

• Hey, Mr. DJ

Local DJs bring new light to fast-growing art form

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• Listen to KAMU 90.9FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on the death of a College Station resident.

• Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu.



Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 95 and a low of 71.

THE BATTALION

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Remembering the fallen



At a May 25 Memorial Day Service at the American Legion Post No. 159 in Bryan, Texas State Senator Steve Ogden distributes American flags to be placed on grave sites of veterans. The service remembered fallen soldiers of all wars.

Senate committee rejects fall Bonfire

MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

Jonathan Smith, associate professor of geography and chair of the Bonfire planning committee, said Bonfire should not occur in 2000 because there is no way to address all the problems cited in the Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire Final Report before the fall.

"It was the opinion of the planning committee that Bonfire should not occur in 2000 and should not occur in its present form in the future," Smith said.

The need to modify and reform future Aggie Bonfires was expressed by many faculty members at the Faculty Senate Bonfire Forum Monday. The open forum, held in Rudder 601, involved members of the Faculty Senate as well as other faculty members who chose to speak. Although students were encouraged to express their opinions during the forum, none of the students in attendance offered their opinions.

Smith asked all of the professors in the geosciences department to send him their opinions on the continuation of Bonfire. One-third of all the teachers in the department responded, and two-thirds of the respondents expressed the belief that Bonfire should be abolished.

"The disadvantages and detractions of the event outweigh the merits," Smith said. "My personal opinion is that Bonfire should not be reproduced in anything like its current form."

Both Smith and Rob McGeachin, an associate professor at the West Campus Library, discussed hazing in their arguments against Bonfire. McGeachin also cited the University's waste of natural resources and the lack of control over a

student function as reasons to discontinue the tradition.

"Even events such as Replant are minor efforts in comparison to the amount of timber cut down every year," McGeachin said. He then asked the audience, "How many students flunked out their freshman year because they spent too much time working on Bonfire?"

McGeachin said he has heard some of his colleagues say that "we're (Texas A&M University) even more of a laughingstock than ever" after the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse.

"The opinion of this institution in the eyes of our peers is in jeopardy if we let Bonfire continue," McGeachin said.

"It was the opinion of the planning committee that Bonfire should not occur in 2000 ..."

— Jonathan Smith
chair of the Bonfire planning committee

Faculty members from various departments share the opinion that Bonfire should be discontinued, and some place part of the blame for the collapse on the faculty.

Thomas Blasingame, an associate professor and assistant department head of petroleum engineering, said he feels faculty could have helped prevent the collapse.

"The faculty were responsible. This was an accident, but we should have taken action. I cannot and will not tolerate another accident like this on my watch," Blasingame said. "I view November 18 as the worst day in Texas A&M's history mostly because it could have been prevented."

Paul Parrish, a professor of English, also said that the faculty shares the responsibility for the collapse.

"The faculty cannot shirk at responsibility in this matter. The only responsible course of action is to discontinue Bonfire," Parrish said.

See SENATE on Page 2.

Football player dies in car crash

STAFF AND WIRE

Texas A&M defensive lineman Terry Nichols, 21, was killed Saturday in El Paso in a traffic accident that injured three others.

Nichols, who was set to begin his fourth year at A&M this summer, was killed when a car crossed the center median in east El Paso and collided head-on with the car in which Nichols was a front-seat passenger, according to the *El Paso Times*. El Paso police said Gorden Polley, 21, of El Paso, was driving westbound when he struck the median and lost control of his 1991 Mit-



Terry Nichols

subishi, which crashed into the 1993 Honda being driven by Ruby Williams, 21, of El Paso.

Polley and Jara Harris, 22, another passenger in the car with Nichols, were taken to a hospital with serious injuries, police said. None of the passengers in Williams' car were wearing a seatbelt, police said; Polley was.

Nichols' coaches and teammates are still shocked by the tragedy.

"We are all deeply saddened, and our hearts go out to the family and friends back in El Paso," said Mike Hankwitz, defensive coordinator for the A&M football team. "Terry was one of those guys who played hard in practice, and he will certainly be missed."

Nichols planned to come back for the summer to attend summer school and work out, and team-

mates were shocked to learn that Nichols was dead. "Everyone is still shocked about his death," said Rocky Bernard, a close friend of Nichols and senior agricultural economics major. "We were all expecting him back here this morning. He was loved by everyone. He is in our thoughts, and his memory will remain with us forever."

Hankwitz said the team would like to have a memorial for Nichols in College Station, but arrangements are still being made with the family.

There will be a viewing on Wednesday from 2 to 9 p.m. at the Sunset Funeral Home Northeast in El Paso. Tentative funeral arrangements have been scheduled for Thursday at Post Chapel #1 at Fort Bliss at 10 a.m. Nichols' final resting place will be in Norfolk, Va. He will be honored at the September 5 Silver Taps.

Wellborn repairs have little effect on students

JENNY GENTRY
The Battalion

The construction on Wellborn should only have minimal effects on students, according to Tom Williams, director of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services.

Road signs were erected soon after spring semester finals ended, and the construction began on May 15. The first phase of the project was the removal of the existing pavement on Wellborn from just north of Raymond Stotzer Blvd. south toward George Bush Drive.

After the pavement was removed from Wellborn, the project moved to Raymond Stotzer Blvd. The construction began at the Wellborn intersection and proceeded west toward Harvey Mitchell Parkway.

Wellborn Road is currently being repaved from Raymond Stotzer Blvd. to George Bush Drive. Williams said the road was repaved because of the age and wear the current road has experienced.

"Students may experience a small delay in travel time to West Campus, but an access will always be accessible," said Williams.

Students are wary of any traffic obstacles, but feel construction in the summer is better than road closings in the fall and spring.

"It already takes me the full amount of time to get from main campus to the Bush School, but since it's summer I'm sure the

construction won't cause too much delay," said Erin Woodward, a senior international studies and political science major. "As long as it's finished by fall semester, it shouldn't be a big distraction."

Some students are not concerned since the construction is not directly affecting access to main campus.

"The construction doesn't really bother me, but I can see how it would affect some other students," said Trey Jansen, a senior English major. "I remember when Texas Ave. was under construction a few years ago, and it was a big hassle for me to get to campus. I definitely understand where some students could be miffed."

All of the old pavement was removed during the break between spring and summer semesters to reduce inconvenience to students.

In addition to repaving the road, the construction project will also lengthen the right turn lane from Raymond Stotzer Blvd. onto Olsen Road. Additional lanes will also be added to improve the flow of merging traffic at Harvey Mitchell Parkway and Raymond Stotzer Blvd.

Bus routes will remain on the same schedule during the construction to aid with students' commute to West Campus.

The construction is scheduled to be completed by the first home football game.

Task force suggests transportation changes

Railroad identified as safety hazard to A&M community, students

MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

Moving the railroad that runs through the Texas A&M campus is one of many recommendations in the Final Report of the Campus Access & Parking Task Force, released in early May.

"This report sets up a vision for what campus can be and tries to offer a much more enjoyable campus," said Dr. Tim Lomax, a research engineer with the Texas Transportation Institute and member of the task force.

The task force identified the removal of the railroad through campus and the minimization of conflicts between pedestrians and bicycles with vehicles as necessary for the safety and effectiveness of any new transportation system.

Mathis said the most important recommendation to implement is moving the railroad, because "that is the most dangerous thing our campus faces."

Other suggestions included limiting vehicular travel on some streets; creating a second underground pedestrian passageway near Albritton Tower; adding on-street bike lanes and off-street bike paths; putting bike racks on off-campus buses; providing new buses and vehicles for on- and off-campus transportation services while increasing service to 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and repairing and reopening Ross Street to vehicles. Also suggested were the creation of map kiosks in key locations on campus to explain the transportation system to participants and creating a mandatory student transportation fee to fund the new system.

Jane Schneider, assistant vice president of administration, said the committee did not decide

on a specific amount for the student transportation fee. She said that the committee asked, "how would the system best meet the needs of faculty, staff and students, and would then put a dollar amount on that. The committee did not go into that detail. PTTS would gather that in-



Cory Collins, a freshman business major, crosses over an idle train between West Campus and main campus. Several students were forced to find means of getting to class while the train was stopped for 30 minutes.

formation with adequate information from various constituents."

The report is a compilation of recommendations by the task force. It is not a proposed plan for a new transportation system. The recommendations will be suggested to, and reviewed by, the director of PTTS and the vice president for administration at Texas A&M. "It's up to students to decide how it can benefit them and make sure administration and PTTS know if they (students) support it, and why," Lomax said.

The recommendations of the committee are classified into three divisions. Diversification refers to the need to offer options to accommodate various needs. Integration, the second area, states that multiple constituents must work together for any new transportation system to run smoothly. Finally, the committee addressed "communication," which is the participants' understanding of the system, the area the committee found most "lacking in the current system."

The committee's first concern is the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors to campus. Convenience and attractiveness of the transportation system are also concerns of the committee.

Kathie Mathis, the associate director of PTTS and a member of the task force, said, "The plan (recommendations) was all based on feedback from faculty, staff and students - what they thought would be the ideal situation for the University."

"We spent over a year interviewing groups to see what they want to see, so the improvements should be wonderful," she said.

Age crisis

the government. porter for Australian telers. as allowed briefly to vry said he saw no sigil abuse. er Sunday, rebel guards bomatic weapons opened parliament to let in some 5000 for a 90-minute Mefoc service. rward, Speight stood for illmking hands with supportn in trading partner Australa; New Zealand, the Uniund the United Nations hined any deal that replac government as giving m.

Clubs

Sports

Day

DAYS	WEEKENDS
1	\$14
4	\$17
7	\$20

REGISTRATION

May 29-June 3	
May 29-June 5	
May 29-June 8	
May 29-June 11	
May 29-June 14	
May 29-June 17	
May 29-June 20	
May 29-June 23	
May 29-June 26	
May 29-June 29	

00pm. on closing date

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