

"I got it!"



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Mens lacrosse team members **Bobby Jee**, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, attacks the cage while **Manuel Hernandez**, a junior international studies major, defends in a one-on-one dodge drill. League semifinals will be held in Austin against Texas Christian University, with finals against the University of Texas-Austin. The men's lacrosse team practices four times a week.

CSPD evicted from Northgate station

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

The eviction of the College Station Police Department from its office on Northgate is a selfish political ploy to protest the city's removal of on-street parking on College Main, said one city council member.

In a letter dated March 22, Susanne Pledger, the special projects director for Loupot's Bookstore, gave the police 30 days to vacate the office space at the Loupot's building on 105 College-Main Street where the police department has housed its Northgate substation rent-free for nearly a year.

The action comes on the heels of the city's decision to eliminate storefront parking on College-Main St. between University Dr. and Church Rd., which some Northgate merchants said will hurt their businesses.

Pledger said the arrangement had become too burdensome for Loupot's. According to her calculations, the bookstore was subsidizing the police department to the tune of \$15,000, and not having full operating space had become a problem during book rush days.

But City Councilman Dennis Maloney said the eviction is a retaliation against the city on the part of Northgate businesses unhappy with the new parking policy.

"That's what's known as a temper tantrum. What they're saying is 'We don't care about safety here, we don't care about people throwing beer bottles or women getting assaulted, we just want our parking spaces,'" Maloney said.

Mayor Lynn McElhane said the Northgate substation, one of three in the city, is a critical component of the city's community policing efforts.

"The police are there to help, and the best way to do that is to get to know the individuals and businesses they're protecting," McElhane said.

McElhane said that she hopes politics is not behind Loupot's decision. "We have worked with all the en-

ities in Northgate for the revitalization project, and we will continue to work with them. We all want to see it prosper and develop, but they've got to realize that it's a process of give and take," she said.

Maloney said that so far, Northgate merchants have done a lot more taking than giving. "When it's all done, we would have put \$14 million into Northgate, and for them to complain about losing a stinking 27 parking spaces, I just don't get it," Maloney said.

However, some Northgate merchants argue that eliminating the free parking on College Main will hurt businesses who rely on customers who do not plan on staying long.

"People aren't gonna pay to park two blocks away to bring in their dry cleaning, and that puts us at a severe disadvantage," said Bernie Gessner, owner of Aggie Cleaners.

Gessner said Loupot's is justified in evicting the police department in light of the city's unwillingness to work with Northgate businesses to solve the long-running parking dispute.

"We haven't been given the proper opportunity to present our case. If they don't want to listen to us, why should they be receiving this free

gift," Gessner said. "We like the police there, but we need to get the city's attention."

Gessner added the city's main reason for removing the free parking on College Main is to direct Northgate customers to the soon-to-be-built parking garage.

Maloney said in addition to making the parking garage feasible, the new parking policy will make the Northgate area safer for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

"We have to make this area safe and attractive for the people who use it most—the students," Maloney said.

The parking on College-Main, Maloney said, made it difficult for large emergency vehicles like fire trucks to access the Northgate area.

But Pledger said the city has been unresponsive to the parking concerns of Northgate businesses.

Pledger also expressed dismay at comments by some city officials suggesting Northgate merchants were putting personal interests ahead of community safety.

"When I told the police chief about our decision, he said would have to go to the press with this and it could get ugly," Pledger said. "I'm tired of dealing with callous city officials. I think those comments were very childish of them."



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

The College Station Police Department was asked to leave the free space it was occupying on Northgate (above). They were given the area with permission from Loupot's.

Members appointed to Vision 2020 council

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

Texas A&M University President Dr. M. Bowen has designated the 18 members of the University Planning Council, an advisory board whose mission is to assist in the development of Vision 2020.

Bowen implemented Vision 2020 three years ago, and now his appointed committee—consisting of A&M faculty, staff, students and alumni—will meet to ensure A&M's success in becoming a top 10 university by the year 2020.

Bowen said the 250 people involved with Vision 2020 will tackle the entire project at once.

"No area is more important than another," Bowen said. "There are no short-term goals. This will all come together by the year 2020."

The goals of Vision 2020 are not without criticism. The plan has come under fire from the Texas A&M gay and lesbian community for not including the progress of gay and lesbian acceptance at A&M.

"[The progress of gay and lesbian acceptance] is not included into the plan, and

it shouldn't," Bowen said. "It is a valid and legitimate cause, but the plan is meant to focus on the advancement of academic affairs of A&M, and so it isn't expressly included."

The board plans to meet this summer to plan a schedule of meeting times and finalize a five-year mission statement.

Dr. Michael Hitt, co-chair for the committee and a management professor, said the committee will be a positive force behind the program by reviewing the plans of different groups and colleges on campus.

Hitt said the committee will serve as facilitators to the A&M departments while they strive to meet the 12 imperatives outlined in the Vision 2020 statement.

According to the Vision 2020 handbook, the 12 goals are:

- Elevate faculty and their teaching, research and scholarship
- Strengthen the graduate program
- Enhance the undergraduate academic experience
- Build the letters, arts and sciences core
- Build on the tradition of professional education
- Diversify and globalize the A&M community
- Increase access to intellectual resources
- Enrich the campus
- Build community and metropolitan connections
- Demand enlightened governance and leadership
- Attain resource parity with the best public universities
- Meet the commitment to Texas

A&M is currently ranked as the 15th best public university by U.S. News and World Report. The University of Texas-Austin ranked 17th, and the University of California-Berkeley is No. 1.

Dr. Howard Kaplan, committee member and a sociology professor, said the members of the committee will succeed at helping the University reach its goal of being ranked within the top 10.

"We are chosen for our ability not to look at this project through self-serving eyes, but at the University as a whole," Kaplan said. "We need the students' participation now and more importantly, after graduation, to make A&M worthy of being the best."

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RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

RHA to address food services

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Members of Texas A&M's Residence Hall Association (RHA) will have food on their minds at Wednesday's meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Koldus.

Among other actions, the RHA will vote on a bill requesting research into placing community kitchens into residence halls, hear an update on Sbsia construction from the Depart-

ment of Food Services and discuss this week's activities for RHA Week, including a free barbecue Thursday.

"We found out that a lot of the students who leave campus mark on their exit surveys that the ability to have a kitchen is one of the major reasons for leaving," said Julie Cast, president of RHA and a junior marketing major. "This bill would basically ask for RHA to work with Department of Resident Life to research

into if it would be feasible to put these kitchens in."

Cast said that if the kitchens are approved by the University, they would most likely be installed into a variety of different types of residence halls with different resident makeups.

"We would need to see first how a kitchen would work in lots of different types of residence halls before continuing to put them in each and every one," Cast said. "This would

just be an awesome thing that would really improve the atmosphere on campus, and at the same time increase on-campus retention."

The RHA will also hear from Cindy Zawieja, the associate director of Food Services, who will speak on the current status of the construction on Sbsia Dining Hall.

"She is just going to give us an update on what is going on," Cast said.

See RHA on Page 2.

Class presidents aim for unity

BY BRANDIE LIFFICK
The Battalion

Collin Poage and Beth Weems will return as class presidents for the classes of 2001 and 2002, respectively. The class of '03 will be represented by Misty Cook, a freshman agricultural development major.

"Collin and Beth are returning for the second year, so they know what to do from the beginning," said Peggy Holzweiss, class council adviser. "And they have already joined together to make the transition for Misty so much easier. They are already starting to work together to better the class councils for next year."

Poage, a junior information and operations management major, said that the class council is ultimately responsible for bringing together members of the class.

"Class council is all about promoting unity," Poage

said. "Our main objective is to make this process more efficient."

"I really feel humbled and honored to be in this position again," Poage said. "I sit down and think 'Wow! People really want me to do this.' It's a great feeling!"

For Cook, deciding to run for Class of '03 president was difficult.

"I had a lot of people that really encouraged me to run. But the driving force happened the Tuesday before filing," Cook said. "I went to Breakaway, and I felt God talking to me, telling me that running for class president was the right thing to do."

Weems echoed Poage's emphasis on unity.

"My reasoning for running for class president is a little odd. I decided to run after attending Silver Taps. I looked around and saw all these different people—non-regs, Corps members, Northside, Southside—all gathered together to honor and mourn fellow students. The unity that was present there was remarkable," said Weems, a biomedical science major.

Holzweiss said each class president is responsible for his or her own class council. The senior class president is considered the leader of the class council as a whole.

"While each class president oversees their council, they all work together to accomplish common goals," Holzweiss said. "For instance, Maroon Out is not sponsored by any one class council. But they all work to make it a success."

CLASS PRESIDENTS

2001		2002		2003	
	Collin Poage INFO & OPERATIONS MGMT		Beth Weems BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE		Misty Cook AG DEVELOPMENT

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• Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on a uninsured motorists proposal.

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