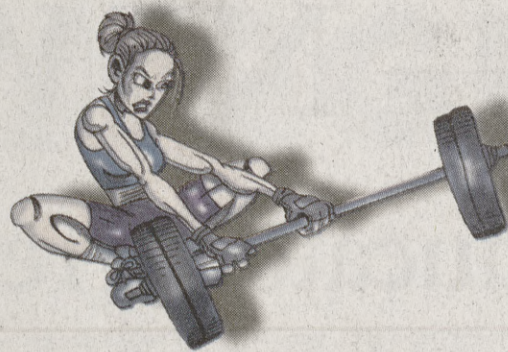


- Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on a stabbing in Bryan.
- Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu.



• Iron Maidens

Student Recreation Center encourages women to utilize free weights



Weather:
Partly cloudy with a high of 97 and a low of 74.

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THE BATTALION

TUESDAY
July 11, 2000
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6 pages

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Central Baptist leaves Southern Baptist Convention

CHRIS CUNICO
The Battalion

For the past several years, disagreements on fundamental issues have been dividing the Southern Baptist community in Texas. Central Baptist Church, a congregation which has served Bryan-College Station residents for 100 years, has recently chosen to break with the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), the state's subset of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Conservative and liberal sects continually clash over scripture interpretations and views on controversial topics.

Reverend Chris Osborne, senior pastor for Central Baptist, said there are several reasons for his congregation's decision to disassociate with the BGCT, ranging from stances on abortion to the delegation of church money. Osborne said the BGCT board's hypocritical pro-choice stance, which it discusses on its Website, contradicts the pro-life views it has expressed to its members in the past and those shared by conservative congregations like Central Baptist.

In the past, every Southern Baptist congregation would donate money to the state convention, which would then keep a percentage before sending the remainder of the money to the national organization, the SBC. Osborne said that instead of allocating all funding to organizations associated with the Southern Baptist Convention, the BGCT has begun to allow church money to be given to non-affiliated causes and congregations, such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"The elected leadership of the BGCT has been the reason for these new liberal stances," Osborne said. "Charles Wade, executive director, and Clyde Glazener, president of the executive board, are responsible for altering the direction of the BGCT."

Osborne said that by removing Baylor University from its domain and establishing its own seminaries, the BGCT has further offended more-conservative members of the SBC. He said the changes in the traditional operations are the beginnings of movement, orchestrated by the BGCT's board of directors, to separate BGCT from the SBC completely and create a new denomination. Those congregations that choose to remain loyal to the Southern Baptist Church have the option of joining the Southern

Baptists of Texas to in place of their former BGCT membership.

"This November in Corpus Christi, the leaders of the BGCT are expected to vote to leave the SBC," Osborne said. "They have already filed a name change. They're not interested in a convention change, but a change in denomination."

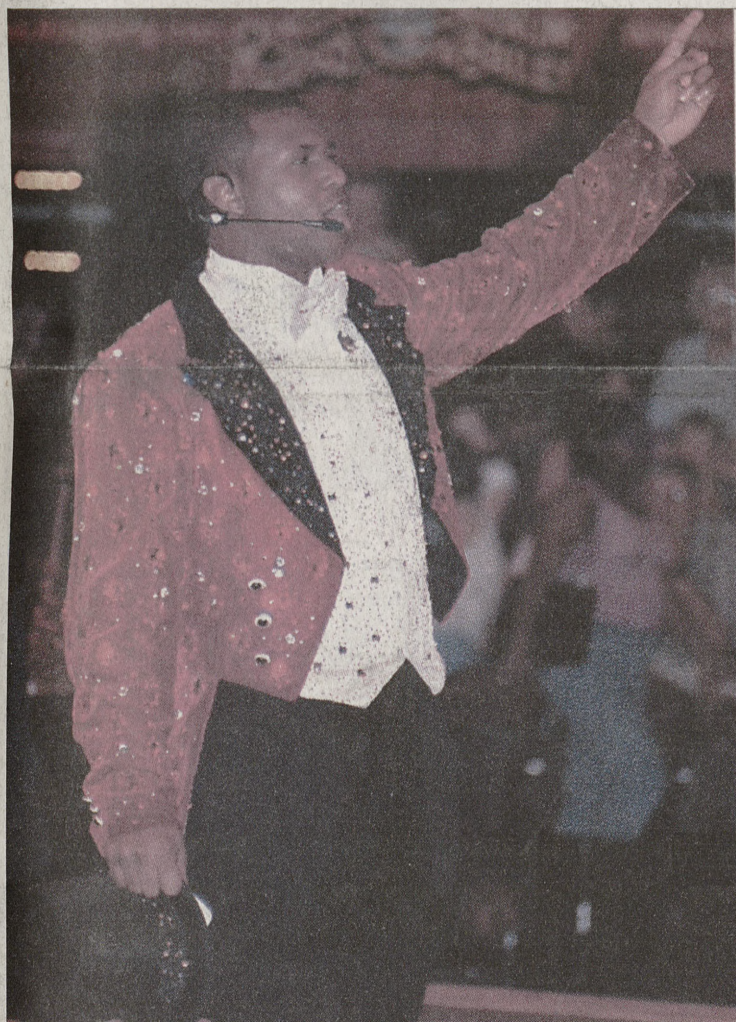
Martha Barton, administrative assistant of the Creath Brazos Baptist Association, said that in the past several years, an increasing number of churches in Brazos County dissatisfied with recent movements of the BGCT has chosen to break from this statewide convention.

"They're not interested in a convention change, but a change in denomination."

— Chris Osborne
senior pastor for Central Baptist

See CHURCH on Page 6.

Circus, circus!



(left) Ringmaster Michael James McGowan steps in to the center ring to introduce The Greatest Show on Earth. (top right) Animal trainer Mark Oliver Gebel presents a leopard during the opening parade. (center right) Anton Beliakov performs his strap act for the audience before the show. (bottom right) Kids watch in amazement as the trapeze artists fly through the air.

Student board pushes for tax-free textbooks

STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Junior speech communications major Katherine Volanska, fed up with paying prices at local bookstores, now purchases her books online. Her reason is simple: lower prices due partly to the absence of the bookstore sales tax.

"The prices we have to pay for textbooks are crazy," Volanska said. "We're college students, we have very little money, and no one should be trying to make a profit off our education — not the government, not anyone."

Echoing Volanska's opinion, the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board (CSAB), a student group from all the Texas A&M System schools that advises the chancellor about the wishes of the cumulative student body, has embarked on a campaign to convince the Texas Legislature to pass a bill ending sales tax on college textbooks.

"If the state cannot tax tuition, why should they be able to tax textbooks, which are also a necessary cost of education?" said Rob Ferguson, who was elected chairperson of the CSAB in June and is a senior political science major at A&M.

Ferguson said the force behind the campaign was West Texas A&M University Bookstore manager William Hockensmith, who realized that textbook prices were increasing faster than the standard economic inflation rate.

"Students now are paying much more than they were paying 20 years ago, and that is taking inflation into account,"

Hockensmith said. "The prices of textbooks are not just too high, they are irrational — and while textbooks are just a part of the cost of education, they can make a big difference when just as many students drop out of college because of their checkbook as because of their GPAs."

Senior Rob Ferguson, chair of the CSAB, supports the bill that calls for an end to sales tax on all college textbooks.

A bill which would do away with state sales tax on textbooks was considered by the Texas State Legislature during its last legislative meeting. It was never brought out of committee for discussion by the general assembly, despite active lobbying

See BOOKS on Page 6.

News in Brief

Pastor against portrait removal

In order to inform the public about the removal of the portrait, Dan Bates, pastor and editor of the *Nothing but the Truth, So Help Me* newspaper, will hold a press conference 9 a.m. Friday in the parking lot of the Gibb Gilchrist Building.

"I want to tell the world how liberals, like liberals at Texas A&M, can do mind control and censorship. They can have pictures taken down off the wall," Bates said.

Last month, Gilchrist's portrait, which portrayed him sitting in front of a likeness of Robert E. Lee, was removed from the entryway of the Gibb Gilchrist Texas Transportation Institute building on West Campus.

Bernie Fetti, a spokesperson for the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), said the portrait was removed because it may offend visitors and students of Texas A&M.

Fetti said the decision to remove the 47-year-old portrait, which had hung in the entryway since last November, came after a student approached the director of TTI, Dr. Herbert Richardson, with concerns that the portrait may connote racism because of Lee's association with the Confederacy.

Bates said A&M officials withheld information from media sources about the real reason for the portraits removal.

"A male political science professor conducted a survey of political science students as to whether the Gilchrist portrait offended them or not," Bates said. "The professor found that more students were offended than not, so he sent a female student to talk to the director of the building, Herb Richardson. This is censorship, and the U.S. Constitution prohibits censorship."

Bates said Dr. Jerry Gaston, vice president for administration, told him that because TTI is not directly connected to Texas A&M, the political science professor could not do anything about the portrait, nor did he have the authority to send a student to request the portrait be removed. Richardson could not be reached for comment.

Blood mobiles offer donation sites on A&M campus

JOSEPH PLEASANT
The Battalion

When Dana Shuler, a junior psychology major gives blood, she does so out of a sense of responsibility.

"I give every time," Shuler said. "I am [blood type] O positive, and it is a universal donor so it can be donated to any blood type."

Paula Newell, operations manager for Carter Blood Care in Dallas, said giving blood is everyone's responsibility.

"[Giving blood] is a wonderful community service. Everyone should take ownership of the blood supply," Newell said.

Newell said there is a nationwide blood shortage in the summer because people are traveling and students are out of school. Newell said high school students and college students are a major source of donated blood.

Newell also said more blood is needed in the summer months.

"The need rises because people choose to have more elective surgery and there is an increase in accidents on vacation, highways, and at home which require blood transfusions," Newell said.

Newell said men are encouraged to donate blood for the sake of their own health.

"Men build up iron in their blood. If it

is not released, that buildup can cause heart problems later in life. Donating blood is a way of releasing iron in the blood," Newell said.

Teresa Evangelista, territory manager for the Red Cross, said donors with O-positive or O-negative blood types are needed most often because they are universal donors. Evangelista said these blood types are used most often in emergency rooms because their blood can be given to any person regardless of his or her blood type.

Evangelista said there is a common myth that donors with body piercings cannot donate blood.

"Donors do not have to wait a year after they receive a body piercing to give blood, which is a common misunderstanding," Evangelista said.

But, Newell said, certain groups are excluded from donating, such as pregnant women, people who have suffered a heart attack or stroke, and people who are HIV positive.

Blood Drive

Red Cross	Carter Blood Center
Rudder Fountain July 10-14 10a.m.-6p.m.	Rudder Fountain July 10-14 9a.m.-5p.m.
Spence Street July 10-12 10a.m.-6p.m.	Fish Pond July 10-14 9a.m.-4p.m.
Wehner Building July 13-14 10a.m.-6p.m.	Bio/Bio (West Campus) July 10-14 9a.m.-4p.m.
Student Rec Center July 10-14 3p.m.-9p.m.	

protesters of lynching... people to come forward... and he has asked... Musgrove and the U.S... ment to launch an invest... n't imagine what it would... e a black person living... t fear of being lynched... tz, 22, a Tulane Univers... no drove to the rally from... s with about 200 peop... going to rally here for... the systematic viol... black people."... e neighbors have said... happy teen who would... mitted suicide... ere's a lot of prejudice... Kokomo," said resident... ister, whose son Court... the same school as John... something is done abou... nie Mobley, whose 14-year... met Till was killed in Mo... in 1955, supposedly... ng at a white woman... with Johnson's mother... the demonstration and... port.

nsidered... Then Attem... which brokers existin... main names in the Un... States, sued ICANN... permission to register... ones. In a settlement... nounced Friday, ICAN... agreed to the request... conditions.

Larger issues are... tentious as well. W... ICANN proposed a... to appoint its board... groups complained... process was undem... ICANN caved in... Internet users direct... five of 19 board mem... Other critics, citing... lays getting new dom... names, complain... ICANN favors busin... over individuals. Large... corporations with valua... trademarks have resis... new names because... bersquatters — indivi... who grab domain... for up to \$35 a piece... sale at thousands, ever... lions of dollars.

ed attack by a few peo... crime," said De M... on for Guatemala's nation... ment attracted so many...

re members of a family... rried people and sup... ches said.

men, including a 60-year... 26, 23, 18 and 17.

Wings... ANCE AND... AND DOG... ccinations... and Treatment... and Neuters... treatments

Teaching Hospital... ent. Discount appl... ease identify your... nt in order to rece... and appointments