themselves having to take my Shakespeare course."

Parrish said a model the CRCC has been looking into is designed to give engineering and geosciences students more opportunity to write in some of their classes.

"It is a way of continuing writing, but it is not seen as a substitute for the foundational writing courses," Parrish said. "We are talking about more writing and speaking within the course."

He said another issue bothering several individuals at the forum was the University mandated kinesiology.

"In our study of 17 other universities, only three had any sort of physical education requirement," he said. "The University of North Carolina still has a swimming requirement, the other two were the University of Chicago and Rice [University], which is interesting because they are very high-powered intellectual institutions."

A&M is unique because of its four-hour kinesiology requirement, Parrish said.

Brian Minyard, speaker of the Student Senate and co-host of the forum, said one of the biggest issues brought up was the time involved in having to take four physical education classes.

SEE COMMITTEE ON PAGE 2.

## Partnership aids students' college pursuit

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

This fall marks the third anniversary of the partnership between the Texas A&M University System and the Texas Education Agency (TEA), designed to encourage students in primary and secondary schools to go to college and assist them in the college transition.

The Partnership for Texas Public Schools, an effort promoting improved educational opportunities for students and training for teachers, draws from a network of nine universities within the A&M System, the Health Science Center and eight agricultural and engineering agencies throughout Texas.

The System made history when it joined with Texas public schools to attack educational matters pertaining to students enrolled in kindergarten through college.

Dr. Bill Reaves, the System assistant vice chancellor for public education and TEA assistant commissioner for school-university initiatives, said the System has benefited from the feedback from educators within the public school system.

Reaves said partnerships between universities and public schools benefit the educational institutions involved.

"Our partnerships are important for universities and for the public schools," he said. "On the other side, we have received and returned a lot of report from teachers and administrators to improve the program."

SEE PARTNERSHIP ON PAGE 2.

## National EMS Week



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Emergency Medical Services Resource Captain (left) Scott Kalle, and (right) David O'Bryan, a sophomore biomedical sciences major, show (center) Josh Armstrong, a freshman biomedical sciences major, the inside of the EMS intensive care ambulance at the MSC Wednesday afternoon as part of National EMS week.

## Bayl

Bayl... happy A&M... success against... to get a home... our last home... for not only us... that comes out... treat all year long... ame will advance... ment, where it... icky Sunday at noon

## on

on... 764... restaurant... Specialty... all entrees... Furniture Shopping... hwest Parkway &... Delivery Available... 54 • Phone Orders... im Tomorrow... 'EM NOT... Today!

## Exam Packs

Exam Packs Available for: 506-503-504 MKTC 200 109 PHYS 350 1500 PENR 250 SOCI 350

## 694-9403

694-9403 17 Texas Ave., 22 (Next to Barnes & Noble)

## ncil Travel

ncil Travel... Student Travel... from A to... London... Barcelona... Amsterdam... Dallas each way... on a rt purchase... do not include... or departures... ember and are... to change... tions apply.

## 00-2COU

00-2COU... council

## Food Fling to feature cow, games

BY BROOKE HODGES  
The Battalion

Students walking through the MSC may gain valuable information and will have the opportunity to see a cow at one of the booths at Food Fling, a nutritional carnival from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jennifer Gonzales, a nutritional graduate assistant, said the carnival will offer information booths of food samples, games and giveaways.

Margaret Griffith, health education coordinator at A.P. Beutel Health Center, said the information presented at the carnival addresses hot topics in the news.

"There are many misconceptions—every time you turn on the TV there is something new," she said. "This [carnival] is a fun way to get the information out there and clear up misconceptions [about nutrition]."

Gonzales said the booths will have information on many subjects, including dieting, sports nutrition, herbal remedies, and fruits and vegetables, fad diets, eating disorders and holiday eating.

Amy Chapman, a lecturer in community nutrition and director of a dietetic internship, said the topics were selected because

**FOOD FLING**  
MSC - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Carnival with 11 booths featuring information on:  
• Dieting  
• Sports Nutrition  
• Herbal Remedies  
• Calcium Booth with a Live Cow

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

they are relevant to college students.

"We really do a collaboration with [A.P.] Beutel Health Center and their outreach programs," she said.

Companies in the Bryan-College Station area will provide gifts, certificates and samples.

The carnival is being sponsored by the A&M nutrition course, community nutrition, and the Health Education Student Health Services.

Chapman said the goal of community nutrition is to make the public aware of valuable nutritional information.

"Our big objective is to take nutritional principles and the science of nutrition and convey that message at the general public's level," she said.

## Houston high-schools chosen as site of scholarship program

BY ROLANDO GARCIA  
The Battalion

In an effort to attract top minority students, Texas A&M will be offering full scholarships to a few lucky students from selected high schools in the Houston area.

The Century Scholars Program is open to graduating seniors in the top 10 percent of their class from 16 Houston high schools. Twenty scholarships will be given to cover tuition, fees, books and room and board for four years.

In addition to academic performance, applicants will be considered on the basis of SAT scores, financial need, extracurricular activities, leadership experience, community involvement and a personal interview.

Joe Estrada, director of admissions, said Century

Scholars is an effort to attract students that would otherwise not consider A&M as their school of choice.

Houston was chosen as the site of the pilot project in part because of its proximity to the University, Estrada said.

"We targeted schools in the Houston area whose students rarely come to Texas A&M because we saw the opportunity to make an impact in our own backyard," he said.

"We're looking for leadership characteristics because we want these students to go back to their schools and serve as ambassadors of the University," Estrada said.

He said the University has been actively promoting the program, including a reception two months ago

SEE CENTURY ON PAGE 2.

## Look College receives \$47,000

BY RICHARD BRAY  
The Battalion

Phillips Petroleum has given the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University \$47,000 to be used for engineering scholarships and professional development for faculty members. Phillips has donated money to the College of Engineering for 34 consecutive years, totaling nearly \$3 million.

Mike Downey, a science writer for the College of Engineering, said most of the mon-

ey will fund engineering scholarships.

"A large bulk, \$37,500, goes to scholarships in the chemical, mechanical and petroleum engineering departments," he said. "Approximately \$6,000 will go to faculty and student development, and they will split approximately \$3,500 between the JETS [Junior Engineering Technical Society] and WEST [Women in Engineering, Science and Technology] programs."

Jeanne Rierison, director of Engineering Student Programs, said

JETS received only \$500 of the \$3,500, and said she presumes that WEST received the remaining \$3,000. She said WEST will use the money to pay for the Women in Engineering Conference and mentoring programs.

Carl Jaedicke, assistant vice president for development of the Texas A&M Foundation, said Phillips donates money to improve the quality of education for its potential employees that come out of the College of Engineering. He said that hundreds of A&M engineering

SEE LOOK ON PAGE 2.