

Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on the death of a construction worker on Highway 6.

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



• Get on the bus

Much-needed improvements give commuting students list of reasons to use new shuttle buses



Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 93 and a low of 73.

Page 5

THE BATTALION

MONDAY

June 26, 2000
Volume 106 - Issue 158
6 pages

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Playbooks go online

Website sells collegiate, professional playbooks

MARK PASSWATERS
The Battalion

Usually, early summer is a time of rest and relaxation for college football coaches. This summer, however, is different. Stress levels for several major college football programs are higher than usual.

Earlier this spring, an Austin-based Website called SportsPlayBooks.com put the playbooks of major college and professional football teams up for sale. For as little as \$9.95, any interested party could buy the 1999 playbooks from schools such as Texas A&M, University of Texas, University of Florida and Virginia Tech.

Coach (Steve) Spurrier said the staff are not overly concerned about it," said Tim McCloskey, the associate director of athletics at the University of Florida. "Every time it is filmed, every practice is filmed. There's a lot of sharing."

Others view the situation more seriously. "I was astonished to see that our playbooks were for sale from any venue, much less the Internet," said Houston Nutt, coach at the University of Arkansas. "That is private information that we would never want in the hands of our opponents."

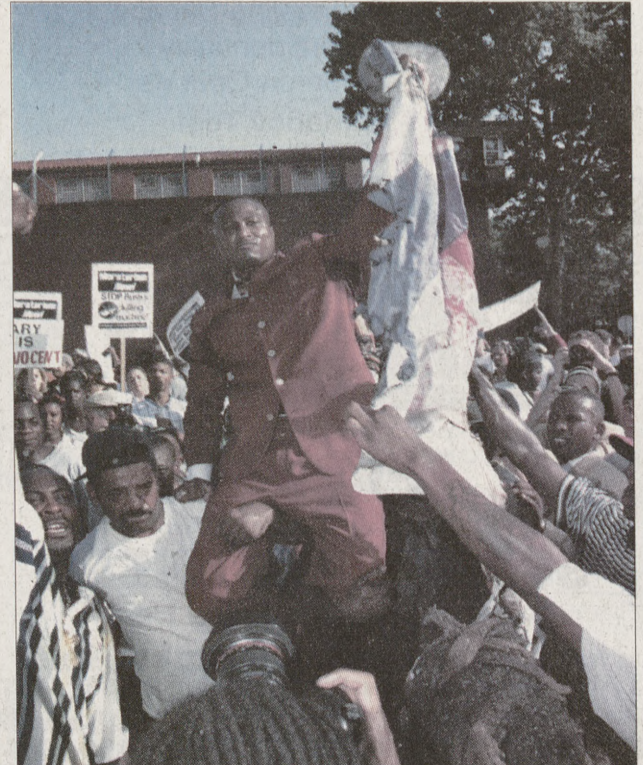
Christine Plonsky, associate athletic director at the University of Texas, said that the sale of such information by SportsPlayBooks.com or on the auction site eBay was "a source of concern; these (playbooks) are the coaches' livelihoods — it's their business plan."

Plonsky also noted that in an attempt to keep UT playbooks from becoming public knowledge — a message in the Website's discussion forum said that UT's playbook was "easy to find" — coach Mack Brown and the coaching staff would be making "dramatic changes in how playbooks are to be distributed."

Texas A&M found out about the Website after it was advertised in *USA Today*, according to Tim Cassidy, associate athletic director for football operations.

See PLAYBOOKS on Page 3.

Huntsville death penalty, execution demonstrations



(Left) New Black Panther Mono Matafa kneels at a burning American flag. Many demonstrators gathered in Huntsville on Thursday to debate capital punishment and Gary Graham's death sentence. (Top right) Quanell X, chair for the New Muslim Movement, holds a burning, bloody Texas flag that symbolizes the unjust execution of Graham. (Bottom right) Skip Davis (left) and a man who wished to remain anonymous face off in a debate regarding the death penalty, while Charles Lee, Grand Dragon of Camellian Knights, overlooks.

COURTESY OF CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Car strikes pedestrian crossing University Dr.

CHRIS CUNICO
The Battalion

Chris Romero, a mathematics graduate student, was struck by a Honda Civic as he attempted to cross University Drive from the Texas A&M University campus Thursday.

Officer Rhonda Seaton of the College Station Police Department said Romero was struck by the vehicle when the light changed to green while Romero was midway across the intersection.

Seaton said Romero misjudged the rate of the oncoming traffic and sprinted across the remaining lanes before being hit by the westbound vehicle.

Seaton said the driver was traveling in the far right lane, and the driver's vision was obstructed by vehicles in the middle and left lanes, waiting at the stoplight.

As the driver proceeded legally through the green light, Romero entered

his lane, resulting in the subsequent impact.

"When the light turned green, I never even saw the car coming until it was too late," Romero said.

He was rushed by ambulance to the College Station Medical Center immediately following the accident.

Romero suffered a cut on his forehead, as well as several lacerations on his legs, as a result of the impact with the windshield. The driver of the vehicle remained unharmed.

Romero was treated for his injuries and released from the College Station Medical Center early Sunday morning. He is currently in stable condition and recuperating at home.

"I'm feeling better, but still pretty beat up," Romero said.

No information has been released on the driver, who is a minor.



Members of the College Station Fire Department clean the sidewalk on Northgate after a Honda Civic struck a pedestrian crossing University Drive.

Evans to offer textbook reserve

ANNA BISHOP
The Battalion

The load on Texas A&M students' shoulders will get lighter with the Fall 2000 opening of a student textbook reserve room in Evans Library.

"Lugging around bulky textbooks is uncomfortable, especially when I have a break between classes and want to spend a good hour catching up on my reading for one specific class," said Renee Edmiston, a junior environmental design major.

"If textbooks were available for students to use on campus, I would rejoice in the fact that I could leave this anvil-like textbook at home," Edmiston said.

According to Rob Ferguson, executive vice president of the student body, the 51st session of

the Student Senate passed a resolution to provide at least one copy of each textbook for student use in a controlled environment.

Ferguson said the idea is for students to use the reserve room for convenience and in emergencies, not to substitute buying a personal copy of a book at the beginning of the semester.

"The reserve would give students an opportunity to skim through texts before buying a personal copy at the bookstore, or provide a way to help students who have had their texts stolen at the end of the semester," Ferguson said.

The goal between Student Senate and Evans is to have one or two copies of each text from each class.

"Students must realize the importance and satisfaction which comes with owning his or her own copy of a text. The textbook reserve is intended to be a backup plan, not a substitution," Ferguson said.

The idea for a textbook reserve room was suggested by students and faculty.

Ferguson said SGA is currently ironing out all of the details with Evans to make this project a long-term success.

Evans Library lecturer Laura Lillard said Evans is making arrangements with various book distributors to obtain book contributions, because the reserve room will not function from Evans Library's funds.

"(Evans) is writing letters contacting publishers, See TEXTBOOKS on Page 2.

A&M envisions top 10 ranking

JOSEPH PLEASANT
The Battalion

By the year 2020, Texas A&M hopes to be ranked among the top 10 public universities in the United States, and Vision 2020 outlines the steps A&M will take in its pursuit.

The University hopes to accomplish this ranking by meeting each goal set in the Vision 2020 report. President of Texas A&M Dr. Ray M. Bowen said the University is committed to reaching the goals outlined in Vision 2020.

"Everything we do in principle is designed to improve the University and reach our goal of being in the top 10," Bowen said.

Bowen said A&M plans to improve the faculty by hiring well-known and highly regarded scholars. "We are investing as much as we can in recruiting faculty and retaining our good faculty," he said.

Thomas Wehrly, former speaker of the Faculty Senate and a statistics professor at A&M, said the University has already made progress in this area.

"The faculty is of high quality and is competitive with the national top 10. They are continuing to get better," Wehrly said.

The University also plans to decrease the faculty-to-student ratio by hiring 60 additional faculty members over the next five years.

Walter Wendler, vice chancellor for planning and system integration for the Texas A&M University Sys-

tem, said A&M's faculty-to-student ratio is lacking when compared to other universities.

"The best institutions in America have faculty-to-student ratios significantly lower than ours," Wendler said.

He also said smaller class sizes will aid faculty in their personal research projects.

"High-quality scientific discovery and scholarly work takes concentration of time, energy and intellect. There is no way to do all the things a faculty member is expected to do as a research scientist and a

— Ray M. Bowen
Texas A&M University president
See TOP 10 on Page 2.