

• Punk Rock Local artists find support when starting new bands

Page 3



• Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details about the 2000 Texas Republican Convention.

• Check out *The Battalion* online at [battalion.tamu.edu](http://battalion.tamu.edu).



**Weather:**  
Partly cloudy with a high of 92 and a low of 74.

# THE BATTALION

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Senate to present bonfire resolution to Bowen

### Resolution calls for task force to examine bonfire and determine possible modifications

**MAUREN KANE**  
*The Battalion*

According to the Aggie Bonfire resolution, which was discussed Monday at the Senate meeting, "the Faculty Senate calls upon President Ray M. Bowen to appoint the earliest time possible a task force to examine all aspects of bonfire to determine whether bonfire can be modified to fully and completely address all concerns of the institution. If such modifications cannot be made, the task force should suggest an appropriate annual substitute event."

The suggested task force would consist of students, faculty members, parents of students, administrators, faculty and community representatives, and the task force specifically address concerns involving "complete

safety, cessation of inappropriate behaviors and full and effective institutional oversight of bonfire."

The Executive Committee justified this resolution by citing the Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire Final Report that found structural flaws in the construction, lack of adequate knowledge among students making construction decisions and lack of adequate institutional oversight of



construction. Also cited was the frequent criticism of bonfire "for its detrimental effects on the environment, behaviors inappropriate to this institution, and acts disrespectful to groups of people and other institutions of higher education."

The report states "the inordinate amount of time spent on the building of bonfire has impinged on the academic performance of some students and has in others fostered a distorted view of student priorities and the meaning of the University experience."

After the creation of the resolution was described, the resolution was read by Thomas Wehrly, speaker of the Faculty Senate. Wehrly said, "the Executive Committee used a multi-faceted approach in creating their resolution on the continuance of bonfire."

In order to best represent the opinions of faculty members on this issue, individual faculty members were elected by their colleagues and directed to collect faculty input by whatever means possible. The summarized information was sent to Bowen and formatted as a resolution.

Wehrly concluded these remarks by stating that there has been a misconception by the public that the Faculty Senate is against bonfire. According to Wehrly, the Faculty Senate is not completely against bonfire "what the Executive Committee is against is bonfire in its present form."

Opinions expressed by faculty members about the bonfire resolution varied.

"Frankly, I think that this resolution is a waste of effort," said Norman Luttbeg, a professor of political science. Later in the meeting, he said that, in his opinion, "the resolution is a half-assed solution to the problem. I can't imagine that the recommendation has any forward-moving motion."

Luttbeg also said, "The University has never paid any attention to the faculty anyway."

See SENATE on Page 4.

## Summer attendance increases

**KIM TRIFILIO**  
*The Battalion*

Slightly more Texas A&M University students are choosing to spend their summer under the roofs of lecture halls with their families than did last year.

Don Carter, Texas A&M registrar, said the release of preliminary figures shows a minor increase of undergraduate and graduate students taking summer classes.

The preliminary numbers for the first summer school term were 16,051 students. Last summer there were 15,908 students. "There has been a slight increase over the past several summers," Carter said. "There has been a less than 1-percent increase from last summer. We are trying to increase summer enrollment to ease the load for students in the fall," Carter said.

Carter said most of the students enrolled this summer are undergraduate juniors and seniors who make up about 82 percent of the total number of students enrolled.

Carter said junior and senior students enroll in summer school because it is a way for them to catch up.

Students are just trying to stay with the program. Summer school can make them afford to take a lighter load in the fall and be involved in all of the activities offered during the year," Carter said.

See SUMMER on Page 4.

## A bug's life



April Conkey, a wildlife and fisheries doctorate student, collects water striders at research park for a project in her aquatic entomology class. The project requires students to gather a collection of various insects.

SUSAN REDDING/The Battalion

## Districts seek teachers from abroad

**CYRA GATLING**  
*The Battalion*

As the academic school year draws closer, school districts across the country are faced with the difficulty of finding educators in the United States, forcing them to broaden their search to other countries.

A national shortage of an estimated 200,000 teachers each year has compelled districts to broaden their search and recruit teachers from overseas.

The Bryan-College Station area does not currently have the same kind of shortage that other cities in Texas have; however, it does recognize that there is a lack of teachers in Texas.

"Texas certainly has a lack of quality, well-certified teachers to meet the needs across the state," said Eddie Coulson, executive director of human resources for the College Station Independent School District (CSISD).

The shortage of teachers could be caused by more than just one factor.

"In Texas, there are several factors causing the teacher shortage," said Dr. Jane Conoley, the dean of education at Texas A&M. "The population in Texas has grown, we have a bubble of baby boomers who are retiring and the pay and prestige isn't what many want."

Many teachers eventually leave the teaching profession after a few years, creating a further decrease in educators.

"The factors get worse," Conoley said. "Half the people leave [education] after their first five years. A&M has a good record; 80 percent are still teaching after five years."

Not all areas throughout the state have been affected by the shortage of teachers available.

"The areas that are hit the hardest are the metropolitan areas and the rural areas because of their location," said Coulson.

For a while, Texas was importing teachers from other states that had a surplus. Now those states are experiencing a shortage, forcing school districts to go abroad, Conoley said.

"This is dangerous because there are less well-qualified teachers recruited. They have little or no teaching background and no preparation for their subjects."

The recruitment of less-qualified teachers negatively affects the education that students are receiving.

"This is a threat to the quality of the classroom," Conoley said. "This is one of our biggest issues."

The overall shortage of teachers is throughout the United States, however, Texas is one of the most affected states and there are several contributing factors.

See TEACHERS on Page 4.

## News in Brief

### Strong earthquake hits central Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A 6.7 magnitude earthquake shook central Taiwan Sunday, causing rock slides and killing more than 20 people, officials and seismologists said. No aftershocks were reported.

The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6.7, was centered 10 miles north of Mount Yu, Taiwan's highest mountain, about 180 miles from the capital, Taipei, the Central Weather Bureau said.

The U.S. Geological Survey in Boulder, Colo., which uses a different scale than the Central Weather Bureau, measured the quake at 6.2.

Taiwan's Disaster Relief Commission said more than 20 people were killed in the early morning quake, which hit by falling rocks on mountain roads, highways or falling objects at the State radio reported that at least 10 people were injured when it was thrown off a road by the quake.

The quake was followed by aftershocks with magnitudes of 4.5 and 5, the Central Weather Bureau said. All the quakes, including aftershocks, were considered aftershocks of the magnitude 6.7 earthquake that struck the region in September 1999, killing 4,000 people and destroying thousands of homes.

Seismologists at the bureau said it is not unusual for aftershocks to follow a major earthquake to continue for a year or more.

Preliminary Summer School Enrollment Figures	
Total student enrollment	15,908
Total student enrollment	16,051
Undergraduate students	11,546
Juniors and seniors	9,494

RUBEN DELUNA/The Battalion

## Review board to oversee sociology department research

**CYRA GATLING**  
*The Battalion*

The Department of Sociology at Texas A&M University has taken the first step to work hand-in-hand with the Institutional Review Board (IRB), a board made up of A&M faculty, staff and students that reviews research conducted involving human test subjects.

The review board will affect Sociological Methods of Sociological Research and Sociology 420, Advanced Methods of Sociological Research, as well as any other class that involves research using humans.

Research involving humans is primarily used to study behavior. The research is mostly paper and pencil or behavioral," said Dr. Richard

Miller, director of research service administration. "Behavioral research looks at people's opinions about things, like classes."

Physical research is only used by the A&M Medical School, which is separate from Texas A&M, to test medicine or the use of new devices.

There are a series of steps that must take place before any subjects participate in the research.

"There are forms on the Website that need to be filled out," Miller said. "Regulations, forms and the necessary steps are on the Website."

Once all the forms are filled, the board must make a judgment on whether the research experiment is safe for human subjects.

Miller said that after filling out the required forms, a subcommittee and

a committee review the protocol and make necessary corrections. Eventually the protocol will meet the requirements to be used for research.

**"The board has a list of criteria that needs to be met concerning certain sensitive subjects, such as alcoholism."**

— Carol Albrecht  
professor of sociology

"The single objective of the IRB is to protect human subjects," Miller said. "Many universities are experiencing difficulties with human research and Texas A&M has a clean, ethically sound IRB Human Research program."

The IRB works as a part of Texas A&M and is only available to A&M faculty.

Some sociology professors agree that working in cooperation with the review board is a positive way to ensure safety in case there are any legal concerns.

"This is a safeguard I appreciate," said sociology professor Dr. Carol Albrecht.

Miller said some subjects for research are fairly sensitive, and the department wants to be empathetic to

those sensitivities. In order to do so, the IRB has created a list of criteria that all surveys must meet to ensure the subject will not be affected.

"The board has a list of criteria that needs to be met concerning certain sensitive subjects, such as alcoholism," Albrecht said. "The Review Board has been extremely cooperative and helpful."

Along with the IRB, professors in the sociology department want to make sure that anyone used in research is protected.

"I want to see my fellow Aggies and anyone else taken care of," said senior sociology major Trissa Campbell.

Before students conduct an experiment or begin their research, the

See SOCIOLOGY on Page 4.