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

• Pets are allergy sufferers too

The truth about cats and dogs (and ticks and pollen and ragweed ...)

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Weather:
Partly cloudy with a high of 99 and a low of 75.

THE BATTALION

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Future of bonfire logs still under consideration

CHRIS CUNICO
The Battalion

To avoid damaging the logs from the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse, the removal of the remnants of the fallen bonfire has been carefully conducted. Genevieve G. Stubbs, senior associate general counsel (lawyer) for Texas A&M, said the district attorney's office is forced the removal process to progress slower than many College Station residents consider ideal. She said the rule of spoliation, "the law designed to keep one party in litigation from destroying crucial evidence of the opposing party's case, prevents A&M from transferring the remaining logs to a less conspicuous place than bonfire site. This tragedy has been an unprecedented event for state agencies and universities," Stubbs said. "We're going the extra mile or two to ensure we are as careful as we can be and everything is done right. The [district attorney]

advised us to preserve the logs until the statute of limitation is over, which, in a civil case, is two years." Stubbs said several of the most important logs, including the centerpole, have been relocated to a warehouse located on West Campus. Experts continually perform structure tests on these logs. A plan has been devised and will be presented to the district attorney to transport the logs to a former sewage treatment area near Easterwood Airport. Stubbs said the land described in the proposal is much more discrete than the logs' current location and contains ample space to house the logs. In his press conference last month, Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said that after all investigations are completed and A&M is given permission to move the logs, the school will consider donating the logs to a community organization such as Habitat for Humanity.

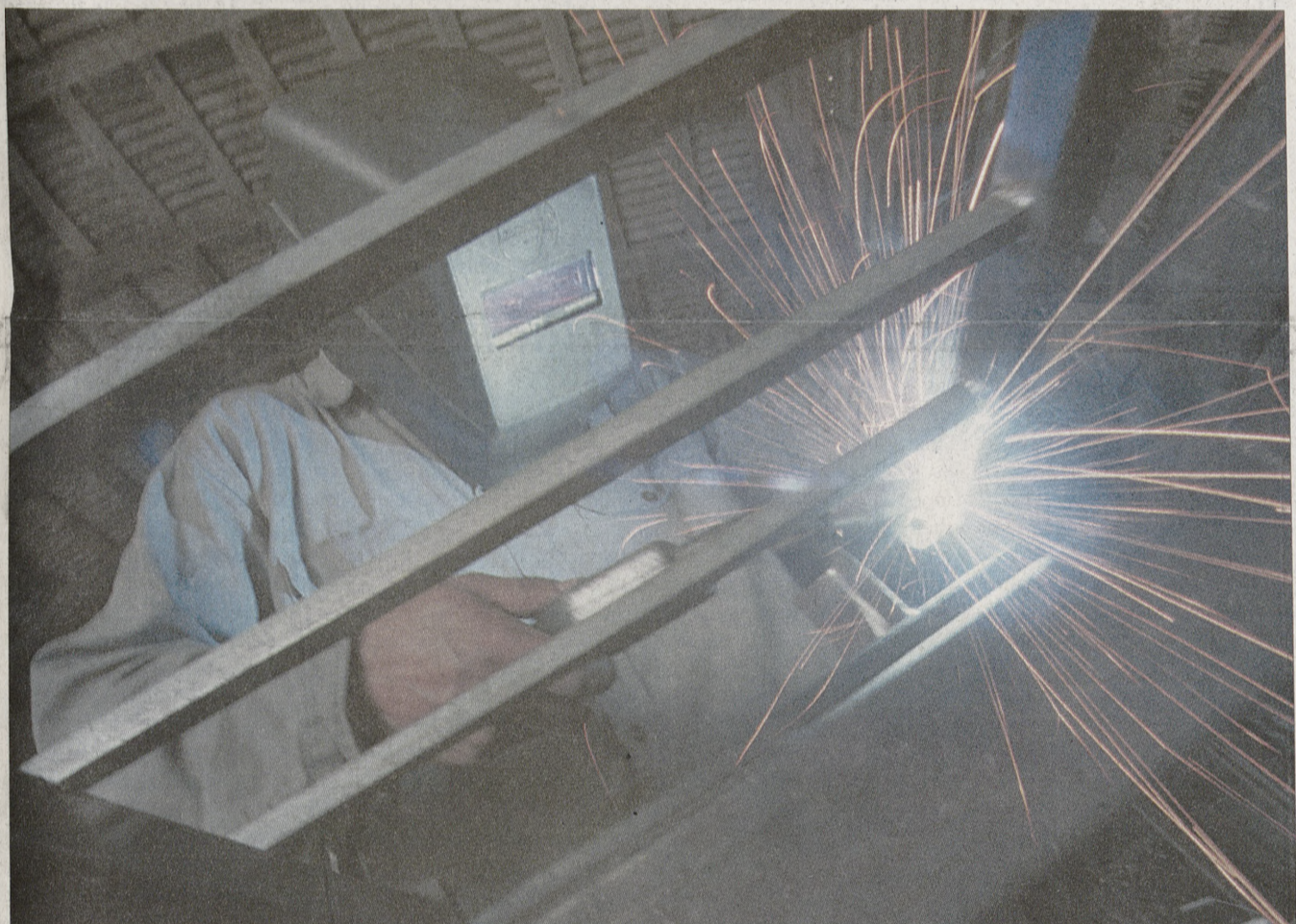
"We hope to have an answer fairly soon," Bowen said. "We're anxious for the site to be restored to a polo area, a grass area, and we think that the images which are provoked every time our community looks at the area, they'd like them not to be there." "Speaking as a person and not as an official, everyone who lives here in town is forced to drive past the logs every day, so I'm sure it has a negative effect on students, because it does on me," Stubbs said. "We do have an obligation, though, to follow the proper procedures and not rush the process." Many students and residents, regardless of the rule of spoliation and proper procedure, feel that the piles of logs represent painful memories of a time when friends were lost and a great tradition was forever altered.



Mandi Moore, a freshman history major, and Shawn Michaelson, a freshman computer engineering major, reflect at the site of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire after hearing the reports.

See LOGS on Page 4.

Iron man



Martin Cruz, an iron worker in Bryan, welds a fence in the workshop of Pfeffer Ornamental Iron on Tuesday. After completion, the fence will surround a local swimming pool.

Online registration may be complicated

CHRIS CUNICO
The Battalion

For many Aggies, registration night can be the pinnacle of a stressful semester. Nothing is more frustrating than hitting the redial button for what seems like days and being bombarded by busy signals between each call, only to find the needed class section filled. Texas A&M students seeking an easier way to register may be pleased to know the University is reviewing the current student data system and has plans to replace it in upcoming years. Donald Carter, registrar, said that, along with the replacement of the database, a Web registration software program would be added. He said the computer services center recently conducted an evaluation concerning the feasibility of creating and implementing Web registration and several complications were discussed. Carter said the complications are to be expected when a university the size of A&M utilizes a Web-based system. He said the majority of A&M's cost will come from the mandatory purchase of additional hardware and the probable upgrade to the mainframe. Carter said the cost of constructing and maintaining a Web registration system to meet the needs of more than 40,000 students is too expensive for immediate installment.

"I don't know how much easier Web registration will make the lives of the students," Carter said. "The advantage with the Web is enabling students to view the available classes while registering. Only 2,000 lines are able to access the phone registration at a time, keeping lines busy for students up to an hour and a half. We're not sure how many computers will be able to access the registration lines or if it will lessen the hassle of registration."

Carter said many students may believe that any student can register at any time throughout the semester. However, online registration will operate in a manner similar to phone registration in which students have scheduled registration dates based on their classification and last name. Blinn College in Bryan recently established a Web-based online registration center for both Summer 2000 sessions and will continue to use it for future registration. "Web registration has already proven itself to be the most popular form of registration among Blinn students," said Gena Parsons, public information officer for Blinn College. "In both summer sessions, approximately 70 percent of students registered online."

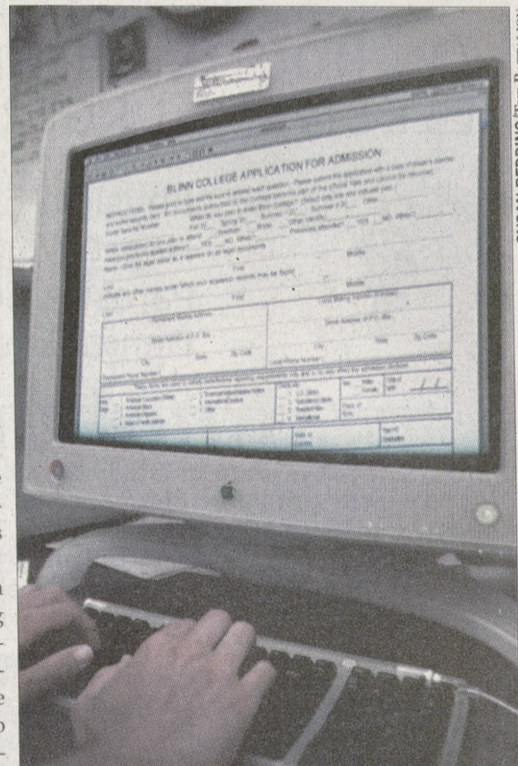
Parsons said the Web registration system has been a success so far. The only problems with the new system involved a few situations where prerequisites failed to show up in students' files. A&M senior marketing major Marina Streltsova, said she likes the concept of Web registration. "Online registration sounds like a good idea and will speed up the process," Streltsova said. "Hopefully, it will also be easier to access than the current phone method."

"We have looked at Web registration, but the cost is too prohibitive right now," Carter said. "Many cost factors must be considered in a project like this, and we cannot financially support it at this time." Since Fall 1997, the University of Texas-Austin (UT) has been using Web registration along with touch-tone phone registration like the system A&M currently uses.

Mike Allen, associate registrar for UT, said the university employs a staff of 20 full-time programmers and system analysts to write, monitor and update the systems. He said anywhere from 2,000 to 3,000 students can access the system simultaneously.

"We have interactive systems for registration, housing, financial aid and various other fields," Allen said. "Over the past 15 years, we have assembled a core of programmers whose sole job is to work on the system."

Carter said that although cost is the major limiting factor, other outside limitations may inhibit the registration system, such as the phone company choosing to restrict the number of students who can be online at any given time.



Blinn College in Bryan has established online registration for both 2000 summer sessions.

Water system improvement project underway

Tex-Con contracted to build new water tank and extend waterlines on campus

MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

An upgrade of the waterlines that run through the A&M campus has been ongoing for the past four months, and should be completed by mid-December 2000. The waterline construction is part of the Domestic Water System Improvement Project that is being conducted by Tex-Con, a construction company in College Station. The project has been contracted to Tex-Con for \$3,621,000. Charles Frosch, project manager for Tex-Con, said one of the major aspects of the waterline upgrade project is the construction of a new water tank that will be used for underground storage. "We're building a new 3-million-gallon tank, and that involves connecting waterlines tying into the system," Frosch said. "We're extending a 30-inch diameter waterline along Wellborn Road and tying onto an existing line at F&B Road. The line is 4,465 feet from the point of tie-on, along the rail-

road, under University Drive, onto the south side of University Drive, to the existing two 24-inch lines."

In addition to the new water tank, a new 30-inch transmission waterline is being built between F&B Road and main campus—the largest



The Domestic Water System Improvement Project is in the process of upgrading the waterlines that run through campus.

waterline in Brazos County, according to Jim Boswell, civil construction supervisor. "We are putting in new lines all over campus to increase supply to our customers," Boswell said. "One is out by the golf driving range—that is already in place."

Frosch said waterlines are being built in three other locations. "Along Bizzell Street, there's a 12-inch, 1,400-foot-long waterline going in. The West Campus pipeline going in will be about 2,100 feet long, and the Reed Arena Loop is another 12-foot line that is

about 1,425 feet long," Frosch said. "These will all be connected to existing waterlines on campus. Another component of the project is that we are adding cathodic protection (protects pipeline from corrosion) to the water supply lines that come from the water supply out on Highway 21, all the way to the storage tanks on F&B Road."

Cecil Smith, master utilities plumber, said the new water tank will be located at the intersection of F&B Road and Finfeather Road. "From this facility (new water tank), we are adding a new 30-inch water main that fills the water tower and fills the distribution center," Smith said.

He said the water system upgrade is being done in conjunction with an electrical upgrade. "We are adding infrastructure to allow us to serve our customers better," Smith said. "Students, faculty, anybody that uses utilities on campus will benefit from it."

See CONSTRUCTION on Page 4.